

UFCW Locals Keep Pressure on for Health Care Reform

UFCW member activists from local unions across the country continue to join together to say that “Health Care Can’t Wait!” After turning out in large numbers at public events, community parties, neighborhood canvasses, petition drives, and phone banks throughout the month of August, UFCW locals are continuing to mobilize.

In California, UFCW Local 5 members and staff turned out at several public events over the weekend to focus attention on the need for quality, affordable health care. The events included town hall meetings with Congressmen Mike Honda (D-CA 15th District) and Pete Stark (D-CA 13th District), Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (D-CA 16th District), California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, State Senator Dan McCorquodale, and a press conference with San Jose City Councilwoman Madison Nguyen.

As part of the effort to push for health care reform, a new tool ‘Click to Call’ is now available to make it easier to connect with your Senator. Go to www.ufcwactnow.org, fill out the online form, and read the tips on what to say when you call. UFCW Act Now will then directly connect you with your Senator's office by phone. There is even a place to report back what kind of response you received from your call. **OP**



UFCW Locals 27 and 1994 participated in a rally in Centerville, Md., to reiterate the urgency of health care reform. **OP**

UFCW Local 135 Scores an Organizing Victory in San Diego, Calif.

UFCW Local 135 in San Diego last week achieved an organizing victory when a majority of the 62 workers at Classic Party Rental, a full-service event rental company, voted for Local 135 as their bargaining representative.

“Now it’s time to negotiate and secure a good contract that guarantees decent wages, benefits and working conditions,” said President of Local 135 Mickey Kasparian. **OP**

Increase in Unionization Could Raise Number of Decent Jobs, a Study Finds

A report released this month by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts shows that a growing labor movement would represent an important structural change and improve the ability of the U.S. economy to create decent jobs. Below are the main findings:

- Labor unions substantially improve the pay and benefits in today’s occupations, including those that are projected to have the largest projected employment growth through 2016;
- A 10 percent increase in unionization by 2016 could raise the number of decent jobs in the U.S. by 2.5 million; and



Pictured above, Local 5 members at a town hall meeting this past weekend with Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA). **OP**

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- There is no evidence that high unionization rates lead to high unemployment rates.

You can download the full report at www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/published_study/PE_RI_Unions_DecentJobs_August09.pdf. **OP**

Small Business Owners and Activists Lobby Congress on Behalf of the Employee Free Choice Act



More than 300 activists from 15 states visited the halls of Congress last week to make the case for meaningful labor law reform to bring justice to the workplace for American workers.

The diverse group of small business owners, veterans, farmers, students, faith leaders, civil rights activists, women's advocates, and environmentalists are uniting in one voice to remind lawmakers that the Employee Free Choice Act is about basic human rights for workers and fixing a broken system that allows workers to be discriminated against when they engage in lawfully protected activities.

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qOtBIEto9o> to watch a video of the event. **OP**

New Study Finds Low-Wage Workers Are Often Cheated

A new study by a group of researchers—including academics, leading experts on business, labor, and

politics—found that low-wage workers are routinely denied proper overtime and are often paid less than the minimum wage.

Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers: Violations of Employment and Labor Laws in America's Cities, also found that 68 percent of the workers interviewed had experienced at least one pay-related violation in the previous work week.

Based on a survey of 4,387 workers in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, the study is the most comprehensive examination of wage-law violations in a decade, and further shows:

- Violations are a widespread phenomenon across the low-wage labor market in the United States;
- Low-wage employers are successful in pressuring workers not to file for workers' compensation; and
- Women are far more likely to suffer minimum wage violations than men.

The full report is available at http://nelp.3cdn.net/1797b93dd1ccdf9e7d_sdm6bc50n.pdf. **OP**



REMINDER: Deadline for Registration

Thursday, September 24, 2009 is the **deadline** to reserve the special room rate for the Ninth Biennial Convention of the UFCW Women's Network Convention, scheduled for October 22-25, 2009, in Lake Buena Vista, FL. **Space is limited, so make your reservations today** by calling *Disney's Yacht and Beach Club* Resorts reservation line at 407-934-3372, or faxing your reservations to 407-934-3305. Lines are open Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat - Sun 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. and again from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Visit their website at: <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/yacht-club-resort/>

Registration for the convention can be done online at <http://ufcwwomenetworkconvention2009.eventbrite.com>, or mailed directly to Rhonda Nelson, c/o UFCW Local 1500, 221 - 10 Jamaica Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11428. Contact Michelle Clemens at mclemens@ufcw.org for more information. **OP**