

UFCW Local 555 Members Stand Together for a Fair Contract

Members of UFCW Local 555 in Tigard, OR., are facing anti-union tactics from their employer Fred Meyer in anticipation of an upcoming contract negotiation.

When Fred Meyer workers posted the handbill below on the union bulletin board, store managers ripped it off, a clear violation of federal labor law.

While workers want to work out solutions at the bargaining table, the company is using tactics to avoid the issue: a contract that provides UFCW Local 555 members with better health care, hours and wages.

UFCW Local 555 is filing unfair labor practice charges against the company. UFCW members refuse to be bullied by an employer who resorts to intimidation and interference to avoid addressing the issues.

Fred Meyer Doesn't Want You To See This Flyer

Fred Meyer workers want to work out the real issues at the bargaining table and not get distracted by bickering.

But Fred Meyer managers are too busy tearing flyers off of your union bulletin board to have a real conversation.

UFCW Local 555 doesn't think flyers are an issue - but health care, pensions, hours and pay sure are!

Members have the right to talk to their union representative.

We have the right to discuss labor practices and other legal issues, to discuss grievances, and to have these conversations free from intimidation.

URGENT!
We Deserve Respect—and the Money We've Earned

We work hard to make Fred Meyer one of the most successful grocery companies in the Northwest. And we deserve the company's respect, and a right to the wages we've earned.

So... why did Fred Meyer:

- Repeatedly violate our union contract?
- Fail to bargain with us about unilateral changes that would affect our paychecks?
- Break the law?

It is unfair and disrespectful of Fred Meyer to make those changes and break its contract agreement with us. Fred Meyer says these changes were just mistakes. If that's the case, why should workers here to shoulder the burden of the company's errors?

Our union is fighting back. UFCW Local 555 is filing federal charges against Fred Meyer for taking these illegal actions. Our union is fighting for the affordable health care, living wages and retirement security that we deserve.

Stop Playing Games... Show us Respect... Do the Right thing!

UFCW
a VOICE for working America

Why Senator Baucus' Bill Does Not Work for Working Americans

Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, unveiled last week his long awaited Finance Committee health care bill.

But rather than advancing the goals of making health care more affordable for working Americans and controlling the spiraling costs of insurance, the bill aggravates an already dire situation.

“There is another more productive, more prudent path,” International President Joe Hansen said. “We know that we can do better. We can have a solution to this health care crisis based on shared responsibility, lower costs for working Americans, and better, more efficient, health care for all.”

Below are a couple of talking points to help you explain what is wrong with Baucus' proposed legislation and why it must be fixed:

- The Baucus bill equals The Insurance Companies Bill;
- The Bill encourages large employers to duck responsibility for providing health care to their workers;
- There is no public option to keep insurance companies honest; and
- The Baucus bill must be fixed: the Senate Finance Committee must pass legislation that guarantees good affordable coverage for all Americans.

Call your Senator and demand that the Baucus bill be fixed – with a real pay-or-play provision for employer responsibility, and market competition from a public health insurance plan.

We can do better than the Baucus bill! **OP**

Go to www.ufcwactnow.org and fill in your information to call your senators and tell them to stop bowing to Big Insurance and take a stand for the reform we need. It's time to get it done!

Region 4 Locals Brace for 2010 Negotiations with Kroger

UFCW Locals 876, 75, 1059, 227, 951 and 700 are gearing up for their upcoming contract negotiations with Kroger beginning in 2010.

In preparation for the negotiations, Region 4 locals are holding meetings to better coordinate and engage Region 4 Kroger members in the bargaining process. The strategy includes launching a common newsletter and undertaking actions in concert and support of one another.

The overall theme of Kroger bargaining 2010 is “We Are More Powerful When We Stand Together.” **OP**

UFCW Supports Pilgrim’s Pride’s Sale of Majority Stake in Company to JBS

Pilgrim’s Pride announced last week that it had agreed to sell a majority stake in the company to JBS S.A.

The UFCW strongly supports the proposed deal. “The sale is good news for workers at Pilgrim’s, for their communities and for the future of the poultry industry,” said International President Joe Hansen.

Throughout the restructuring of Pilgrim’s Pride, UFCW local unions representing workers at the company stood together with one voice to ensure that the interests of UFCW members were safeguarded.

The UFCW represents approximately 13,000 workers at Pilgrim’s Pride and nearly 14,000 workers at JBS. **OP**

UFCW Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

Each year, our nation celebrates Hispanic heritage and culture by recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States during the National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15.

The UFCW is celebrating this year’s Hispanic Heritage Month with a profile each Friday of Latinos who have made a difference in the lives of working Americans.

If your local union is organizing activities around Hispanic Heritage Month, please feel free to share them with us at onpoint@ufcw.org.

The weekly profile began this past Friday with U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

Hilda Solis was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as Secretary of Labor on January 20, 2009, and was confirmed by Congress on February 24, 2009.

Secretary Solis has been a longtime UFCW partner and a loyal champion for working families, fighting for workers’ rights and safety. She has been a tireless advocate for UFCW members.

During the Southern California strike, she stood in solidarity on the picket line with UFCW members and their families. When OSHA refused to move quickly to stop food processing workers’ exposure to diacetyl—a chemical used in flavorings and linked to bronchiolitis obliterans—Solis wrote to former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao calling for an Emergency Temporary Standard to protect workers.

She has applauded President Hansen and the UFCW for exposing the detrimental impact of workplace immigration raids.

Secretary Solis, who comes from a family with strong labor roots, puts the interests of working people first. **OP**

UFCW Local 401 Members Reach Settlement with Safeway in Edmonton

The 350 members of UFCW Local 401 in Edmonton, Canada, who were locked out on Labor Day at Safeway’s Edmonton distribution center and Lucerne ice cream plant voted to accept a company offer that met their demands, bringing an end to their strike. **OP**