

UFCW Locals Turn Out for Health Care Reform



More than 300 members of UFCW Local 1473 marched in a Labor Day parade in Milwaukee, Wisc.

UFCW locals and district councils turned out in numbers at health care reform-related events across the country on Labor Day. From coast to coast, they were present at rallies, picnics, barbecues, parades...with a clear message: "We need health care reform now!"

As of today, the following locals have reported Labor Day activities: 1473, 880, 1996, 617, 27, 21, 1142, 9, 23, 325, 1776, 227, 700, 1059, 536, 2008, 29*, 357*, 512*, 810*, 835*, and 1096*.

Throughout the month of August, UFCW locals participated in 66 public events, conducted 27 district lobby visits, collected 8,130 signatures, held 11 community parties, and organized 20 phone banks. These locals include: 1, 21, 22, 23, 27, 38, 75, 99, 135, 141, 227, 268, 328, 338, 367, 400, 534, 536, 648, 700, 711, 789, 880, 881, 1000, 1059, 1102, 1161, 1167, 1428, 1445, 1546, 1776, 1995, 1996, 2008, 304A, 1994, 876, 951, 86*, 87*, 93*, 374*, 386*, 530*, 602*, 665*, 705*, 825*, 1064*, 152, 1459, 1262, 791, 770, 324, 371, 1500, 1442, 527, 1473, 1360, 1149, 919, 9, and 325. **OP**

UFCW Local 401 Members Locked Out at Safeway in Edmonton, Canada

More than 350 members of UFCW Local 401 in Edmonton, Canada, were locked out on Labor Day as they showed up for work at Safeway's Edmonton distribution center and Lucerne ice cream plant.

Contract negotiations broke down after a majority of workers rejected the company's offer.

Local 401 members have been working without a contract since last December when their previous contract expired.

UFCW Local 271 Members in Crete, Neb., Approve First-Ever Contract with Americold



Members of UFCW Local 271 ratified their first-ever union contract with Americold on September 1, 2009.

An overwhelming majority of UFCW Local 271 members voted last week to ratify their first-ever union contract with Americold in Crete, Neb. The five-year agreement covers 150 workers and includes:

- Average wage increases of \$1.44/hr for the first year and an additional 30 cents per hour for the next four years;

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- A formal system to resolve workplace issues;
- Time and a half pay for holiday work;
- Night shift premium wages;
- Affordable family health coverage;
- Job advancement opportunities based on seniority;
- Funeral leave and paid vacation benefits.

“This contract gives us wages that protect full-time, family-supporting jobs in our community,” said Gene Muff, an Americold worker and a member of UFCW Local 271. “When all workers in the heartland stand together for a voice on the job, we can raise everyone’s wages, benefits and working conditions.”

The new contract brings Americold workers’ wages, benefits and working conditions in line with other UFCW-represented plants. **OP**

UFCW Joins National Council of La Raza as They Release Groundbreaking Report on Latino Worker’s Experience

Latino workers are the most likely to pay for violations of basic labor laws with their lives, according to a report released last week by the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.

UFCW, along with several organizations, joined NCLR in a briefing to release *Fractures in the Foundation: The Latino Worker’s Experience in an Era of Declining Job Quality*. Together, they called for targeted outreach and enforcement efforts in high-risk industries and a recommitment to protecting the rights of all workers.

“This report is a critical resource for all those who care about improving and protecting the lives of workers—both immigrant and native born,” said International President Joe Hansen. “The recommendations laid out in this report are a roadmap for building safer workplaces, stronger communities, and a more just society.”

The full NCLR report can be downloaded at www.nclr.org/section/fractures_in_the_foundation/. **OP**

UFCW Local 1161 Members Ratify New Four-Year Agreement with JBS-Swift in Worthington, Minn.

UFCW Local 1161 members in Worthington, Minn., last week accepted, with a 90 percent vote, a new contract with JBS-Swift.

The four-year deal, which covers 1800 workers, raises the base labor rate by \$1.25 over the term of the contract, increases pay grades substantially, and keeps health insurance premiums affordable. The agreement also provides improved vacation.

“When you look at the entire package, this is probably one the richest contracts we’ve ever negotiated,” said President of UFCW Local 1161 Michael Potter.

The JBS-Swift contract is the latest of several major collective bargaining wins for UFCW packing and food processing members across the country. **OP**

UFCW Locals 1473 and 338*-Represented Companies Featured on Labor Day List

American Rights at Work last week released its annual *Labor Day List: Partnerships that Work*, a report which highlights successful union and management partnerships.

This year, New York-based Morton Williams Supermarkets, represented by Local 338* and New Berlin, Wisc.-based Wisconsin Vision, Inc., represented by UFCW Local 1473, were recognized for their dedication to providing sustainable wages and family-friendly benefits, respecting workers’ rights and decisions to form unions, and speaking out on the need for other companies to follow suit.

Both companies were also commended for supporting the Employee Free Choice Act.

Visit <http://www.americanrightsatwork.org/labor-day-list/2009-companies-378/> for a complete list. **OP**