

Striking Shaw's Workers Expand Pickets Across the Northeast



Members of UFCW Local 791 who work at the Shaw's warehouse in Methuen, Mass., have expanded their picket lines in an effort to reach a fair contract with the Supervalu-owned company. Now the workers are picketing at stores across New England, working in cooperation with Massachusetts Jobs with Justice and other local unions from the UFCW, the AFL-CIO, and the Teamsters.

The Shaw's workers have been on strike since March 7, trying to reach an equitable contract. Recent efforts by federal mediator have failed to move company management to make a better contract offer and resolve the strike.

The warehouse in Methuen provides perishables to Shaw's grocery stores throughout New England. You can learn more and stand up for these workers at www.justiceatshaws.com. **OP**

Local 88 Notches Organizing Victory as Kerry Products Workers Vote UFCW Yes

Workers at Kerry Products, a manufacturer of ice cream, sprinkles, and cookies in St. Louis, Mo., voted last Tuesday and Wednesday for a voice on the job with UFCW Local 88. The workers in the 250-member unit chose Local 88 in a landslide, despite a concerted anti-union effort by the company.

Ira McIntyer, a machine operator and member of the organizing committee, said that Kerry Products workers are eager to take the next step and begin bargaining.

"It was a hard-fought campaign," said McIntyer, "but by standing united and communicating with our co-workers, we won. I hope our victory inspires other workers to organize into the union and increase the strength of the UFCW nationwide." **OP**

Workers Benefit as Obama Signs Health Care Reform "Fixes" Bill & Appoints New NLRB Members

After years of struggle and an outpouring of support from UFCW members across the country, President Barack Obama took the final step for health care reform when he signed a bill of reform "fixes" today.

The final bill improves on the Senate health care reform bill that Obama signed last week by improving Medicare drug coverage for seniors, paying for subsidies by taxing the unearned income of rich Americans, and promoting employer responsibility by more than doubling the fine for companies that don't cover their employees.

UFCW members from locals across the country called their Senators this past week in a final push to make this bill a reality.

The bill also contains important improvements to strengthen student lending so that more middle class and working Americans can attend college.



President Obama speaks at Northern Virginia Community College before signing the health care reconciliation bill into law.

Additionally this week, President Obama broke through an unprecedented logjam in the Senate confirmation process, filling 15 key administration posts on a temporary basis through recess appointments - a process that allows appointees to go to work prior to confirmation by the full Senate.

Two of the appointments were new members of the National Labor Relations Board, a five-member panel which has been operating with only two members. The new NLRB members are Craig Becker, a law professor and Associate General Counsel for several major labor organizations, and Mark Pearce, a career labor lawyer, law professor, and Board Member on the New York State Industrial Board of Appeals.

These are extremely well-qualified nominees who deserved to be confirmed by the Senate. The UFCW fully supported their nomination, and is pleased that President Obama has sidestepped the obstructionism to put these critical appointees to work.

Since President Obama took office, the Senate has blocked votes on over 200 nominees; Saturday's appointments were the President's first recess appointments since taking office. President George W. Bush made 171 recess appointments throughout his time in office, while President Clinton made 139. **OP**

Local 6 Members Ratify New Agreement with Nestle-Purina in Fort Dodge

UFCW Local 6 Members at the Nestle-Purina PetCare plant in Fort Dodge, Iowa, approved a new contract with their company on Saturday. The five-year contract covers approximately 120 workers and includes raises totaling \$2.55. Other highlights include:

- No change to health care, in either costs or benefits;
- An increase in employer contribution to worker pensions;
- Increased equipment allowance; and
- Retirement bonuses.



The UFCW Local 6 bargaining committee (L-R): Gary Eastwood, Bill Murphy, Mark Freeman, Mike Nelson, and Roger Johnson. Not pictured: Local 6 President Pat Neilon.

“This is a great contract and it is due to the strength of our members and bargaining committee in the plant,” said Local 6 President Pat Neilon. “Iowa is a right-to-work state, but our plant is 100 percent union.” **OP**