

Local 400 and 1776 Members at Acme, Shaw's and Shoppers Stores Stand with Striking Methuen Workers



Local 1776 members Bob Tritz and Carl Sloane wear stickers in support of striking Shaw's warehouse workers while working at a Philadelphia, Penn. Acme Markets today.

Local 400 and Local 1776 members launched a sticker action this week to show their solidarity with the 300 distribution center workers forced out on strike in Methuen, Mass. nearly two months ago. Workers at Supervalu-owned Acme, Shaw's and Shoppers Food and Drug stores are sticking together to their parent company to come back to the bargaining table and negotiate a fair contract with workers in Methuen.

"UFCW Local 1776 members will make sure Acme customers are aware of the company's refusal to bargain and get workers back in the warehouse," said Wendell Young, IV, President of UFCW Local 1776.

"Supervalu is getting the message that we are one union, speaking with one voice," said Tom McNutt, President of UFCW Local 400.

To show your support you can call Supervalu CEO Craig Herkert (former head of Walmart's Americas division) at (952) 828-4000 and tell him that workers in Methuen deserve to be treated fairly. You can also visit <http://www.JusticeAtShaws.org> to send a letter to the company's top brass. **OP**

Workers at American Food Group Vote "Union Yes" with Local 75



The Local 75 organizing committee celebrates their victory.

Around 50 workers at the American Food Group hamburger plant in Sharonville, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, voted overwhelmingly for a real voice at work with Local 75 on April 23. The six-month campaign at the plant, which supplies meat to Kroger stores, began with member-to-member outreach from the Local 75 members at the John Morrell meatpacking plant.

Local 75 also mobilized community groups, elected officials, and faith organizations to stand with the workers as they organized.

"My coworkers and I organized our union because we need better benefits and treatment," said Felix Rendon, a worker and committee member at American Food Group. "I was afraid in the beginning, but we organized our coworkers quickly and I felt much better. I was so happy when we won! We were high-fiving and cheering when we found out."

Rendon also had a broader message for other workers trying to organize: "Continue forward, and don't be afraid, it's your right. You can form your union too."

This effort was the first win for Local 75's organizing project, which began after the local was formed through a merger. The effort focuses on processing and packing plants in their jurisdiction. **OP**

Local 227, JBS Win 2010 University of Louisville Labor-Management Award



UFCW Local 227 members at the JBS Butchertown plant in Louisville, Ky.

UFCW Local 227 and the JBS Butchertown processing plant in Louisville, Ky. were given the University of Louisville's 2010 Labor-Management Award last week in recognition of their constructive and cooperative partnership at the plant. Some of the achievements that the University of Louisville highlighted include:

- The plant's annual turnover rate has decreased from more than 100 percent in 2002 to about 9 percent in 2009.
- The plant has one of the best safety records in the nation.
- Provides advanced ergonomics trainings for workers.
- Local 227 and JBS have teamed up to bring workers on-site banking; an annual health fair; the opportunity to learn any language at a deeply discounted price; and roundtable discussions for improving the plant.

The plant also has a multicultural committee that works to improve understanding among employees who are black, white, Hispanic and Asian and speak more than 16 different languages. **OP**

Workers Win \$4.7 Million in Back Pay and Damages from Pilgrim's Pride

UFCW members from Locals 227, 455, 540, 1996, 2008 and the RWDSU Alabama Mid-South Council are among the 8,400 workers who have been awarded a total of \$4.7 million in back pay and liquidated damages in a recent settlement of a Fair Labor Standards Act suit against Pilgrim's Pride.

Workers are being reimbursed for safety, sanitary and protective gear they purchased and time walking to and from the production line (off the clock) – all of which was required to perform donning, doffing and cleaning work.

Workers eligible to receive a payout in the settlement will receive a check by mail in late May or early June. The individual award amounts will range from \$50 to \$3,000 depending on each worker's circumstances. To find out if you are eligible to receive a portion of the settlement, or to update your address and contact information to ensure your check is delivered, call the Settlement Administrator's toll free hotline: (877) 804-9741. **OP**

Locals 655 and 88 Feed the Hungry in St. Louis, Mo.



UFCW Local 655 President Jim Dougherty and Local 88 Secretary-Treasurer Mel Myer brought members and staff to help Schnucks, Smithfield, and Food Network celebrity Chef Jeff to deliver protein to a St. Louis, Mo. food bank as part of the joint UFCW/Smithfield "Feed the Hungry" nationwide program.