

Local 1208 Wins Back-pay for Reinstated Smithfield Workers



As workers in Tar Heel, North Carolina build their new local union from the ground up, the Smithfield workers are seeing great benefits to being in a union. The network of shop stewards in the plant, along with the leadership of UFCW Local 1208, have helped resolve a number of disciplinary issues with the company and recently won reinstatement and almost \$60,000 in back-pay for 16 workers. **OP**

Thirteen States Challenging Federal Health Care Reform Law

Now that health care reform is law, some opponents, including the health insurance industry, are still trying to find ways around it. Thirteen state attorneys general are suing the federal government arguing the health reform bill is an intrusion on state's rights and questioning the constitutionality of the individual mandate.

However, legal scholars agree that the individual mandate is constitutional. In 2005, the Supreme Court clarified the scope of the commerce power and reaffirmed the core principle that dissident states cannot thwart national policy. Justice Antonin Scalia wrote, "Congress may regulate even noneconomic local activity if that regulation is a necessary part of a more general regulation of interstate commerce." For more information, and to learn if there is a challenge in your state, visit <http://ufcwhealthcarenow.org>. **OP**

UFCW Scholarship Application Deadline Extended to April 15 – Apply to Receive up to \$8,000 for Tuition

Your union is about more than your paycheck and benefits. The UFCW is about workers coming together to build better lives for ourselves. It's about creating opportunity. That's why each year the UFCW awards several scholarships of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW members or their dependents from Suffridge/Jimerson Scholarship Fund.

In 2009, 14 scholarships were awarded to members and their dependents from Locals 328, 1360, 400, 1059, 75, 1529, 655, 653, 7R, 135, 1167, 175, 1776, and 832.

With the cost of college tuition on the rise, there has never been a better time for union members to apply for this scholarship. All UFCW members active since January 1, 2009 and their dependents under the age of 20 are eligible.

Members who have applied in the past but have not yet received the scholarship are encouraged to apply again, and remember, current college students may now apply. Scholarship winners will receive \$2,000 for each year they are enrolled in an accredited college or university, for up to four years.

The UFCW Scholarship Application will be available until April 15, 2010. To access the application and to view the instructions for completing it, visit http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/app10/en_application.asp. Scholarship winners will be announced by July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions about the scholarship, email them to scholarship@ufcw.org. **OP**

Well Luck Distributors Workers Stand United to Join Local 348S



Lead organizer Dennis Henry, Well Luck worker Roni Javier Gonzalez, and Local 348S organizer Kevin Anthony Merced working hard to bring the union to Well Luck Inc. in Jersey City.

Twenty-five workers at Well Luck, Inc., a fish delivery service in Jersey City, N.J., will join Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Local 348S after a successful election last week. The unit stood together for a voice on the job with 348S despite an organized anti-union campaign by the company.

Local 348S President Anthony J. Fazio credited his organizing committee with the victory. "It was a hard-fought victory," said Fazio, "but the committee stuck together through the hard times and everybody had each other's back."

The organizing effort began when a former 348S member and organized Restaurant Depot worker took a new job at Well Luck. After realizing how different the non-union workplace was, the worker talked to his coworkers about joining his old local. **OP**

Labor Department Ramps up Enforcement on Unpaid Internships

As reported in the *New York Times* this week, the federal Labor Department's top law enforcement official is working with the wage and hour division to crack down on the widespread practice of using unpaid interns to replace regular, paid employees – a growing trend the Labor Department says is illegal.

The laws governing unpaid internships specify that internships at for-profit companies must be educational and provide vocational training and that unpaid interns cannot displace regular, paid workers. Those laws are widely disregarded today, when companies are looking to cut costs any way they can.

Unpaid internships also unfairly disadvantage low- and middle-income families, whose children need to earn money, and therefore, cannot afford to accept unpaid positions in order to advance their careers. Additionally, unpaid interns are not classified as employees, and therefore they are not protected by employment discrimination laws. Read the full article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/03/business/03intern.html?src=mv&pagewanted=all>. **OP**

Census 2010: It's Not Too Late!

It's not too late to be counted! The U.S. Census Bureau will still be accepting census forms by mail through the middle of April. Take 10 minutes to fill your census form out and send it in – and encourage your coworkers to participate, too! The information the government gets from the census helps determine how \$400 billion of federal funding each year is distributed for hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects, and emergency services. It also affects the numbers of seats your state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives.