

Local 5 Organizes 100 New Members in Oakland's Growing Industry



New Local 5 member Jeff Jones stands outside his workplace, the Oakland Cannabis Patient Identification Center.

Local 5 has recorded a string of organizing victories across the medical cannabis industry in Oakland, Calif. in the first two weeks of May. During the campaign, the employers, all subsidiaries of Oaksterdam University, agreed to respect employee wishes for unionization, remain neutral during the campaign, and allow the employees to sign authorization cards to show their union preference.

Around 100 new Local 5 members fill a variety of roles at Oaksterdam University, and its subsidiaries – the Oakland Cannabis Patient Identification Center and AMCD, Inc. At the Patient Identification Center, health care professionals and support staff evaluate patients and issue state identification cards. Throughout the rest of the company, workers operate two coffee shops, a nursery, multiple dispensaries and a gift shop.

“These workers are knowledgeable and compassionate, and work hard everyday to support their families,” said Local 5 President Ron Lind. “By standing together, they can ensure that these remain good jobs, even as this industry continues to grow in size.” **OP**

UFCW Sues to Stop Enforcement of Arizona Law

The UFCW has joined with labor, community, civil liberties and civil rights organizations in a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona's recently passed immigration law, S.B. 1070.

The suit challenges the law in five main areas: That immigration is inherently a federal issue, and federal law has supremacy; the law encroaches upon the right of minorities to travel freely without harassment; the law has a chilling effect on the First Amendment right to free speech and assembly by prohibiting individuals from soliciting work in a public place; it requires law enforcement to conduct investigatory stops of individuals without reasonable suspicion, violating the Fourth Amendment; and it singles out non-citizens for discrimination and enforcement in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In conjunction with the lawsuit, UFCW President Joe Hansen released the following statement:

“We believe S.B. 1070 is unconstitutional, un-American and that it undermines our nation's rich immigrant history. The law effectively legalizes racial profiling and sanctions harassment and discrimination. We are filing this suit to protect the rights of our members and all workers in the state of Arizona—and to uphold the values and ideals that make our nation strong.

“The UFCW has been at the forefront of the fight for immigration reform because we have seen firsthand the devastation caused by enforcement-only strategies – we've seen families torn apart, we've seen communities destroyed and we've seen workers rights' shredded. We need a comprehensive overhaul of our broken immigration system at the federal level, not regressive, racially motivated laws enacted on a state-by-state basis.” **OP**

UFCW Members March for Financial Regulatory Reform

On Monday, hundreds of UFCW members were part of thousands of labor and community activists that marched in Washington, D.C., demanding lawmakers reform laws governing big banks so they can't tank our economy.

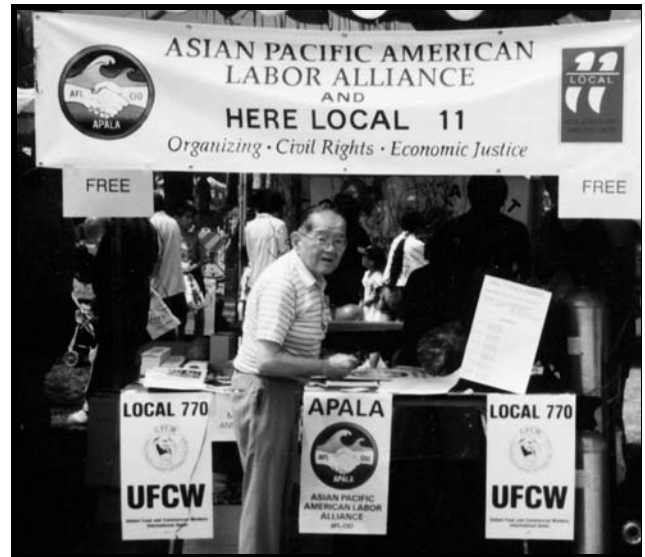
The marchers went down K Street, home to many of the large corporate lobbying firms working to influence Congress to weaken proposed financial regulations. To learn more about these issues and get involved, visit OurFinancialSecurity.org. **OP**



Above, UFCW members protest Wall Street greed in a rally on K Street. Below, posing as "Billionaires for Wealthcare", UFCW members urge Congress to pass stricter financial regulations.



UFCW ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: Art Takei



UFCW Local 770 and APALA leader Art Takei

Art Takei was a Japanese American labor leader for more than 40 years. A native of Los Angeles, Art was a teenager when his family was taken to an internment camp in Arkansas during World War II. Returning to Los Angeles, he began his labor career as a grocery clerk in 1954. He spent 40 years as negotiator, organizer, executive board member and assistant to the president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770. As one of the highest ranking Asian Pacific Americans in the Los Angeles labor movement, Art took a leading role in the formation of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the first national labor organization for Asian Pacific Americans.

Art was also a founding member and former president of Japanese Community Services and was the director for the Southern California Food and Drug Council following his retirement from the UFCW.

Art Takei passed away in Los Angeles in 1997. He was a pioneer for the Asian Pacific American community and a visionary labor leader. **OP**