ONPOINT UFCW
Unity Agenda of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

Local 1000 Members Ratify New Deal with Dallas-Area Kroger

Local 1000 members sign in to vote on their new contract with Kroger.

Members of Local 1000 in Grapevine, Texas have ratified a new four-year contract with Kroger stores across North Texas. Local 1000's approximately 7,800 members overwhelmingly ratified the deal in meetings beginning Friday and ending yesterday.

The new contract holds the line on health care costs, increases company pension contributions and includes pay raises of up to $1.71 an hour over the course of the contract. It also adds night shift, lead and manager differential, increased vacation accessibility, and improved dental coverage.

"Our members stayed active and interested over a very long bargaining period," said Local 1000 President Ricky Burris. "They kept the pressure on the company in every store we represent, and let Kroger know a poor contract was not an option." **OP**

Locals 2, 227, 1657, 1995 and the RWDSU Mid-South Council Make Worker Voices Heard at Alabama USDA/DOJ Workshop

Seventy-five members of Locals 2, 227, 1657, 1995, and the RWDSU Mid-South Council of the UFCW attended the joint U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Justice workshop on consolidation in the poultry industry last Friday.

The workshop, held at the campus of Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Ala., is the second in a series examining the impact of consolidation across agribusiness. The members wanted to make sure that any examination of industry consolidation included input by poultry workers and they expressed concern that large retailers, like Walmart, are driving down the income of workers and farmers across agriculture.

In a statement released at the hearing, the UFCW called for an investigation into Walmart's role in the poultry industry, saying:

"Walmart uses its enormous footprint, coupled with its pricing power, to literally dictate how whole industries must operate. They reach deep inside a company, effectively influencing every aspect of a supplier's business operations. This inevitably leads to lower wages for workers, less money for farmers, growers and ranchers and fewer choices for consumers." **OP**

UFCW poultry workers pose outside the industry consolidation workshop.

Local 770 Members Back Agreement with Hormel-Owned Farmer John

Twelve hundred Local 770 members have voted to accept a new contract with the Hormel-owned Farmer John plant in Los Angeles, California. The new six-year deal includes across-the-board raises of $2.10 per hour over the period of the contract.

The plant, best known in the L.A. area as the producer of the famed "Dodger Dog" hot dog, also slaughters pork and produces hams and bacon.

In addition, the health care premiums paid by workers will remain static for the length of the contract, the most senior employees will get additional vacation, and the amount of time workers spend in progression to reach the top rate has been cut by two-thirds.

"This was a long and hard fight that proved when locals across our state and across our country coordinate, we can win," said John Grant, Director of the Packinghouse Division at Local 770. "Together, our workers stood up for respect and dignity and finally they can say, '¡La Union Está Presente!'"

Also, for the first time ever, the contract includes guaranteed union access to the plant, dues check off, and access to new employee orientations – important steps to guarantee a strong union at Farmer John for years to come. **OP**

Local 770 members vote to ratify their new deal with Hormel Foods, the parent company of their employer.

RWDSU Local 220* Mott's Workers Take Fight to Boardroom, Then Strike to Stop Cuts

Workers at the Mott's applesauce plant in Williamson, N.Y., who are represented by Local 220*, took their fight against massive wage and benefit cuts to the boardroom of corporate executives last week.

The members visited the annual shareholders meeting of Dr. Pepper Snapple, the corporate parent of Mott's in Plano, Texas. The company has been demanding across-the-board cuts at the Williamson plant while posting record profits. In fact, over the last three years, CEO pay at Dr. Pepper Snapple has risen more than 100 percent.

Local 220* members confront Dr. Pepper Snapple CEO Larry Young in Plano, Texas.

Then, on Sunday, workers at the facility went out on strike over unfair labor practices as the company has refused to bargain in good faith.

The company has demanded wage cuts, pension elimination and decreased 401(k) and health care contributions.

Michael Leberth, president of Local 220* said "We are tired of being juiced by such a profitable company."

For more information and to watch a video of the striking workers visit www.rwdsu.org. **OP**

UFCW Members Notch Wins as Pro-Working Family Candidates Record Victories in Primary Tuesday

UFCW members across the country tasted victory last week as UFCW-endorsed pro-worker candidates notched victories in Pennsylvania and Kentucky and forced a runoff in Arkansas.

In Pennsylvania, Congressman Joe Sestak defeated long-time incumbent and former Republican Arlen Specter in the Democratic primary for Specter's U.S. Senate seat. UFCW locals across Pennsylvania, including 23 and 1776, worked hard for Sestak's victory and to send a real voice for working Pennsylvanians to Washington.

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In Kentucky, Attorney General Jack Conway won the Democratic primary for the open U.S. Senate seat with the support of Local 227. Conway will face physician Rand Paul in a heated November contest for the seat formerly held by Republican Jim Bunning.

Finally, in Arkansas, thousands of UFCW members joined with their labor brothers and sisters in supporting Lt. Governor Bill Halter in his primary challenge to incumbent Sen. Blanche Lincoln. Halter ran on a pro-worker platform and forced a runoff, as neither candidate received 50 percent of the vote. **OP**

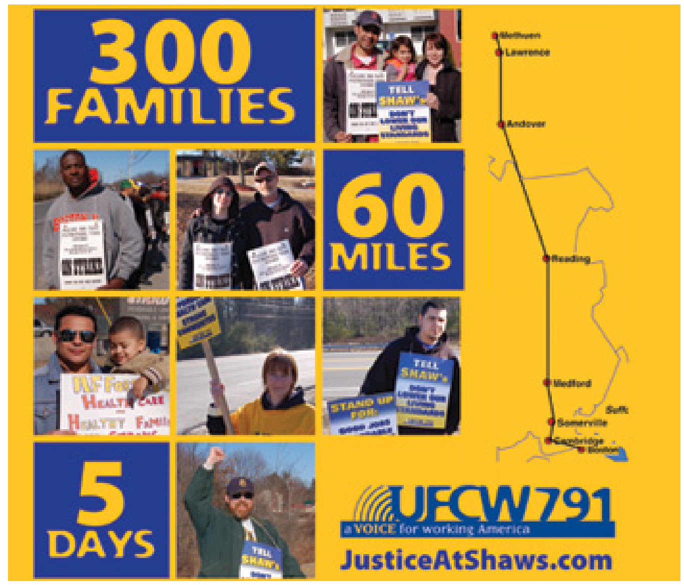
Kevin Kilroy, Director of Public Affairs, Local 23, Congressman Joe Sestak, Local 1776 President Wendell Young, IV, Al Vincent, Director of UFCW Region 2, and John Myerson, Director of Legislative and Political Action at Local 1776 stand together after UFCW Pennsylvania announces their endorsement of Sestak's candidacy.

New Rules from Department of Labor Require Federal Contractors to Post Workers' Labor Rights

On Tuesday, the Department of Labor formally posted a new rule requiring any company with federal contracts to post signs informing workers of their right to organize under the National Labor Relations Act.

This new rule will affect more than 20 percent of the total civilian workforce in the U.S. and provide workers with new ammunition as they seek to organize for a real voice at work. It is an important step by the Obama Administration's Labor Department in restoring balance to the workplace, because an informed workplace is more likely to work to exercise their rights under federal labor law. **OP**

Follow Shaw's Workers March for Justice Online



Follow more than 100 UFCW marchers as they walk more than 60 miles across Massachusetts over 5 days to demand a fair contract for workers on strike at the Shaw's warehouse in Methuen, Massachusetts.

The workers are taking to the streets because Supervalu, the parent company of Shaw's, has forced them to strike to preserve their families' health care. You can follow daily updates of their march online at JusticeAtShaws.org and check back with *OnPoint* next week for complete coverage. **OP**

OnPoint Delayed Next Week

Due to the Memorial Day holiday next Monday, your next issue of OnPoint will arrive in your inbox on Wednesday instead of its typical Tuesday delivery. Have a safe and happy holiday weekend. **OP**