

UFCW Locals Call on Walmart to Prove They Don't Discriminate Against Women



Local 5 members were joined by former California Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Sally Lieber outside the Walmart in San Jose, California.

UFCW activists rallied across the country on Friday, June 4, to draw attention to Walmart's gender discrimination practices and call on Walmart CEO Mike Duke to prove that the retail giant has indeed ended these practices. More than 30 UFCW locals reached out to Walmart customers, talking about the impact that Walmart's practices have on female employees and asking them to join in the call to hold executives accountable for Walmart's discrimination.

In addition to the actions outside stores, more than 4,000 letters were sent online to independent members of the Walmart Board of Directors asking them to support female workers and hold executives accountable.

Friday was also the day of the 2010 Walmart Annual Shareholder Meeting. The shareholder meeting opened under a cloud due to a revelation in the *New York Times* that Walmart had been made aware in 1995 of the gender discrimination practices that brought about the pending *Dukes v. Walmart* class action lawsuit in 2001, but had done nothing to change these practices.

Bryon Perreira, a Special Projects Union Representative at Local 1167, who helped put the action in Redlands, Calif. together said, "This was the first time that I was able to talk to people at a Walmart, we were out there for about two hours and people really responded to what we

News Report: Walmart Execs Ignored Facts on Gender Discrimination

According to a new report in the *New York Times*, in 1995, Walmart asked one of their law firms to evaluate if the company would be liable in court for any sort of discriminatory practices. In response the lawyers told executives there were "widespread gender disparities in pay and promotion at Walmart and Sam's Club stores and urged the company to take some basic steps - like posting every job opening and creating specific goals to promote women and minorities - to avoid liability." Six years later in 2001, seven women filed just such a suit on the grounds of systematic discrimination in pay and promotions. Read more online at

WakeUpWalmart.org. **OP**

had to say. It was a really positive experience all around."

Locals 1360, 152 and 1262 along with Region 1 staff rallied outside a store in North Bergen, N.J. Locals 88 and 655 joined forces to hold an action just outside St. Louis in Kirkwood, Mo. In Brooklyn, N.Y., Local 1500 and RWDSU held a June 3 press conference and distributed flyers talking about gender discrimination. In Philadelphia, Local 1776 held joint event with speakers from the UFCW Women's Network, the Jewish Labor Council and Jobs with Justice.

Local 27 held an action at the Port Covington store in Baltimore, Md. to highlight the effect Walmart has on neighborhoods. The action included grassroots supporters from the community group B'more Local which is standing with Local 27 in opposing Walmart expansion in Baltimore. Local 881 leafleted and used the opportunity to stand against a proposed Walmart on the South Side of Chicago, Ill. Local 881 also distributed handbills at the zoning board meeting the previous night. Local 5 held an event outside a Walmart in San Jose, Calif. with local politicians in attendance. Local 7R held an action with women's rights groups in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

Other participating locals included Local 464A in Saddle Brook, N.J.; Local 1 in Buffalo, N.Y.; Local 1445 in Salem, Mass.; Local 919 in Hartford, Conn.; Local 1657 in Birmingham, Ala.; Local 1996 in Duluth, Ga.; Local 880 in and around the Cleveland, Ohio area; Local 770 in Indianapolis, Ind.; Local 1059 in Columbus, Ohio; Local 789 in St. Paul, Minn.; Local 367 in Takoma, Wash.; Local 1496 in Anchorage, Alaska; Local 711 in Las Vegas, Nev.; Local 1442 in Torrance, Calif.; Local 770 in Camarillo, Calif. and Local 135 in San Diego, California. **OP**



Local 1445 members show off their handmade signs outside Walmart in Salem, Massachusetts.

Consumer Reports: Walmart Customers Aren't Satisfied

In the July 2010 edition of *Consumer Reports*, Walmart was ranked tenth out of eleven stores for customer satisfaction –only Kmart fared worse. The report even suggests that Walmart shoppers change where they shop.

Walmart received no positive rankings in any of the 13 categories evaluated by *Consumer Reports*.

- Walmart got the worst rating in six of those categories.
- Even though Walmart claims to help people live better by offering low prices, the store didn't even get a positive score for value.

- The quality of Walmart's apparel, jewelry, kitchenware, and electronics was rated below average – even compared to stores like JCPenney and Kohl's.
- Customers felt Walmarts were too big, and poorly laid out.

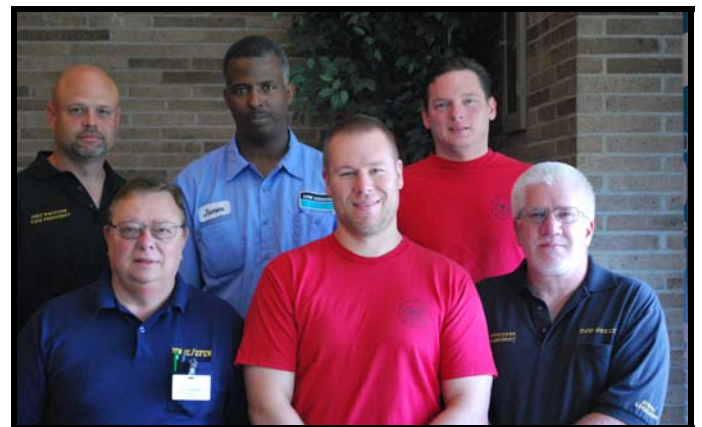
Until Walmart raises its standards and serves communities better, we just can't support Walmart. **OP**

Local 970C Ratifies New Contract with Dow Corning

Members of UFCW Local 970C have ratified a new four-year agreement with Dow Corning. The workers in Dow's caulk-producing Elizabethtown, Kentucky plant overwhelmingly backed the four-year contract.

Despite tough negotiations in which the company's initial offer included zero raises for the first year, the final contract includes across-the-board raises totaling \$4,000 plus two percent over the life of the contract.

Said Secretary-Treasurer Brian Berndt, "We are grateful for our membership sticking together to help win the best contract while helping our site remain competitive in the global marketplace." **OP**



The Local 970C bargaining committee, from left to right: Joey Whitlow, Mike Elick, James Deaderick, Bryan LaFollette, Brian Berndt, and Mark Pfeiffer.