

UFCW Members Nationwide Mobilize for 2010 Elections



Local 1428 members come together to support pro-worker candidates in California.

Election day 2010 is here, and many races remain incredibly close, so be sure to get out and vote before the polls close today. If you're not sure where you should go to vote, visit www.ufcw.org to find your polling place.

UFCW members took to the streets, knocked on doors, and reached out to their fellow working Americans in every possible way to communicate with them about the issues that really matter. That hard work has gotten a number of pro-worker candidates to the finish line, and today, it's time to push them across that line for victory. We won't just keep working until the last polling place has closed; we know our real work begins once the election results are in.

We must remain mobilized and engaged to hold the new Congress accountable on the issues confronting working people. We must restore balance to our economy, create policies that generate good-paying jobs, and expand the middle class. We must make the billionaires and special interest groups realize that our fight to put working families first will prevail despite their seemingly endless piles of money. **OP**

Local 1564 Members Ratify Agreement with Smith's in New Mexico

Local 1564 members in New Mexico ratified a four-year agreement with Smith's Food & Drug Centers, Inc., an affiliate of Kroger.

The agreement covers 2,000 associates in New Mexico, working in 26 stores and 11 fuel centers, and was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of 90 percent. The ratified agreement puts new money into the health and pension funds while keeping harmful language out of the contracts.

"The strength and resilience of the Smith's negotiating committee coupled with aggressive actions from the union played a major role in Smith's drastically improving their final offer right before the holidays," said Local 1564 President Greg Frazier.

Improvements to the health care plan include a 50 percent increase in short term disability pay, a 24 hour nurse line, 100 percent coverage for prostate, colonoscopy, mammogram, pap smear and child immunizations at appropriate times, and a 10 percent cost reduction in many brand name maintenance prescription drugs. Additionally, employees at the top rate of their classification will receive four wage increases over the four year term. **OP**

Americold Workers Approve Four-Year Agreement

UFCW Local 17A members in Ohio voted overwhelmingly to approve a new four-year contract Thursday with Americold Logistics.

There had been three extensions to the contract since negotiations began in February. Members had been working without a contract since Feb. 5. The new agreement is retroactive to February 6, and set to expire on February 6, 2013.

Members stood ready to go on strike after management proposed doubling premiums, but were able to negotiate with the company to achieve smaller, steady increases over the four-year contract instead. Premium increases were kept to a minimum with the cost of some types of coverage going down.

Workers will receive a two percent raise in each year of the contract and were able to maintain double time on Sundays as well as existing break and sick leave provisions. The new language also gives the union input into the standards for the company productivity incentive plan once they have been proposed. This is the first contract with the company that provides for union input in the plan.

“We’ve been working on this since February,” said David Marks, a union steward at UFCW 17A. “We’re relieved it’s over with and that we can get back to business as usual.” **OP**

Local 23 Members and Supporters March on Giant Eagle Headquarters



Local 23 members signed postcards addressed to Giant Eagle CEO David Shapira, calling on him to stop intimidating their coworkers.

After several months of feeling intimidated at work, dozens of Giant Eagle workers and Local 23 members marched on Giant Eagle’s company headquarters last week, asking the company to respect their rights. The workers were joined by several community groups who turned out to show their support. The marchers delivered postcards addressed to David Shapira and signed by their coworkers at 36 stores in the Pittsburgh area.

“We’ve been told we can’t wear buttons, we’ve been told not to talk about our union, we’ve been threatened with arrest

or worse, being fired,” explained Giant Eagle worker Jim D’Alessandro. “It isn’t right. They are infringing on our right to free speech and violating our nation’s laws that ensure we have a right to organize and be organized. Our contract even gives us the right to talk about our union during work time.”



To send a clear message, some of the marchers dressed up as the Founding Fathers, carrying with them a Bill of Rights for Giant Eagle workers they asked the company to acknowledge.

Unfortunately, Giant Eagle once again tried to silence workers by refusing to let them near the building or listen to their request for respect. But Giant Eagle workers refused to be silenced. Giant Eagle workers are continuing to demand the respect they deserve for their hard work and all they do to make their company successful.

To see photos of the march, visit <http://ufcw.blogspot.com/2010/10/workers-and-supporters-march-on-giant.html>. **OP**

Today’s election will have a huge impact on working families - so get out and vote! To find your polling place, visit www.ufcw.org.