

## CVS Workers at 24 Stores Win Union Voice



*CVS workers in Southern California have voted to join with their unionized co-workers in the UFCW.*

As part of the unprecedented cooperation agreement between CVS Caremark and the UFCW, hundreds of workers at 24 Los Angeles-area CVS stores have stood together and joined UFCW Local 770. These workers join more than 8,000 CVS workers in 11 states and D.C. who are already members of the UFCW.

The agreement allows for a quick, simple and non-adversarial election process for CVS workers in more than 500 California stores to choose to join with their co-workers for a better life. Over the five year term of the agreement, all of the workers covered by the agreement will have the opportunity to make an informed decision about joining a union in an atmosphere free from employer pressure or intimidation.

That workers in more than a dozen communities were quick to join with their colleagues who are already members of the UFCW just shows that when the process is free and fair – workers across America will join together to improve their industry. **OP**

## UFCW Local 455 Kroger Members Ratify New Three-Year Contract

Last week, UFCW Local 455 Kroger clerks and meat cutters ratified a new three-year contract that improves healthcare benefits, increases wages, and preserves pensions. The new contract covers more than 13,000 Kroger clerk and meat workers, including part-time workers, in the Houston area.



*Kroger workers from UFCW Local 455 attend a meeting regarding their new contract that raises wages, improves benefits, and preserves pensions.*

“The wage improvements are great,” said Kroger associate Lenda Cadoree. “These hard working members truly deserve it and the other wage increases assure the company will be able to hire and retain quality employees in the future. All the employees I have discussed our new contract with have been extremely pleased with what we have accomplished together in our union.”

The contract sets a high bar for negotiations in the grocery industry and will help pave the way for other workers who are members of UFCW Locals 540, 1000, 1996, and 2008. **OP**

## Walmart Associates and Community Supporters Launch New Website

The Making Change at Walmart campaign and its coalition partners announced the launch of a new website [www.ReallyWalmart.org](http://www.ReallyWalmart.org).

The website showcases a number of video interviews of Walmart employees, community activists, environmentalists, and others sharing their experiences and concerns about Walmart.

The website comes on the heels of Walmart launching a new multimillion-dollar ad-campaign and website of the same name titled “The Real Walmart.”



*Walmart workers and community allies launch the ReallyWalmart.org website to share their work stories and calls for change.*

“Usually I work 36 hours a week but they cut hours. Sometimes I even get only 26 hours and I am supposed to be full-time,” said OUR Walmart member Rose Campbell.

“We might not have millions of dollars to pay for TV ads, but we have the stories to share that Walmart doesn’t want the public to hear,” said OUR Walmart member Charlene Fletcher. “The truth is that Walmart is a company that puts profits over people and employs tactics and strategies that keep employees like me in jobs that don’t let us provide for our families. Even while Walmart’s profits are going up, my co-workers and I have to rely on food stamps just to cover groceries.”

Walmart employees and communities across the globe are calling for a change of course at the company. Making Change at Walmart is calling on the company to publicly commit to raise wages, end retaliation against employees who speak out, and increase access to full time hours so that employees make a minimum of \$25,000 per year.

Additionally, the group is also calling on Walmart to sign a binding agreement to improve on fire and building safety to help prevent tragedies like last month’s Rana Plaza building collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh which caused the death of more than 1,000 garment workers. **OP**

## UFCW and Food Manufacturers Form Alliance on Immigration Bill

The UFCW and the Food Manufacturers Immigration Coalition (FMIC) announced their partnership on comprehensive immigration reform in a letter sent to the Senate “Gang of Eight,” praising them for their efforts on S. 744. The labor-business coalition is also seeking improvements to the Senate bill in the areas of visa allocation and employment verification.

The labor-business coalition said they support the Senate bill’s provisions to establish a roadmap to citizenship, protect family based immigration, promote smart, effective border enforcement, implement a workable, transparent employment verification system, and create an occupational visa for non-seasonal, permanent positions.

The coalition asked for more flexibility when it comes to employment verification. “Allowing employers to use Self-Check in a uniform, nondiscriminatory fashion will create greater transparency for new employees, and will enable employers to ensure that their new hires are not circumventing E-Verify,” the letter reads.

Moreover, the letter outlined: “If an employer takes the extra step of deterring identity theft through the uniform use of Self-Check, then the employer should be presumed to have acted in ‘good faith’ with respect to the E-Verify confirmations it receives.”

Finally, they requested that Senators direct the U.S. Departments of Homeland Security and Justice to create regulations that would provide specific rules of the road “describing a course of conduct...that satisfies employment verification requirements and concurrently avoids anti-discrimination liability.”

“If an employer follows these regulations, then the employer is presumed to have complied with both the verification and anti-discrimination rules,” the letter reads.

The labor-business coalition said they look forward to working with the Senate to improve S.744 and seeing comprehensive immigration reform become the law of the land. **OP**



## UFCW Statement On Retailers' Decision to Improve Workplace Safety in Bangladesh

The following is a statement issued by the UFCW regarding the decision of H&M and other retailers to sign a legally binding agreement to improve workplace safety in Bangladesh:

“The UFCW applauds H&M and other retailers for accepting binding building safety standards at Bangladeshi garment factories following the recent fire and building collapse that killed more than 1,000 garment workers in Bangladesh. By signing the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, H&M and other retailers are taking the high road and putting people before profits at their supplier factories.

“The UFCW also applauds UNI Global Union, IndustriALL Global Union and the Worker Rights Consortium for their work to address the terrible working conditions in Bangladesh. Thousands of UFCW members work in the retail industry, including at H&M, and the UFCW will continue to honor the workers who died or were injured in Bangladesh by supporting workers here and abroad who are struggling to protect their basic rights, and by calling on other retailers that have a strong presence in Bangladesh—such as Walmart—to do the right thing and sign this agreement.” **OP**

## UFCW Local 348-S Changes Charter Designation to UFCW Local 2013

UFCW Local 348-S in Brooklyn, New York, came out of trusteeship on May 1, 2013. Members also changed the local charter designation from UFCW Local 348-S to UFCW Local 2013.

In March, members voted on their new executive board that includes a new president, secretary-treasurer, recorder, and ten vice presidents that represent all the members' major industries. Members of the new executive board are leaders at some of UFCW Local 2013's biggest employers, including Americare, Fresh Direct, Quality King, Cumberland Packing, and Foss Manufacturing.

The new executive board will ensure effective representation of members. They will also encourage members to become

more active in UFCW Local 2013, along with providing financial transparency of dues money, and active political action for issues important to working families. **OP**

## UFCW Local 135 Members Rally to Support Grocery Worker



*UFCW Local 135 workers stand with Sprouts grocery worker Ian Rey as they fight to try to get his job back.*

UFCW Local 135 agreed to represent Ian Rey, a disabled, fired, long-time employee of Sprouts Farmers Market in California. Sprouts is a non-union company, but UFCW Local 135 said the group can help represent Rey in the grievance process with various local and state agencies.

“We’re going to represent him in his fight to get his job back. This is what a union does; we stand behind workers. He was terminated for making an honest mistake,” said Mickey Kasparian of UFCW Local 135.

Rey was born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. He has learning disabilities, but had held a job at the grocery store for 14 years. He said he was fired for taking a black jacket he thought was his from the break room and unknowingly wore it to work the next day.

“It will be helpful, it will be great,” said Rey, in reaction to the backing from members.

UFCW Local 135 members are actively showing their support for Rey. They rallied friends and supporters from the community armed with flyers that read ‘Don’t Shop at Sprouts,’ and staged a rally outside the Point Loma store where Rey was formerly employed. **OP**