

UFCW Local 700 Members Ratify New Agreement with Kroger

UFCW Local 700 members overwhelmingly approved a new four-year agreement for over 6,000 workers in Indianapolis-area Kroger stores. Members of UFCW Local 700 stood together for contract negotiations that took over a year, largely due to the implications of the Affordable Care Act. This is the largest contract negotiated by UFCW Local 700 since the passage of right-to-work in Indiana.

The new agreement includes a union representative in new employee orientations and the creation of a Volunteer Organizing Committee (VOC) program to protect union market share. Eligible members may now choose the health care plan coverage appropriate for themselves and their children. More members of UFCW Local 700 will qualify for the highest coverage offered.

Members will also qualify faster for health care because of a reduction in the tunnel, and will have access to dependent coverage due to a lower hours requirement to qualify.

The contract includes a bonus for top-rated full-time and part-time workers, and other wage increases, as well as new and increased premiums, and improvements in relief pay. The new agreement also provides no annual or lifetime maximum on benefits, increased coverage for specialty drugs, increases in life insurance, accident and sick pay, and access to more ancillary coverage. **OP**

UFCW Holds National Lobby Day to Fix ACA, Pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform

On June 18 and 19 over 150 UFCW members and staff came to Washington, D.C. for a National Lobby Day to talk directly with their Members of Congress about the important issues facing working men and women. The UFCW delegation lobbied Members of Congress on two important issues—fixing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

The day started with an address from Congressman George Miller of California, the top Democrat on the House Education and the Workforce Committee. He spoke to Lobby Day attendees about the ongoing attack on workers and stressed the importance of speaking out on Capitol Hill.



Over 150 UFCW members participated in the National Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. to talk about fixing the ACA and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

UFCW Local 1262 member Delores Jackson, a Shop Rite employee in Rochelle Park, N.J., was eager to share her concerns about fairly implementing the ACA.

“I’m very excited to be here. I’ve been with the union for years. We fought hard for our current benefits and we deserve to keep them. I’m hoping I can convince some of these politicians to help us with this ACA problem. I want to keep my good health care. I don’t want it to change. I can’t afford to pay more for less health care coverage – that’s just not right. Usually politicians just talk to us – it’s time we came up here and talked with them. They need to hear our voice. They need to know how it is for us.”

Lourdes Castellano, a member of UFCW Local 1776 who works at Cargill in Hazelton, Pa., was proud to add her voice to the debate over immigration reform.

“I’ve worked at Cargill for 11 years and I would say 95 percent of my coworkers are Latino. We all want comprehensive immigration reform so that we can feel like we have a home. It’s especially difficult to see coworkers with family members who are separated because not all of them are able to come to America. We want a fair path to citizenship so that families can be reunited.”

One of the big takeaways, especially for UFCW members who had never lobbied before, was how effective their participation can be. Shante Vinalon, a UFCW Local 1996 member who works at Kroger in Decatur, Ga., was happy she got involved.

“I’ve worked at Kroger for eight years. This is my first time lobbying in D.C. Meeting and sitting down with Representatives one

on one is empowering. I get an understanding of where they're coming from and they get an understanding of where we're coming from. I'm able to see who is for us and who is against us. It's a great experience. Everyone should do it. I plan on encouraging all my friends back home to do it."

UFCW locals representing members in California, Michigan, Missouri, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Arizona, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Virginia, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Tennessee, Nevada, Florida, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Maryland took part in the Lobby Day.

Photos of the National Lobby Day can be found on Flickr at <http://bit.ly/11Etshc>. **OP**

OUR Walmart Members Fight Against Retaliation with Actions Directed at Walmart Board Member



OUR Walmart members hold actions at Yahoo! headquarters calling on Walmart board director and Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer to take a stand against firing workers who speak out for change.

Earlier this month, over 100 Walmart workers went on a legally protected ULP strike against Walmart's illegal attempts to silence workers through punitive measures including reducing workers hours, and suspending and firing of longtime employees who were speaking out for change at the company.

The strike, which lasted for more than two weeks, was the longest protracted strike against Walmart in its 51-year history. OUR Walmart members traveled to Bentonville, Ark., the home of Walmart headquarters and its annual shareholders meeting, to call on the company to end its illegal labor practices and to publicly commit to supporting its worker's labor rights.

Last Friday, Walmart illegally fired nearly a dozen workers who went on strike. In the coming days and weeks ahead, OUR Walmart members and supporters will tell Walmart that they are not intimidated by their illegal actions and are fighting back.

Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer is on Walmart's Board of Directors. At Yahoo's shareholders' meeting today, OUR Walmart will take action and let Mayer know that silence is complicity and calling on her to take a stand against firing and disciplining workers, especially single working moms.

UFCW members can support the fired and disciplined workers by doing the following:

- Tweet and post on Twitter and Facebook: #Walmart is firing #WalmartStrikers BOD member @MarissaMayer- Silence is complicity. Act now! #Yahoo action.changewalmart.org/RRteam
- Sign up for our ThunderClap during the shareholders' meeting and then spread the word to your supporters: <http://bit.ly/19w813F>

Photos of the actions at Yahoo! headquarters can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/OURWMT>. **OP**

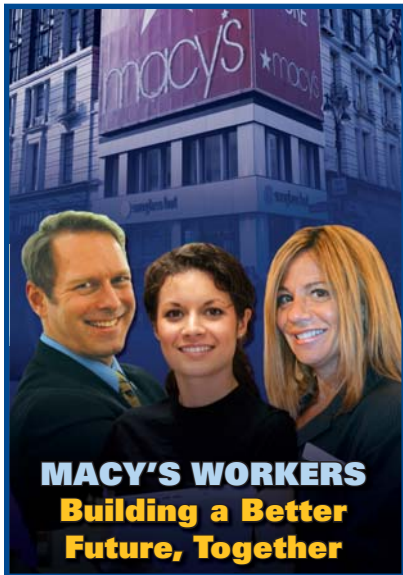
UFCW Member Organizers Join Together for Worker-to-Worker Outreach at Macy's Stores

Last week, over 70 rank and file members from UFCW Locals 75, 227, 700, 876, 880, 951 and 1059 conducted a coordinated worker-to-worker outreach to non-union Macy's workers in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

"It's a powerful experience to reach out directly to people who have never had a union. The Macy's associates were very receptive to hearing about how much stronger we are when we stick together," said Jeff Pleasants from UFCW Local 227 in Louisville, Ky. "I'm really hopeful that we can make a difference at Macy's."

The UFCW member organizers were able to engage 750 Macy's associates at 76 stores and offered personal testimonies of what the union has meant for their lives, and why more retail workers like Macy's associates should be in a union.

"Being part of a union isn't just about what's going on in my own store. It's about the whole industry. If we can raise standards



UFCW Macy's workers traveled to non-union Macy's stores to talk to associates about the benefits of having a union voice.

at Macy's, then we are going to be that much more powerful when we sit down to negotiate our own contract," said Robert Hernandez, a member of UFCW Local 876 in Detroit, Mich.

Thousands of Macy's workers have already come together with the UFCW to make their jobs better. Now UFCW members are working to ensure that nonunion workers at Macy's in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana have the same voice on the job as their union counterparts.

To learn more about how retail workers nationwide are coming together to raise the standards in their industry, visit www.retailworkersunited.org. **OP**

UFCW Launches Convention Website

Local union staff, delegates, alternates, and guests attending the UFCW Convention can go to the new UFCW Convention website for helpful information. Please visit www.ufcwconvention.org for information on travel, lodging, convention schedule, delegate education programs, and much more. **OP**



UFCW Locals and the Medical Cannabis & Hemp Division Help Launch New PAC



The delegation from the UFCW International and UFCW Locals 5 and 8 attend the launch of Citizens for Responsible Access.

UFCW Locals 5, 8, and the UFCW's National Medical Cannabis and Hemp Division joined with labor, community, political and business allies to launch a new political action group, "Citizens for Responsible Access," (CRA) in California last week. CRA advocates for the implementation and enforcement of cannabis policy that supports the environment, public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the rights of all people to fair treatment under state and local law.

The UFCW represents thousands of medical cannabis workers in six states and the District of Columbia. Across the country, the UFCW and locals have been an integral part of building coalitions for sane and sensible cannabis regulation that protects the rights of workers in the industry. **OP**