

UFCW Members Efforts Help Stall Liquor Privatization in Pennsylvania



Lobbying efforts and political mobilization by members of UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 helped stop liquor privatization in P.A.

Over the past two and a half years, UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 in Pennsylvania have been fighting back against efforts to privatize state liquor stores. This past week, both locals were able to secure a victory when the Pennsylvania Senate failed to move the liquor privatization bill forward. This means that over 3,500 UFCW members will keep their jobs.

According to Wendell Young, President of UFCW Local 1776, success was due in large part to coordination across both locals and other groups within Pennsylvania.

“Everyone acted in unison. It was a great effort with Local 23. We absolutely worked as one unit on this. This was the largest member mobilization ever. The ability for everyone to become easily and actively involved was the key to success. If there was one thing that made the difference, it’s our members. They were our greatest strength.”

UFCW members lobbied at the Capitol in Harrisburg every single day during the session. Some often drove hours across Pennsylvania, arriving with spouses, children, and neighbors to help convince legislators that liquor privatization was the wrong direction for the commonwealth.

UFCW Local 1776 member Rob Peters, a Wine Specialist and Shop Steward in the Ardmore, Pa., PA Wine & Spirits store said, “Our stores generate more than \$700 million a year for the state treasury. UFCW members keep alcohol out of the hands of minors and visibly intoxicated people. We take pride in our jobs.”

In addition to lobbying, members from UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 wrote letters to the editor, called in to TV shows, and held multiple strategy sessions every week. All of this helped to educate and re-educate members about the issue and guarantee that the debate stayed visible to the public.

To help financially support their campaign, members donated an extra \$5 per paycheck to help put together a multi-million dollar fund. This went towards producing advertisements and hiring lobbyists to help make their case to state legislators.

As the session came to a close last week, the effort to privatize the liquor industry faced bipartisan opposition. The ability for the UFCW to gain support from both Democrats and Republicans underscored the success and effectiveness of their messaging and mobilization campaign.

Liquor privatization efforts are expected to resume in the fall legislative session but members are ready and optimistic to continue the fight. **OP**

Victory for Former Zellers Workers in Fight Towards Fairness at Target



Former Zellers workers from UFCW Canada celebrate a victory in fighting for fairness at Target.

UFCW Canada recently celebrated a victory in the fight on Target for former Zellers workers who were laid off when Target purchased the Zellers stores.

For the first time, a decision by the Quebec Labour Standards Commission recognized Target’s responsibility to Zellers workers and their communities by ruling that Target needs just cause to deny former Zellers workers employment in the rebranded retail locations.



The spokesperson for the Labour Standards Commission, Jean-François Pelchat announced that all former Zellers employees who had applied for a job at Target, and whose application was turned down, had 45 days from the date of the denial notice to file a complaint with the Commission for dismissal without just cause.

UFCW Canada applauds the Commission’s decision and that the commission clearly recognizes the employment relationship between former Zellers employees and their new employer – Target.

The original announcement from UFCW Canada can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/11yqBIv>. **OP**

UFCW Members from Region 6 Attend SPUR Trainings and Sign Up New Members



UFCW members attend Region 6 SPUR training and sign up new UFCW and ABC members.

21 UFCW members from 11 locals participated in the UFCW Region 6 SPUR training and signed up new UFCW and ABC members. Members from UFCW Locals 6, 7, 222, 293, 304A, 431, 440, 653, 1149, 1161, and 1189 learned techniques to sign up new members and the challenges of organizing and having a union voice in a Right-to-Work state. Over the course of the training members also learned about signing members up for the Active Ballot Club (ABC) and the importance of being politically active.

At the conclusion of the training, for two weeks members visited the homes of non-union workers to discuss the benefits of having a union voice. The workers were from a Farmland plant in Crete,

Neb., and a Tyson plant in Waterloo, Iowa. As a result of their training and personal visits to workers, members signed up 86 new UFCW members and 25 new ABC members. **OP**

“Summer for Respect” Provides Walmart Workers with New Organizing and Outreach Techniques



The Making Change at Walmart Campaign partnered with UFCW locals launched the Summer for Respect 2013 training program.

Last month, the Making Change at Walmart Campaign in partnership with UFCW locals launched the Summer for Respect 2013 training program. The purpose of the trainings is to teach UFCW members, staffers, fired Walmart strikers and the children of staff and strikers how to organize coalitions in their local communities. To date trainings have taken place across the country including in California, Ohio, Massachusetts, New York/New Jersey, Washington, DC and Washington state. Over the course of the next two months additional trainings will be conducted across the country including the Midwest, northern California, Florida, Connecticut and more for staff, UFCW members, and other allies.

The program currently has more than 75 participants and they have spent the first couple of weeks talking with Walmart workers across the country about conditions in their stores and actions that can be taken to protest Walmart’s illegal retaliation and attempts to silence workers, and to bring about real change to the world’s largest retailer.

The curriculum includes how to talk to Walmart workers at stores, how to have one-on-one meetings as well as how to plan and have direct actions. Since the trainings began, participants have hit the ground running and have started to connect current



Walmart associates with OUR Walmart leaders. In addition to talking to associates, Summer for Respect 2013 participants will focus their work on building community and worker coalitions that will move future actions in their areas, specifically planning actions the week of Labor Day.

All of the following locals are now participating in the Making Change at Walmart's Summer for Respect program:

Region 1

- RW 108, 328, 342, 791, 888, 1262, 1445, 1500, 2013
- New England Council, District Council of New York/New Jersey

Region 2

- 23, 27, 400, 1208, 1625
- Region 2 Council, RWDSU Mid-South Council

Region 4

- 75, 227, 700, 876, 1059
- Region 4 Central States Council

Region 5

- 2, 88, 655, 455, 496, 540, 655, 1101, 1529, 1564, 1995

Region 6

- 6, 7R, 9, 222, 230, 293, 431, 653, 1149, 1189, 1546
- Region Council No. 6 - Northern Plains

Region 8

- 5, 8GS, 21, 135, 367, 555, 648, 711, 770, 328, 1428, 1439, 1442, 1459

To find out more about Summer for Respect 2013 or to register for the program, visit <http://bit.ly/changewmtsummer>. UFCW and allies are all welcome to participate in the program. **OP**

UFCW Local 400 Members Ratify New Contracts at Metropolitan Poultry and Macy's

UFCW Local 400 workers at Metropolitan Poultry and Macy's ratified new contracts. Member activism and involvement were key to the strong collective bargaining agreements.

On June 28, the Metropolitan Poultry workers ratified a four-year deal that maintains their health and welfare benefits and retirement security, while increasing total compensation over the life of the contract.

In the negotiations, the UFCW Local 400 bargaining committee defeated all proposed concessions and instead added language to improve holidays for part-time employees, sick leave and funeral leave, with a longevity bonus for those with 15 or more years of service.

UFCW Local 400 members also achieved successorship language. If the company decides to sell to new owners, the new owners must negotiate with the union.

On June 30, Macy's members ratified a five-year collective bargaining agreement covering 686 members working at stores in Washington, D.C. and Maryland. The agreement raises living standards and protects health and welfare benefits. As with Metropolitan Poultry, UFCW Local 400 members defeated all concessions proposed by management. **OP**

Immigration Reform Rally in Washington, D.C.

If you're in D.C. tomorrow, join us in telling House Republicans that the TIME IS NOW for comprehensive immigration reform. House Republicans are convening a special meeting tomorrow to discuss whether or not to bring up a bill. We plan on greeting them as they enter the meeting, with the message that we deserve a vote on citizenship. Details are below:

- **What:** Rally at the U.S. Capitol
- **When:** Wednesday, 7/10 at 2:00 PM
- **Where:** Corner of 1st and Independence SE
- **Who:** You, plus hundreds of others, including our friends from Alliance for Citizenship, CASA in Action, SEIU 32BJ, FIRM, America's Voice, United We Dream, AFL-CIO, CWA, LIUNA, AFSCME, and other national organizations.
- **Why:** House Republicans need to know that we deserve a vote on citizenship, and the TIME IS NOW to move forward on a common-sense immigration bill.

And if you're not in D.C., but still want to tell House Republicans that the TIME IS NOW, call 866-998-2910 to urge Speaker Boehner to support immigration reform. **OP**