

UFCW Welcomed, New Affiliation Celebrated at AFL-CIO 2013 Convention



UFCW delegates receive a warm welcome at the AFL-CIO 2013 Convention in Los Angeles.

At the AFL-CIO 2013 Convention in downtown Los Angeles, UFCW delegates received a warm welcome from the labor federation as they took the stage to celebrate the new affiliation with the AFL-CIO in a movement to build a stronger, more unified voice for the rights of workers.

“Thank you all for welcoming UFCW GOLD into the AFL. As President Trumka saw at our convention just a few weeks ago, UFCW is clear - we believe in labor unity. We know labor cannot be a collection of individual unions. We must be one movement - strong, united, steadfast. I know, all of UFCW knows, we are only powerful when we work together,” said UFCW President Joe Hansen.

“The attack on collective bargaining in 2010 in state legislatures brought the labor movement together. Unity wasn’t optional - it was imperative.”

“We need that same solidarity today and everyday, not just to defend against attacks, but to innovate, strategize, and grow this movement. We also know that labor unions cannot do this alone. We are excited about the inclusion focus of this convention and the AFL-CIO,” said President Hansen.

“Our solidarity did not start today,” President Hansen continued. “I’ve seen first hand Rich Trumka fight like hell to fix the ACA and protect our members health care. Rich and I have been working side by side to make comprehensive immigration reform a reality.”



UFCW President Joe Hansen and OUR Walmart members celebrate the UFCW affiliation at the AFL-CIO 2013 Convention.

“I’m glad to have him on our side. I, and all of UFCW, are ready to work with Rich and his leadership team and the entire AFL-CIO to take labor’s fight to the next level.”

The AFL-CIO delegation also cheered on a group of OUR Walmart workers who were welcomed as guests at the convention.

The UFCW announced its affiliation with the AFL-CIO last month in a bold move toward a stronger, more unified labor movement.

AFL-CIO President Rich Trumka remarked at the UFCW 2013 Convention, “Brothers and sisters, the UFCW is a proud and powerful union. On behalf of the 12 million working men and women of the affiliate unions of the AFL-CIO, I want to welcome you to the federation — we’re stronger together.” **OP**

OUR Walmart Announces Massive 2013 Black Friday Actions During National Protests

One hundred Walmart workers and community members were arrested in 11 cities on Thursday while calling on the employer to reinstate illegally fired and disciplined workers, publicly commit to improve jobs, and end the company’s aggressive violations of workers’ rights. Thousands of supporters, joined the group in 15 cities in the largest mobilization since Black Friday in 2012.

In response to Walmart’s inaction, the group announced widespread, massive strikes and protests for Black Friday in 2013.



Walmart workers and community supporters protested in 15 cities across the country in the largest mobilized action since last Black Friday.

Walmart workers and community supporters protested in 15 cities across the country in the largest mobilized action since last Black Friday. The group made headlines last year on Black Friday with the largest strike in the company's history.

The arrests and protests come at a time when workers from around the country are calling for improved wages in service-sector jobs.

"Enough is enough," said Venanzi Luna, a worker who was arrested in Los Angeles, where more than 1,000 protestors marched in downtown Los Angeles. "Walmart continues to put us in an impossible position, and people are finally standing up for what's right. I'm willing to do whatever it takes to make sure we're heard. We'll be out in even greater force on Black Friday."

Similar protests across the country drew hundreds of workers and community supporters, including in the Washington, D.C. area where protesters shut down one of the busiest streets in Prince George's County.

"We've had enough of Walmart's inaction," said Tonya Cauley, a Walmart worker who was arrested Thursday in Hyattsville, Md. "As the country's largest employer, Walmart can and should do better. We aren't calling for much—a minimum full-time yearly wage of \$25,000 and an assurance that we can stand up for what's right without being attacked. I'm energized by the support I saw today and will be out stronger than ever on Black Friday."

Members and local unions can show their support for Walmart workers and learn the ways they can take action this Black Friday by signing the pledge at <http://bit.ly/15H42nj>. **OP**

UFCW Local 371 Cosmo's Workers To Sign First Contract



UFCW Local 371 Cosmo's workers celebrate signing their first contract that increases wages, and improves job security.

Workers at Cosmo's Food Products, Inc., in West Haven, Conn., are celebrating the signing of their first union contract. This victory comes seven months after the workers at Cosmo's voted to join UFCW Local 371.

"I'm proud of the union contract that we negotiated," said Araceli Flores, Cosmo's Food worker. "This contract will mean more security for our families."

The agreement provides \$1.30 in wage increases over the life of the contract. In the negotiations, the bargaining committee focused on securing guaranteed hours and seniority rights that will provide workers with greater job security. The contract also guarantees seven paid holidays each year and between one and three weeks of paid vacation for the workers.

"From the beginning, this has been about respect. The relationship between workers and supervisors at Cosmo's really changed when management had to sit down at the bargaining table with us and negotiate," said Cosmo's Food worker Guadalupe Muñoz.

Cosmo's Food Products, Inc., produces a variety of antipasto specialties under the Cosmo's brand and for private labels. **OP**