

Staples Workers Ratify First Union Agreement in North America



UFCW Local 832 members have ratified the first union contract with Staples in North America.

Staples workers in Winnipeg, Canada have unanimously ratified their first contract with the company. This is the first-ever union agreement with Staples in North America. Workers are members of UFCW Local 832.

“Members knew when they signed cards that we would be in a battle with the company,” said Sean Allen, a UFCW Local 832 member who participated on the negotiating committee. “This has never been done before, but we knew we needed to get a contract to start as a base and to work from there. This contract allows that.”

Workers negotiated a two percent across-the-board wage increase in the first year and another two percent wage hike in the second year of the agreement. Members also won grievance and arbitration language to settle disputes in a timely fashion. The new contract recognizes seniority and defines it to ensure seniority rights continue during leaves of absence or layoffs.

The collective agreement outlines and clarifies many of the employer’s policies and practices. The contract also includes paid bereavement leave, personal and family days, premiums and an improved vacation structure. **OP**

Hundreds of CVS Workers in California Join UFCW Local 770



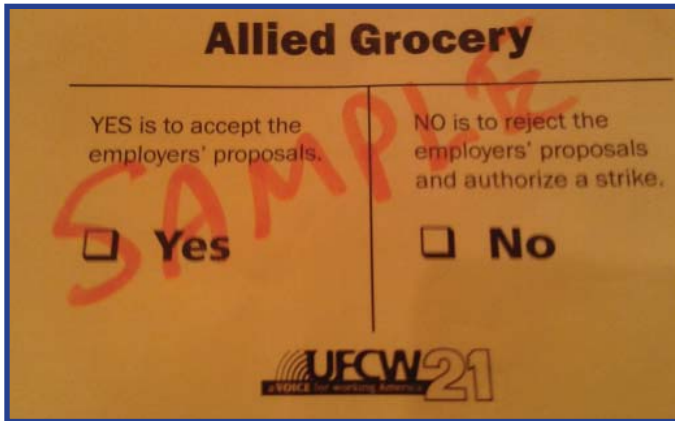
Hundreds of CVS workers across the Los Angeles area have voted to join UFCW Local 770.

In May this year, workers at 24 CVS stores across Los Angeles joined the UFCW this year as part of an unprecedented cooperation agreement between CVS Caremark and the UFCW. Since May, hundreds more workers at Los Angeles area CVS stores stood together and joined UFCW Local 770, bringing the total number of newly unionized stores to 50 and more than doubling the number of new stores under contract. These workers join more than 8,000 CVS workers in 11 states and the District of Columbia 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. **OP**

Grocery Workers at UFCW Locals 21 and 367 Prepare for Strike Vote

The bargaining team for grocery store workers from UFCW Locals 21, 367 and Teamsters Local 38 have unanimously recommended a strike vote authorization. Voting will take place between September 22 and September 25. The voting follows informational pickets held at 38 grocery stores in the Seattle area that drew attention to workers’ fight for fair treatment, pay, and benefits.



UFCW Locals 21, 367 and Teamsters Local 38 grocery workers prepare for a strike authorization vote.

Workers have been in contract negotiations since March. Despite more than 12 bargaining sessions and a first round of informational pickets in July, Fred Meyer, Safeway, QFC, and Albertsons have continued to stick to proposals that would stop providing healthcare coverage for employees working fewer than 30 hours a week, deny workers paid sick days, and cut pay - including for those who work on holidays.

More information and updates on the strike vote and bargaining situation at Fred Meyer, Safeway, QFC, and Albertsons can be viewed at <http://www.ufcw21.org/>. **OP**

Workers at Nursing Home Facility in Florida Vote to Join the RWDSU Mid-South Council

Healthcare workers at The Bridge at Bay St. Joe Nursing Home in Port Saint Joe, Florida, have voted overwhelmingly to join the RWDSU. Workers in this facility now join thousands of other healthcare workers along with retail, poultry workers, and others who make up the RWDSU Mid-South Council.

Before becoming a part of the RWDSU, workers at The Bridge at Bay St. Joe Nursing Home did not have a way to address issues to management. The company would change work rules such as the attendance policy and disciplinary policies at will, making it difficult for workers to receive fairness on the job. Workers now look forward to creating a grievance policy and implementing other procedures that will protect them and provide equal opportunities for all workers.

The Bridge at Bay St. Joe Nursing Home is a part of Signature HealthCARE, which is a leading provider of long-term care services in the Eastern and Southeastern United States. They operate in 87 communities in seven states with more than 14,000 employees. Earlier this year, the workers approached the RWDSU about working conditions and the need to join a union that fairly represents its members. Now, as part of the RWDSU, workers say they are looking forward to fighting for respect in the workplace. **OP**

UFCW Locals Across Ohio Make Statewide Endorsements

Yesterday, UFCW Locals 75, 1059 and 17A, along with the RWDSU Council and the ICWU Council, endorsed several strong candidates for statewide office in Ohio.

“The current leadership in Columbus has failed Ohio’s working families,” the locals said. “Their vision for our state was SB 5 – an extreme, unsafe, and unfair law which would have destroyed the freedom of workers to stick together in the workplace. Ohio voters rightly and overwhelmingly repealed SB 5. Now we must remove the politicians who tried to force it upon us.”

The locals and councils are endorsing Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald for Governor.

“We are extremely confident that Ed FitzGerald is the person to get Ohio back on the right track,” the locals added. “He understands that Ohio workers are sick and tired of their leaders putting profits over people. He wants to make Ohio a leader in attracting employers that pay a living wage and offer good benefits. And he will always protect workers’ fundamental right to form a union.”

Endorsements were also given to David Pepper for Attorney General, Nina Turner for Secretary of State, Connie Pillich for Treasurer, and John Patrick Carney for Auditor.

“All of these candidates share our concerns and care about making life better for workers and their families,” the locals said. “This is the team of leaders that Ohio’s working families deserve to have in Columbus. We are proud to give them all our full support.” **OP**

OUR Walmart Celebrates Legal Victory and Prepares for Actions Leading Up to Black Friday



The OUR Walmart team celebrates a legal victory in Washington and prepares for actions leading up to Black Friday.

In response to last year's Black Friday actions, Walmart filed a lawsuit in Washington state court against OUR Walmart and the UFCW alleging trespass and requesting a court order to prohibit future OUR Walmart actions inside and outside of Walmart stores.

OUR Walmart and the UFCW legal team fought the lawsuit and successfully persuaded the Washington judge to dismiss it because Walmart's state court lawsuit violated federal labor law that requires Walmart to present its issues only to the NLRB. Walmart had filed an unfair labor practice charge with the NLRB prior to filing its lawsuit.

This legal win means that Walmart cannot seek trespass injunctions against OUR Walmart or the UFCW for future actions in Washington. The win will also help the legal team to make similar arguments in other states that have Walmart trespass lawsuits pending including Ark., Calif., Colo., Fla., and Texas.

OUR Walmart members have announced widespread protests for Black Friday in 2013. As Black Friday approaches, the campaign is asking allies to commit to supporting OUR Walmart members as they take action this holiday shopping season by signing the petition at <http://bit.ly/15H42nj>. **OP**

UFCW Receives OSHA Grant for OSH Department Workplace Safety Education and Training

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (OSHA), has awarded the UFCW a grant in the amount of \$181,606. The grant will fund a training and education program to be conducted by the UFCW Occupational Safety and Health, (OSH), Office. The grant runs from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 and follows funding awarded by OSHA for the past four years to build capacity within the UFCW to address workplace safety and health.

The UFCW will use this funding to:

- Provide technical assistance, training, and education to regional staff, local union staff, stewards, and safety committees.
- Identify the languages spoken by UFCW non-English speaking members, in order to develop appropriate training materials and programs.
- Continue the safety and health train-the-trainer program.

The goal of all training conducted by the OSH Office is to grow the union and develop the skills of local union leaders, stewards, and safety committee members in order to address safety and health in the workplace. Training programs include topics like hazard recognition and control, workers' rights; technical issues such as hazards associated with ammonia refrigeration systems; and building effective union safety and health committees. This year, UFCW will focus on production changes in the workplace and corresponding increases in musculoskeletal disorders.

Local unions can contact the UFCW OSH Office to request and participate in any or all of this year's training programs and opportunities. **OP**

UFCW OUTreach Launches Official Website and Facebook Page

UFCW OUTreach has launched its official website and Facebook page. Local unions can learn more about UFCW OUTreach at <http://outreach.ufcw.org/> or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ufcwoutreach>. **OP**