

## JBS Workers Vote for a Union Voice on the Job with UFCW Local 1776



*JBS workers in Souderton, Pa., voted to join UFCW Local 1776 to have a union voice on the job.*

Yesterday, about 200 workers in a JBS rendering plant in Souderton, Pa., overwhelmingly voted for a union voice on the job with UFCW Local 1776.

“I have been a driver at JBS for three years and one reason why I wanted a union was to have better health insurance for my family. When it came time to vote, I stood with my co-workers and voted union ‘yes,’” said JBS worker Tony Serra.

The workers began campaigning to join a union at the beginning of this year. During the campaign, UFCW Locals 23, 204, 1994, and 1208 sent member activists to help UFCW Local 1776 members and JBS workers to handbill, hold worker-to-worker and member-to-worker meetings, and perform home calls to show solidarity and have a successful election. Many of the workers have been part of a union before and understand the power that workers have when they stand together.

Contract negotiations are set to begin immediately in order to run parallel with negotiations for the UFCW Local 1776 JBS beef plant workers. Respect on the job and protecting healthcare benefits are top priorities for workers. **OP**

## NLRB Decision Against Walmart Follows OUR Walmart Worker Strikes in Chicago and Ohio



*OUR Walmart members took action and held strikes to call for better jobs and end retaliation.*

After an investigation into Walmart’s firings and disciplinary actions of workers, the NLRB’s General Counsel issued a decision in favor of workers that Walmart illegally disciplined and fired workers over strikes and protests. The NLRB will prosecute Walmart’s illegal firings and disciplinary actions involving more than 117 workers, including those who went on strike last June, according to the decision.

The NLRB decision addresses threats by managers and the company’s national spokesperson for discouraging workers from striking and for taking illegal disciplinary actions against workers who were on legally protected strikes. Workers could be awarded back pay, reinstatement and the reversal of disciplinary actions through the decision; and Walmart could be required to inform and educate all employees of their legally protected rights.

“In yesterday’s *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, a Walmart spokesman said the company had a very strong anti-retaliation policy,” said UFCW International President Joe Hansen. “Yet the government confirmed it will prosecute Walmart for illegally firing and disciplining workers who just exercised their rights. Quite frankly, enough is enough.”

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* article caught national attention and reported that the Walmart in Canton, Ohio is collecting food for employees who can’t afford Thanksgiving dinner. Workers are saying that it is proof that Walmart doesn’t pay associates enough to survive. The article can be read at <http://bit.ly/1bUa2qP>.



The NLRB decision will provide additional protection for Walmart's 1.3 million employees when they are speaking out and taking action for better jobs at the country's largest employer. The actions and strikes from Walmart workers leading up to Black Friday continued when Walmart workers walked off the job at three stores in the Chicago area last week and workers in Ohio held strikes for the first time yesterday.

At these strikes, workers are taking action and calling on Walmart to end its illegal retaliation against workers, calling for better wages, and full-time work. Many workers are earning less than \$25,000 a year at the country's largest employer, and are risking their livelihoods by striking and speaking out for better jobs.

"Walmart, we've all had enough—me and my co-workers and my neighbors and all of Chicago. Walmart's executives and all my neighbors need to hear the reality of working at Walmart," said striking worker Richard Wilson.

Yesterday, Walmart workers in Dayton, and Cincinnati, Ohio, went on strike to protest Walmart's retaliation against those who speak out for change. They were joined by community supporters, who say they were motivated to join protests given the extremely low pay Walmart workers receive and the burden that creates on taxpayers.

By coming together and taking a stand for the first time in Ohio, workers join other OUR Walmart members in risking their livelihoods to speak out for what is right. The group's call for better jobs includes:

- An end to illegal retaliation;
- A minimum of \$25,000/year;
- More full-time work.

The strikes in Chicago and Ohio comes shortly after Walmart workers in Los Angeles and Tacoma, Washington walked off their jobs. Workers like Wilson said they could no longer wait to demand better pay and an end to illegal retaliation.

The action in Ohio is the latest in the series of OUR Walmart strikes across the country. Tens of thousands of people came out on Black Friday last year and the movement only continues to grow with OUR Walmart members in 700 stores, across 46 states.

More details on the OUR Walmart actions and information on how to help support Walmart workers can be found at <http://www.blackfridayprotests.org/>. **OP**

## UFCW Local 400 Members Vote to Authorize Possible Strike Against Giant and Safeway



*UFCW Local 400 grocery workers voted to authorize a strike against Giant and Safeway.*

Members of UFCW Local 400 voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike against Giant and Safeway grocery stores to send a strong message to management that members will do whatever it takes to get a fair contract.

Healthcare is the primary focus of negotiations. The current contract originally expired on October 31st. It was then extended for two weeks and has since been extended through December 20th, while bargaining takes place on a new agreement.

"The big issue at the table has been healthcare and today, our union brothers and sisters refused to go backward and authorized our local union leadership to call a strike," said Vivian Sigouin, a Bargaining Advisory Committee member who works at Safeway #1431.

"We need to keep this momentum up, we have to stand together and we as union members need to actively support our decision by participating in store actions," said LaWanda Nedd-Kea, a Bargaining Advisory Committee member who works at Giant #140.

UFCW Local 400 and community supporters will hold an informational picket at the grand opening of a new Giant store in Washington, D.C. this Thursday. More information on the picket and updates on negotiations can be found at <http://www.ufcw400.org/>. **OP**

## UFCW Locals Reach Out to Non-Union Macy's Workers About Union Contracts and Work on Black Friday

On November 13, members of UFCW Locals 7, 23, 367, 655, 700, 876, and 880 reached out to non-union Macy's workers regarding Macy's decision to kick off Black Friday sales early on Thanksgiving Day.

Macy's recently announced that for the first time, most of its department stores will be open at 8 p.m. on the celebrated American holiday.

However, workers at UFCW represented Macy's stores in New England, Seattle, New York, and other areas have a union contract that either preserves the day as a paid holiday, or ensures that workers can sign up to work on a volunteer basis - earning premium pay for the shift.

Members handbilled non-union Macy's workers to spread the word that a union contract ensures that workers have a choice in whether they'd rather stay home on Thanksgiving or work extra hours. **OP**



*UFCW Macy's workers from across the country handbilled non-union Macy's workers about how workers are empowered with a union contract.*

## UFCW Meatpacking and Food Processing Workers Come Together to Attend National Chain Meetings



*UFCW packing and processing workers attended chain meetings to share information about workers and plants, and attend workshops to learn new skills and information to take back to their locals.*

Last week, over 200 UFCW meatpacking and food processing workers from 35 locals attended national chain meetings in Omaha, Neb. Local union leaders, stewards, and rank and file members gathered from Smithfield, Cargill, Tyson, Heinz, Hormel, JBS, ConAgra, Kraft, and Pinnacle Foods. At the meetings, members discussed industry trends, unity bargaining, contracts, organizing, and resolving problems in their plants.

Members also attended workshops on best practices for language and translation for workers in plants, legal advice on workers' rights and contracts, and a workshop on best practices for communicating new contracts to members and the media. An entire day was dedicated to the poultry industry and poultry workers. Members attended workshops and presentations that focused on building a plan to raise poultry industry standards for workers through organizing, communications, community building, and unity bargaining.

Female workers launched a women's committee for female packing and processing workers. The new women's committee will serve as a voice and a resource to help empower female workers to take leadership roles and address specific issues important to women in these industries. **OP**