



## UFCW Local 555 Members Hold Oregon Lobby Day



Members of UFCW Local 555 lobbied at the Oregon State Capitol on Feb. 12.

Members of UFCW Local 555 spent February 12 at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem lobbying their legislators on issues important to working families. The legislative priorities discussed included paid sick leave, combatting wage theft, easing penalties for grocery clerks who unknowingly or inadvertently sell alcohol to a minor for the first time, and requiring disclosure of chemicals in children’s products. UFCW members had a visible presence throughout the capitol and found their lobbying experience extremely rewarding.

“I am here today so that they can see me and I can speak from my heart about the issues instead of it being just a black and white piece of paper with a checkbox,” said Natalie Sameda, who works at QFC in Portland. “Having the gold in the building today makes me feel proud that we are strong and that we are willing to work and sacrifice for union members and non-union workers.”

Ricardo Morales, a meat cutter at Safeway in The Dalles, agreed. “We’re all affected by the anti-worker laws that are trying to make it into Oregon. We won’t be bullied. We won’t go down without a fight.”

Several members talked about the impact lobbying can have. “If we have our representatives standing behind us, we will have a better life for us and our families,” said Barb Bilinowich, who works at Safeway in Springfield.

Heidi Stock, a pharmacy tech at Fred Meyer in Oak Grove, added, “Being here allows us to take things to the next level.”

The UFCW delegation was not lost on Senate President Peter Courtney. “The physical presence stands out and the gold really pops,” he observed. Members said they looked forward to an even bigger and better lobby day next year. **OP**

## UFCW Locals 400 and 1208 March for Social Justice



Members of UFCW Locals 400 and 1208 participated in the Moral Monday march in Raleigh, N.C., for social justice and workers’ rights.

Members and staff from UFCW Locals 400 and 1208 took part in the 2014 Moral Monday rally in Raleigh, N.C. The rally was attended by over 80,000 people to protest the extreme policies of the current government in the state and show support for social justice and workers’ rights.

Thousands of activists from all races and backgrounds marched to the state capitol to protest such injustices as the elimination of the earned-income tax credit for 900,000 North Carolinians. Activists also protested policies that refuse Medicaid coverage for 500,000; end federal unemployment benefits for 170,000; cut pre-K for 30,000 kids while shifting \$90 million from public education to voucher schools; slash taxes for the top 5 percent while raising taxes on the bottom 95 percent; axe public financing of judicial races; prohibit death row inmates from challenging racially discriminatory verdicts; and enact the country’s worst voter suppression law, which mandates strict voter ID, cuts early voting and eliminates same-day registration.

Outraged, the people of North Carolina have been fighting to reinstate their rights and overturn laws that threaten equality for all. The movement has prompted similar actions in cities across the country, and is being touted as part of the next civil rights movement. The thousands of people who have come together against these extreme policies have transformed the state’s politics and, together, they have created a movement that is centered around social justice. **OP**

## UFCW Associate Director is Elected to NAACP National Board



*Robin Williams, Associate Director of the UFCW Civil Rights and Community Action Department, was recently elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors.*

Robin Williams, Associate Director of the UFCW Civil Rights and Community Action Department, was recently elected to the NAACP National Board of Directors. Williams is a lifelong community activist, organizer and civil rights veteran and has worked at the UFCW for 17 years.

“It’s an honor to be on the national board of our country’s oldest and largest civil rights organization,” said Williams.

Williams continued, “UFCW members have been on the front lines of some of the most important civil rights and social justice battles of our time, including employment discrimination, immigration reform, income inequality, voting rights, the rights of working families to fair pay, job safety, secure retirements and affordable health care, and holding Walmart—the world’s largest retailer—accountable for driving down the standard of living for millions of retail workers across the country. I look forward to working with the NAACP as we continue to fight for social and economic justice in the workplace and in our communities.” **OP**

## Calif. Walmart Workers Deliver Petitions, Call on Retailer to Publicly Commit to Better Working Conditions

This Valentine’s Day, Walmart workers from across the state of California delivered employee petitions, and called on the nation’s largest private employer to publicly commit to offering better working conditions and more full-time hours.

Workers delivered hundreds of petitions to store managers across eight different California Walmart stores and a poem placed on heart-shaped letters asking Walmart management to listen to the concerns of their employees and communities across the state.

Workers also made their own special heart-shaped valentines to help deliver their personal stories of hours and wages being cut and to send the message that change is needed at the retail giant.

The effort is another attempt from workers to help ensure that employees have the ability to complete their work, improve customers’ experiences, and improve working conditions. **OP**



*Walmart workers in California delivered petitions and messages on Valentine’s Day to eight different stores, asking the retail giant to publicly commit to offering better hours and working conditions.*