

UFCW Local 75 Cincinnati Processing Workers Ratify Their First Contract



Workers at Cincinnati Processing ratified their first contract on March 26.

UFCW Local 75 workers at Cincinnati Processing, a plant that supplies pork products to Kroger stores in four states, ratified their first contract on March 26. Organizing at the plant was a multi-decade struggle for plant workers and the first contract marks the successful conclusion of that campaign.

The cutting of pork products used to be the job of union butchers at Kroger stores across the Midwest. However, with the increasing role of case-ready meat, those jobs transitioned to further processing facilities like Cincinnati Processing. Workers began to organize at the plant in the 1990s. However, a prolonged legal battle kept these workers from forming their union.

Their struggle to have a voice at work at Cincinnati Processing continued for a decade, but ended with a successful vote in 2013. Since then, workers have been fighting hard to negotiate a good first contract. It took a unanimous strike vote, but the workers finally got a contract they could be proud of in their new union shop.

“With this contract we were able to improve our working conditions and win a voice on the job,” said Ignacio Huerta, a cutter at the plant for six years. “I’m so proud of my coworkers for standing together and making this happen.” **OP**

House Members Launch Discharge Petition to Bring Immigration Reform Up for a Vote



A discharge petition from House Democrats could force House leadership to bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a floor vote.

On March 26, House Democrats launched a discharge petition—a procedural move that requires the signature of 218 House members. If successful, it will force House leadership to bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a floor vote.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen released a statement on March 26 in support of the discharge petition:

“It has been 272 days since the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform on a bipartisan basis. For nearly nine months,

the House has failed to follow suit. This discharge petition is a way for those who support reform to force a vote on legislation to fix our broken immigration system, protect workers’ rights, reunite families, and give aspiring Americans a path to citizenship. House Republican leaders need to stop making excuses and House Democrats who say they are with us need to make this petition a priority. Our nation deserves comprehensive immigration reform—not tomorrow, not the next day, now. The vast majority of Americans support reform—Republicans, Democrats, business, labor, faith communities, law enforcement, and students, just to name a few. The only thing stopping comprehensive immigration reform from becoming the law of the land is a small group of extremist members of Congress and their enablers. It is time to end the gridlock and hold a vote. Meanwhile, the Obama Administration should immediately stop deporting those who will achieve legal status once reform is passed.”

The discharge petition can serve as a way for UFCW locals to rally support for comprehensive immigration reform and get your member of Congress on the record. To track who has signed the discharge petition, visit <http://1.usa.gov/1dRF2N9>.



A comprehensive toolkit on this effort is available at <http://bit.ly/1gKXp6H>. For postcards demanding a vote that can be printed and shipped at no cost to your local, visit <http://bit.ly/1iWIRBr>. **OP**

Walmart Pays the Price for Bribery Scandal

In the two years since the *New York Times* published its Pulitzer Prize winning article revealing serious allegations of corruption and bribery in Walmart's international dealings, the company has paid a high price. Recent reports reveal that since the story broke in April of 2012, the probe has cost Walmart \$439 million, including \$282 million in the current fiscal year alone. The company estimates it will spend between \$200 -240 million on the probe in the 2015 fiscal year.

The probe, which initially focused on alleged bribes for the purpose of expansion in Mexico, expanded to include a number of other countries.

According to *Bloomberg Businessweek*, "The U.S. is investigating possible violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bans payments by companies or their agents to foreign governments to obtain or retain business. Such probes typically end in settlements, with companies paying fines and admitting wrongdoing."

The full *Bloomberg Businessweek* can be read at <http://buswk.co/1dKsAjk>.

Mexican authorities also are investigating, while Walmart faces shareholder lawsuits and is examining its global anti-corruption compliance programs.

Meanwhile, in Arkansas, Walmart is looking to utilize some of its high-priced attorneys and home field advantage to "bog down" a local shareholders lawsuit on a related issue. After being granted one stay on the case, Walmart is requesting a second delay. According to John Emerson who is representing shareholders in the Arkansas case:

"Effectively, they have bogged this case down for almost two years with these tactics," Emerson wrote in an email to Arkansas Business. "Arkansas plaintiffs have been and continue to be ready to move forward."

Emerson said he thinks the defense's strategy is to "shut down" the Arkansas case because it doesn't want Walmart's directors to have to face a jury, which it would have to do in Arkansas federal court but not in a Delaware court, he said.

The true total cost of questionable internal controls remains to be seen for Walmart. **OP**

CLUW Working Women's Conference Educates and Honors Working Women



Pictured left to right: Retired UFCW Vice President Mary Finger; CLUW Founder Ida Torres; CLUW and UFCW Local 1000 Executive Board Member Angela Johnson; UFCW Local 135 Maribel Mckinze; Sandy Naranjo; and Anabel Salcedo; and RWDSU/UFCW Local 3 President Cassandra Berrocal.

Last week, several UFCW staff members attended the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) 40th Anniversary Working Women's Education Conference and Awards Celebration in Chicago, Illinois. Retired RWDSU/UFCW Local 3 President Ida Torres was honored with the Pioneer Award at the conference's awards dinner. The conference focused on the challenges of today's working women. It also featured motivational speakers and hosted workshops on building leadership skills. **OP**



UFCW Locals Encouraged to Participate in DOL Forums on Working Families and Economy



UFCW local unions are encouraged to participate in the Department of Labor regional forums to help identify initiatives that would help working Americans.

The Department of Labor is hosting five regional forums to identify initiatives that benefit America’s working families, businesses, and the economy. The focus of the forums will be on creating a workplace that works for all Americans, including access to paid sick and family leave.

The group forums are scheduled to take place at the following locations and dates:

Denver on April 11, 2014

Chicago on April 28, 2014

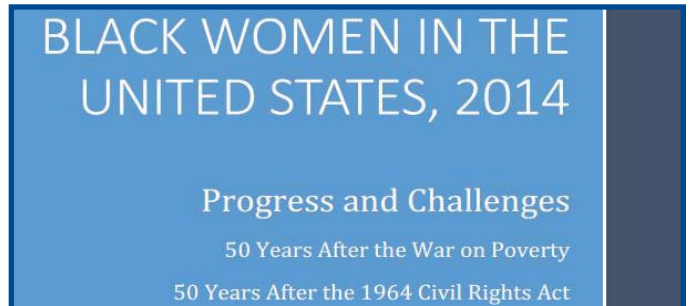
San Francisco on May 5, 2014

New York on May 12, 2014

Boston on May 19, 2014

UFCW local unions are encouraged to participate in the forum to speak to the power of collective bargaining for working families. For more information and to register, visit <http://1.usa.gov/1hfgjh6>. **OP**

Labor Unions Make a Difference in Working Lives of Black Women, New Report Finds



A new report released last week by the Black Women’s Roundtable examines the state of black women across the country over the last six decades.

A new report released last week by the Black Women’s Roundtable examines the state of black women across the country over the last six decades and shows that while significant progress has been made since the 1964 Civil Rights Act and other key historic markers, there are many crucial social and economic issues that still need to be addressed.

The report, titled “Black Women in the United States, 2014,” draws on data from the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education and Health and Human Services and shows that while black women are more vulnerable to health problems and violence than other groups, they are making social and economic strides in terms of education and business and have benefitted from union membership.

In particular, the report shows that black women in the U.S. have maintained a higher rate of unionization than other groups. In addition, black women who are covered under collective bargaining agreements make higher wages and have greater access to benefits than women of all races or ethnicities who are not unionized.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://bit.ly/1hfoLx9>. **OP**