

UFCW Kroger Members Stand in Solidarity with Va. Kroger Workers for the Right to Have a Union Voice



UFCW Kroger workers are participating in a solidarity button action to support Kroger workers in two Virginia stores, as the company attempts to keep them nonunion.

Kroger workers from UFCW Locals 23 and 400 are wearing buttons in solidarity with their fellow Kroger workers who work in Virginia. The Virginia workers are in Kroger Marketplace stores that recently opened in Henrico and Virginia Beach.

Earlier this month, UFCW Local 400 Kroger members attended the grand opening event of the Kroger Marketplace in Henrico to show support for the workers who are fighting for a union voice on the job. Kroger is attempting to deny workers the benefits of a union contract in both the Henrico and Virginia Beach stores.

“Our message is positive, and having a presence at the grand opening was essential in relaying that message,” said UFCW Local 400 President Mark P. Federici. “Representation by Local 400 is good for working families and the communities they live in. The people working in these stores are indispensable to the success of Kroger. They deserve to have a free and fair choice for representation, and Kroger is denying them that right.”

Be sure to check out the solidarity photos from Kroger union members in Pa., W. Va., Ohio, Va., and beyond on Facebook on both Local 400 (<https://www.facebook.com/UFCW400>) and Local 23 pages (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Food-and-Commercial-Workers-Local-23/113818124889>) and follow the hashtag #KrogerStrong. **OP**

UFCW Local 1500 ShopRite Workers Ratify New Contracts



ShopRite workers from Local 1500 ratified new contracts that include wage increases and maintain benefits.

Last week, UFCW Local 1500 members who work in over 15 ShopRite stores in the greater New York area ratified new three-year contracts. The new agreements provide for wage increases, premiums for part-timers and full-timers, improved working hours for night crews, and preserve pensions. The new agreements also recognize same-sex marriage. The contracts cover over 3,100 ShopRite workers.

“We’re extremely proud of our negotiating committees,” said UFCW Local 1500 President Bruce W. Both. “Their commitment to their union and to bettering their coworkers’ lives achieved higher wage increases and premiums for full and part-timers. That’s what made this a success. These contracts will guide us into negotiations with Stop & Shop and King Kullen in December.” **OP**

PPG Workers Ratify Their First Contract as Newly Chartered UFCW Local 1049C Members



Members of the newly chartered UFCW Local 1049C recently ratified their first three-year contract as members of the UFCW with PPG Industries.



Two More Walmart Board Members Resign; Five Gone in Last Two Years

In another sign of the growing pressure from Walmart workers and their allies, Walmart announced in its annual proxy statement that two long-time board members will be stepping down. The two board members are former Walmart CEO Lee Scott, Jr. and independent board member and Audit Committee Chairman Christopher Williams.

Members of OUR Walmart and their allies have repeatedly reached out to Williams, asking him to listen to their concerns. In response to his continued lack of leadership, calls began to grow for Williams' resignation.

OUR Walmart member Barbara Gertz released a statement upon the news that Williams would be stepping down. The statement read, in part, "We hope that the departure of Mr. Williams and Mr. Scott provide an opening for new, independent voices at Walmart. We have been calling on Mr. Williams and other independent members of the board to stand up for change at Walmart. Mr. Williams has refused to listen to our concerns. We called on him to resign because we need board members who recognize and value our experiences."

Scott and Williams are two of those most heavily implicated in the ongoing investigation into alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act at Walmart. Scott was CEO during the time that the alleged bribery and apparent cover-up at Walmart's Mexican subsidiary, Wal-Mex, took place.

The *New York Times* reported that Scott was instrumental in limiting Walmart's internal investigation and, ultimately, in handing it back to some of the very people who were implicated in the alleged bribery.

In 2013, New York City Comptroller John Liu specifically raised concerns about Scott's role in squashing the internal investigation and exposing shareholders, including the NYC Pension Funds.

Williams has been on Walmart's board since 2004 and has been a member of the Audit Committee, the key committee charged with overseeing issues of internal controls and legal compliance, since 2005. Williams has chaired the Audit Committee since 2009. Since the *New York Times* surfaced the bribery allegations, Williams has consistently received some of the highest "no" votes from institutional investors at Walmart.

OUR Walmart members and allies hope that the addition of Walmart's new CEO, Doug McMillon, and the departure of two longtime board members signals an ongoing change at the company. **OP**

UFCW Members Join Other Unions for Leadership Workshops and Trainings at Kaiser Conference



UFCW members attended workshop trainings at the annual Union Delegate Conference for Kaiser Permanente workers.

Members from UFCW Locals 7, 27, 135, 324, 400, 555, 770, 1428, and 1996 attended the annual Union Delegate Conference for Kaiser Permanente workers in San Jose, Calif. The theme of the conference, which took place April 13-15, was "Walk, Talk, Lead Change." There, UFCW members attended workshops on leadership roles in the workplace.

UFCW members are part of the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions, which includes nearly 100,000 members from 30 different unions. The coalition was formed in 1997 as a way to transform the relationship between workers and managers. The partnership involves workers, managers, and physicians in a joint decision-making and problem-solving process that is based on common interests from all parties. Workers covered by the partnership include registered nurses, pharmacists, maintenance and service workers, technicians, psychologists, lab scientists, and many others.

The Union Delegate Conference is also an opportunity for UFCW members to participate in collective bargaining with other unions who are part of the coalition. The entire coalition bargains together as a whole for their contract. Next year, the Union Delegate Conference will focus on collective bargaining and negotiations for their new contract since the current one is set to expire in July 2015. **OP**

Walmart Wins Greenwasher of the Year Award

Environmental watchdog The Green Life has named Walmart the top Greenwasher of the Year for 2014 for marketing itself with misleading claims of environmental sustainability.

In 2005, Walmart made headlines with big promises to become greener, but nine years later, the world's largest retailer doesn't have much to show for it.

Walmart promised that it would transition to 100 percent reliance on renewable energy, but today only 4 percent of the electricity Walmart consumes comes from renewable sources. In fact, even the company's self-reported carbon footprint actually increased by more than 13 percent since it made its commitments to renewables in 2005.

According to Walmart, "It has sometimes been difficult to find and fund low-carbon technologies that meet our ROI (Return on Investment) requirements."

Meanwhile, despite Walmart's promises to sell more sustainable products, the company's supply chain continues to stretch around the world. Transporting consumer goods around the world consumes a huge amount of fuel, meaning that the products on the shelves of a local Walmart come with a massive carbon footprint. On Earth Day, environmental activists all over the U.S. delivered letters to Walmart stores calling on the company to become serious about protecting the climate. A petition protesting the greenwashing at Walmart is available at <http://bit.ly/1IQofKI>. **OP**

NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive to Take Place on May 10

The National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive will take place on May 10. On the second Saturday in May each year, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from customers. The



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donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in need of help.

To participate in the letter carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive, people are asked to leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by their mailbox on May 10.

Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies. Last year, over 74 million pounds of food was collected nationally, feeding an estimated 30 million people. Over the course of its 21-year history, the Stamp Out Hunger food drive has collected well over one billion pounds of food. **OP**

OUR Walmart and Allies Protest on the Anniversary of the Rana Plaza Disaster in Bangladesh



Members of OUR Walmart joined other allies to call on Walmart to compensate the victims of the Rana Plaza factory disaster in Bangladesh.

On the one-year anniversary of one of the deadliest manufacturing tragedies in Bangladesh, OUR Walmart members marched in Chicago to call on Walmart to sign the Accord on Fire and Building Safety and compensate the victims of the Rana Plaza factory disaster in Bangladesh.

OUR Walmart joined with Warehouse Workers For Justice, Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board, Workers United, Interfaith Worker Justice, Jobs With Justice

and others to call for justice for garment workers in Bangladesh. Their actions were echoed at protests worldwide. **OP**