

CVS Workers Across 100 Stores in Calif. Say "Yes" to a Union Voice and Join the UFCW



Workers from 100 CVS stores in California have voted to join UFCW Local 770 for a union voice on the job.

The agreement between CVS and the UFCW that gives workers a fair way to choose a union voice at work has hit a milestone. Workers at more than 100 stores across Southern California have joined UFCW Local 770 and doubled the number of union CVS stores in California.

For years, thousands of workers at CVS pharmacy in 11 states and the District of Columbia have been members of the UFCW. By standing together, they have created some of the best jobs in the retail pharmacy industry at one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States. However, as the company continued to grow, the majority of new stores were non-union.

Working together, UFCW members created "Cure CVS," a campaign to change the way CVS did business. They rallied in front of stores, spoke to shoppers and built pressure on the company to change their behavior – and in 2013, their efforts paid off.

The UFCW and CVS announced a cooperation agreement that allowed for a fair process for thousands of employees at more than 500 California stores to learn about and join the union. The workers at non-union stores in metropolitan Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego areas all would have a fair chance to join the union.

"We knew it would change everything," said Robin Lund, a longtime union CVS worker from Sun Valley, California, and

member of UFCW Local 770. "A union is about strength in numbers and by working together to grow our numbers, we can build a better workplace for all CVS workers."

Workers have been key to the success of CVS and to the organizing efforts in Southern California. The campaign uses videos to allow current union members to talk to new union members about the difference a union makes in their store. The videos can be viewed at youtu.be/wwwH-renVYQ.

The stories helped reach workers like Mechelle Lawrence.

"When I started working at CVS, I didn't think that I had any other option but to accept everything that was happening at work," said Mechelle Lawrence, a CVS worker from Los Angeles who was among the first to join up under the new cooperation agreement. "For me, and many of my coworkers, if you did not like something about your job, your only option was to quit. Together we've learned that it doesn't have to be that way. We have learned that with a union, you fight to fix things at work so you can make your job better." **OP**

New York UFCW Members Lobby Their State Legislators

UFCW locals representing workers across New York traveled to the State Capitol in Albany today to lobby on issues important to working families. Members and staff from UFCW Locals 1, 1500, and 2013, along with RWDSU Locals 338 and 1102 were in attendance.

A major focus of the lobby day was to push back against efforts to cut the Wage Theft Prevention Act, which took effect in April of 2011. The law requires that employers give workers written notice of wage rates once a year, a provision some Senate Republicans are targeting for repeal. UFCW members made it clear that wage theft is a serious problem and all workers have the right to know if they are being cheated out of earned wages. They called for the Wage Theft Prevention Act to be strengthened, not weakened, by repealing the written notice requirement.

Members also discussed the need to raise the minimum wage and pass paid sick leave legislation. If the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation, it would be over \$10 an hour today, but instead it sits at only \$8.00 in New York. Members demanded that the minimum wage be raised to a living wage.



New York UFCW members traveled to Albany to lobby on issues important to working families such as raising the minimum wage, paid sick leave and preserving the Wage Theft Prevention Act.

Members lobbied for statewide paid sick leave, building on the momentum of legislation passed in New York City. They stressed that no worker should be forced to risk their job and their livelihood just because they get sick. Members said providing paid sick leave would make every workplace healthier and more productive.

Finally, members told their legislators it was long past time to pass the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act, which would include farmworkers under state labor law. This would guarantee that New York's farmworkers have the right to organize and bargain collectively for the wages and benefits that they deserve. UFCW members understand that all workers must be afforded their fundamental rights.

The lobby day was a great success and members who took part spoke about the importance of meeting directly with their legislators.

“Lobbying is an important way to remind these elected officials who they work for,” said UFCW Local 1500 member John Kubinski, who works at ShopRite in Staten Island. “If we don’t tell them what we want then they cannot properly represent us.” **OP**

UFCW Launches New Safety and Health Website

The new UFCW Safety and Health website at <http://safetyandhealth.ufcw.org>, provides access to critical resources, including the “Your Rights Under OSHA” book. This book and other resources on the new site explain workers’ rights and make it easier to contact OSHA and file a complaint. An electronic copy is available to download and print. “Your Rights Under OSHA” is currently available in English, Spanish, French, Vietnamese, Burmese, and Karen. If the book is needed in another language, please contact the UFCW International at safety@ufcw.org.



The new UFCW Safety and Health website provides access to information on OSHA and online trainings.

via their own computers, smartphones, or tablets. UFCW staff can help set up a training and tailor the session to the needs of workers in particular industries, worksites, and locals. More resources specifically designed for workers in the retail industry will be added in the coming months.

Local unions can submit questions and feedback to help improve the site by emailing submissions@ufcw.org. **OP**

The new website also makes it easier to sign up for UFCW Occupational Health and Safety Office’s online trainings. Remote trainings are not pre-recorded trainings, they are conducted in real time by an OSH Office staff member and allow local union members and staff to connect

Fast Food Global Day of Action Spreads Message of Higher Wages and Workers' Rights

May 15 was a global day of action for fast food workers. Building on the \$15 per hour campaign, workers on every continent where McDonald's operates participated in the action to take a stand for fair wages and the right to form a union.

In Geneva, Switzerland, the RWDSU joined the UNIA and IUF affiliates in an action outside of a McDonald's to fight for fast food workers' rights.



McDonald's workers from around the world held a fast food global day of action to call on higher wages and better working conditions in the fast food industry.

More information on the fast food worker global campaign can be found at <http://fastfoodglobal.org/>. An online petition to support fast food workers is also available at <http://lowpayisnotok.org/fastfoodglobal/>. **OP**

UFCW Region 1 Members Attend White House Summit on Workers and Working Families



UFCW members from Region 1 attended the White House Summit on Working Families in New York and Boston to identify initiatives that benefit working families, businesses, and the economy. The forums also focused on creating a workplace that works for all Americans, including access to paid sick and family leave.

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