

UFCW Grocery Workers in Southern California Reach Tentative Agreement



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More than 60,000 grocery workers in Southern California, represented by UFCW Locals 8GS, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442, have reached a tentative contract agreement with Ralph's, Albertsons, and Vons.

The agreement was reached after four months of negotiations. Workers from across Southern California took action to show their solidarity and earn the support of their customers by wearing "Stand Together" buttons at work.

UFCW members from across the region will vote on the proposal in meetings scheduled over the coming weeks. Details of the agreement will not be released until members have had an opportunity to read, discuss, and vote on the tentative agreement.

The current contract expired in early March, and workers are currently on a day-to-day extension. Private hedge fund Cerberus, which owns Albertsons, recently made a tentative purchase of Safeway, the corporation that owns Vons and Pavilions. That sale could take as long as a year to finalize because it is subject to Federal anti-trust approval. **OP**

First UFCW Immigration and Integration Project Training Held in Dodge City



UFCW members participated in the first UFCW Immigration Integration Project training to learn the tools needed to assist UFCW members and families through the process to US citizenship.

Nearly 40 participants from UFCW Locals 2, 293, 400, and 431 participated in the first training of the UFCW Immigration Integration Project in Dodge City, Kan., from May 21-23.

The three-day training, hosted by UFCW Local District 2, provided the participants with the platform to learn from seasoned immigrants' rights advocates about the critical skills and tools needed to assist eligible UFCW members and their families to go through the naturalization process to become U.S. citizens.

In addition to learning about the naturalization process, the participants were also trained in providing assistance to workers or their family members who qualify for immigration benefits under the Obama Administration's June 2012 memorandum on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, commonly referred to as DACA.

The training in Dodge City, initiated by the UFCW International Civil Rights Department, was held in coordination with the AFL-CIO and nationally-recognized immigrant rights advocacy groups, including the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). Kansas-based local community advocacy groups also participated in the training.

“We have so many members who need help navigating our complex immigration system and I am happy to have this opportunity to learn how to help UFCW members and their families apply for U.S. citizenship and take advantage of other immigration benefits they qualify for,” said Bozi Kiekie, a UFCW Local 431 member who works at the Cargill plant in Beardstown, Ill.

This was the first in a series of trainings that will take place across the country in the upcoming months. If your local union is interested in hosting a training or taking advantage of upcoming immigration training opportunities, please contact Eduardo Peña at epena@ufcw.org. **OP**

Government Prosecutes Walmart for Illegally Firing Workers

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is prosecuting Walmart for violating labor law (The National Labor Relations Act), when Walmart fired and disciplined nearly 70 workers, including those who went on strike over Walmart’s retaliatory practices and shared their concerns with shareholders at the company’s annual meeting last year. If Walmart is found liable, workers could be awarded back pay, reinstatement and the reversal of disciplinary actions, and Walmart could be required to inform and educate all employees of their legally protected rights.

The hearing begins as OUR Walmart members make significant strides in changing policies of the country’s largest employer. Recently, Walmart upgraded its pregnancy policy after OUR Walmart members who are also shareholders submitted a resolution to the company about its discriminatory pregnancy policy. And, responding to OUR Walmart members’ growing calls on the retailer to improve access to hours, Walmart rolled out a new system nationwide that allows workers to sign up for open shifts in their stores online.

“After I went out on strike to end illegal retaliation against workers, spoke out for more hours to help make ends meet, and helped to ensure women at Walmart are accommodated during their pregnancies, Walmart fired me. The Labor Board’s trial against Walmart confirms that Walmart is not above the law,” said fired Walmart Tiffany Beroid of Laurel, Md.



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As OUR Walmart gains momentum and tens of thousands of Americans are joining the call for the company to improve jobs, the NLRB asserts activities in 14 states at 34 stores violated the National Labor Relations Act and alleges that company executives conceived—and oversaw implementation—of an unlawful retaliation policy for store managers to execute. The NLRB complaint—the largest ever against Walmart in

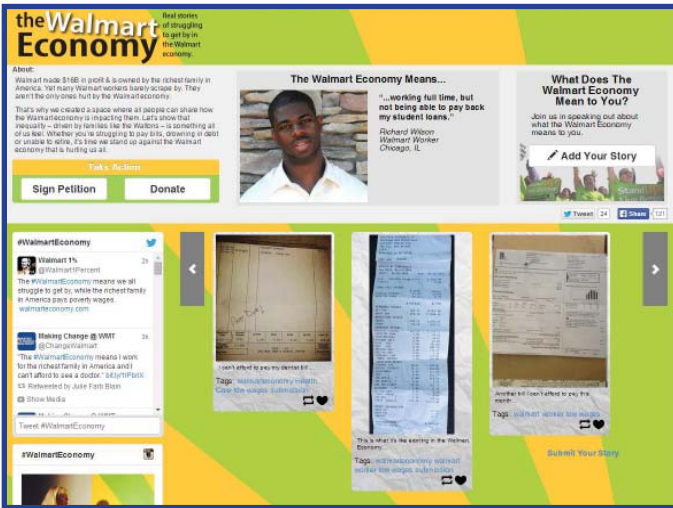
both size and scale—names 63 individual store managers and company spokesperson and vice president of communication David Tovar as being responsible for illegal threats made to employees.

The complaint 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.

While historic, the complaint alone is not enough to stop Walmart from violating the law. Since the start of the year, Walmart has continued to retaliate against workers who speak out for better jobs. The trial against Walmart may last several months and include hearings and testimony from workers in five or more cities. **OP**



New Website Highlights Growing Inequality and Walmart's Impact on Working Families



“The Walmart Economy” is a new site that aggregates the stories of people trying to get by in the Walmart economy.

The Making Change at Walmart campaign launched the new website called “The Walmart Economy” at <http://walmarteconomy.com/>. The website aggregates the real life stories of people who are trying to get by in the Walmart economy. The site provides a space where people can share their examples of how the Walmart economy is impacting them.

As Walmart workers gear up for Walmart’s annual shareholders’ meeting, they will be holding actions all across the country. At these events, Walmart workers and their allies will build a wall that represents the true face of the unfair divide growing in the country. The wall will feature photos, images, and objects that represent the struggle to get by in the Walmart economy.

Locals can help Walmart workers show the Waltons and families like them how the Walmart economy impacts everyone by visiting <http://walmarteconomy.com/> and share stories or images. Locals can also share their stories and photos on Twitter using the hashtag #WalmartEconomy. **OP**

OUR Walmart Member Speaks at Low Wage Worker Panel During CBTU Convention



During the CBTU International Convention, OUR Walmart member Brandon Garrett was a featured speaker at a town hall meeting about the struggles of workers trapped in low-wage jobs.

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) held its 43rd International Convention last week in Atlanta, Ga. The convention started on Thursday, May 22 with a Town Hall Meeting, “Overworked and Underpaid: The plight of low-wage workers.” The town hall meeting focused on the increasing number of workers that are trapped in low-wage jobs.

OUR Walmart member and Organizing Institute organizer Brandon Garrett was a featured speaker during the town hall. He talked about wage inequality and how Walmart workers are standing together to call on Walmart to make jobs at the mega-retailer better jobs.

The opening town hall meeting was a kick start for the rest of the convention that focused on issues that impact African American workers, including wages, on the job health and safety, mass incarceration, public education, voter suppression, ACA, and wage inequality. More than 800 delegates attended the convention, including several African American labor leaders. The UFCW Minority Coalition also held its Summer Board meeting during the CBTU Convention. **OP**