

Bestway Workers Vote Union Yes



Luis Manzaneres served as a union election observer for his fellow Bestway workers.

Last week, workers at a Bestway Supermarket in Mt. Vernon, Va., voted UFCW Yes, becoming the third Bestway store in the region to join UFCW Local 400. The workers' activism began when the workers stood in solidarity this past October with coworkers at a Falls Church Bestway store who were illegally fired in retaliation for forming a union. The Falls Church workers picketed the store for nine days, uniting customers and other area Bestway workers in their cause before successfully reaching an agreement with Bestway to reinstate the workers and set guidelines to begin negotiations for their first contract.

Despite previous union victories, the Mt. Vernon workers are facing an employer that continues to fight its workers. Bestway management has challenged the results of the NLRB election, an action that has only served to strengthen the solidarity of workers within the store.

“We are very happy with our victory here at Bestway, Mt. Vernon and I thank all my coworkers who showed unity through the election process,” said Luis Manzaneres, a worker at the Mt. Vernon store who served as an election observer on behalf of his coworkers. “We hope to God to sit at the bargaining table very soon to start negotiating our first contract. We are ready!” **OP**

UFCW Holds Legislative and Political Conference



UFCW local union leaders and legislative and political representatives from across the country are meeting in Chicago this week for the 2014 Legislative and Political Action Conference to learn about what's at stake in the 2014 elections and strategize about key campaigns and statewide anti-union initiatives such as Right to Work. Kentucky Secretary of State and candidate for U.S. Senate Alison Lundergan Grimes roused the crowd describing her plans to unseat Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

UFCW Meatpacking and Food Processing Workers Attend National Chain and Safety and Health Meetings



UFCW meatpacking and food processing workers attended national chain and safety and health meetings in Omaha, Neb., last week.

Early last week, over 200 UFCW meatpacking and food processing workers from 35 locals attended national chain meetings and the UFCW Safety and Health Conference in Omaha,



Neb. Local union leaders, stewards, and rank and file members gathered from various beef, pork, poultry, and food processing plants. At the meetings, members discussed industry trends, unity bargaining, contracts, organizing, and resolving problems in their plants.

The week started off with a meeting for the female packing and processing workers committee called the UFCW Solidarity Sisters. Throughout the week, members also attended workshops on how to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered workers in plants and also in contracts, legal advice on workers' rights and contracts, and a communication workshop on best practices and strategies with few resources and funding.

For the second half of the week, members attended the Safety and Health Conference, which is held every two years. Some of the goals for the conference included:

- Emphasizing that every worker has the right to a safe and healthy workplace.
- Having the opportunity to talk about the successes and challenges members face in their fight for a safe workplace.
- Empowering members to be the watchdogs for workplace safety by providing information about the impact of unsafe conditions.
- Exploring solutions that eliminate or reduce workplace hazards.

Workshops at the conference included Understanding OSHA Standards; Stewards' Roles Around Safety and Health; Advanced Process Safety Management; and Advanced Ergonomics.

A new UFCW safety and health website was launched at the conference. The new website, <http://safetyandhealth.ufcw.org/>, includes information on trainings, OSHA guidelines in a range of languages, and a safety committee guide, among other resources. **OP**

Latino Walmart Employees Hold Demonstration and Meet with Walmart Board Member

On April 30, Latino Walmart employees and their supporters demonstrated outside a Walmart-sponsored Latino Community Foundation gala where Walmart Board of Directors member Aida Alvarez is chair. There, workers called on Alvarez to discuss their concerns.

After more than two years of refusing to meet with workers, an OUR Walmart member was finally able to meet with Alvarez.

“At the demonstration we were, for the first time, able to speak with Ms. Alvarez to share our concerns about the way Walmart treats its employees. I emphasized to Ms. Alvarez that these are systemic problems which cannot be solved one at a time. They require a change of approach at the highest levels of management,” said OUR Walmart member Venanzi Luna.

“We had a productive conversation that was characterized by mutual respect. We talked about a wide range of issues that impact all Walmart workers and, as a Latina leader at OUR Walmart, also focused on some issues of special concern to Latino workers,” Luna continued.

Walmart workers will continue the conversation with Alvarez and look forward to expanding dialogue with other Walmart board members. **OP**



An OUR Walmart member got to meet with Walmart Board of Directors member Aida Alvarez after demonstrating at a Walmart-sponsored gala.

UFCW and RWDSU Locals and OUR Walmart Rally in New York City for May Day

UFCW Local 1500, RWDSU Locals 1-S, 3, 338 and 1102, and members of OUR Walmart joined allies and community supporters to participate in a massive rally in New York City to commemorate May Day and workers' rights. Joining the Walmart Free NYC campaign at the rally and with the support of UFCW and RWDSU members, OUR Walmart member Tyrone Jackson spoke about his experience working at the retail giant and the importance of continuing to fight to raise standards for workers.



“OUR Walmart has thousands of members around the country who are standing up to Walmart’s lies and calling for more respect and better jobs. With your support and continued efforts, I know we’re going to win,” said Jackson.

“I’m here in New York City to celebrate your incredible accomplishment. You’ve set an incredibly high standard for workers in your city and how you expect companies to behave when they do business here. Part of that accomplishment is you’ve kept Walmart out of New York City. You’ve said unless Walmart improves the way it treats workers like me, it’s not good enough for New York City,” Jackson continued. **OP**



UFCW and RWDSU members, along with members of OUR Walmart, joined the Walmart Free NYC campaign at a May Day rally.

UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 Lobby at the State Capitol

Last Wednesday, UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 in Pennsylvania lobbied at the State Capitol in Harrisburg against liquor privatization and paycheck deception.

All across Pennsylvania, thousands of UFCW members work at state-run liquor stores. They earn a fair wage with good benefits. Liquor privatization would eliminate all of these family sustaining jobs.

This threat is what inspired Lawrence County store employee Mike Badurik from Local 23 to lobby his elected officials at the Capitol in Harrisburg.

“Liquor privatization would ruin so many lives. We have to be here to put real faces to these problems. We want life to be

better for our communities, and privatization will only make it worse,” Badurik said.

Instead of privatization, workers like Sylvia Hovington from Local 1776 support liquor modernization.

“Modernization means I get to keep my job and keep being able to take care of my family. It also means my family gets to exist in a safer community. Alcohol can be dangerous and liquor privatization will only make its use more widespread. Liquor modernization protects good jobs and families – it makes more sense than privatization,” Hovington said.

The other great threat in Harrisburg is paycheck deception – a law which would eliminate the ability of workers to participate in politics simply because they chose to join a union.

Local 23 member David Barton, who works at Giant Eagle, was concerned about the threat.

“To me, paycheck deception is a personal attack. I like having a voice in politics and this law threatens my ability to have one,” Barton said. “I’m here with my local to make sure my Senators and Representatives understand that. We have to get the truth out and disprove all the lies.”

UFCW Locals in Pennsylvania will continue to fight against attacks on their jobs and their livelihoods. **OP**



UFCW Locals 23 and 1776 spoke to their state legislators about liquor privatization and paycheck deception at the State Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa., last week.