

## New Contract for UFCW Local 655 St. Louis and Eastern Missouri Grocery Store Workers



*UFCW Local 655 grocery workers ratified a new three year contract for Dierbergs, Schnucks, and Shop n' Save stores.*

More than 10,000 UFCW Local 655 members in St. Louis and eastern Missouri, successfully negotiated a contract for the next three years for workers at 104 locations of Dierbergs, Schnucks, and Shop n' Save stores. The agreement includes a wage increase of 60 cents an hour over the three years, maintains affordable benefits, and includes the ability to continue participation in the union's health plan. **OP**

## UFCW Local 1208 Members Take Action N.C. Moral Monday

Following a court victory reaffirming the right of people to protest in the General Assembly, members of UFCW Local 1208 joined labor groups and protestors at the last Moral Monday of the North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Session.

Mass Moral Mondays is a North Carolina NAACP coalition led movement fighting regressive legislation in the GOP controlled Assembly. Yesterday's rally focused on protecting workers, the poor, women, and people of color who speak out for worker's rights. UFCW Local 1208 Keith Ludlum, along with nearly 20 other protestors, were arrested on behalf of union members.

"This company has just settled a discrimination lawsuit with the EEOC and has been cited by OSHA for countless serious safety violations. Now they are violating our rights under federal law



*UFCW Local 1208 members joined other labor groups and community allies to participate in Moral Monday in support of protecting workers and speaking out for workers' rights.*

to form, join or assist my union," said Jasmine Isom, a Mountaire Farms poultry plant worker working with UFCW Local 1208, addressing the crowd. "My name is Jasmine Isom, my daughter and I need your help. Please stand with the Mountaire workers! Forward together, not one step back."

North Carolina units of the UFCW, AFL-CIO, SEIU, AFGE, IAM, and NEA are part of the labor movement in North Carolina addressing harmful legislation and political chicanery while fighting for workers' rights on the shop floor. The alignment of labor, clergy, and other key constituency groups in North Carolina has helped bolster protests against the General Assembly and strengthen progressive actions across the state.

Neighboring states, Mississippi's Ethical Thursdays and Moral Monday Georgia, are also following suit and attempting to bring together broad-based coalitions on singular state issues. **OP**

## UFCW Local 23 and Other Allies Launch "Pittsburgh Works" Campaign for Good Jobs

UFCW Local 23 along with other allies like Pittsburgh UNITED and Working America, are coming together to help launch a new good jobs initiative called "Pittsburgh Works."

The program will shine a light on employers who invest in their workers, and support workers, particularly those in low wage service industries. The campaign will also call out employers who do not invest in their workforce or not good corporate neighbors for the community.



*UFCW Local 23 members and community allies launch a new good jobs initiative called “Pittsburgh Works.”*

UFCW Local 23 members began thinking about the initiative in connection with its Giant Eagle campaign that recognized grocers that treated workers well. They then expanded the idea to include other types of workers, like janitors and retailers.

Earlier this month, UFCW Local 23 members and other allies involved with the new program held an action to support Walmart moms who went on strike across the country, as they protest Walmart’s retaliatory labor practices and policies against workers who speak out for better jobs.

The Pittsburgh Works Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghworks> and followed on Twitter and Instagram @PittsburghWorks. **OP**

## CertainTeed Workers Say “Yes” to a Union Voice with the Chemical Workers

Eighty workers at the CertainTeed drywall plant in Proctor, West Virginia, voted “Union Yes” on June 6 to join the International Chemical Workers Union Council.

Lance Heasley is a former steward and member-activist with UFCW Local 45C and works as an instrument technician at Axiall, where he and his fellow union members make chlorine and other caustic chemicals. Many of them, including Lance, live side-by-side with workers at the CertainTeed and know each other socially. So, when Lance heard his friends and neighbors talk about how hard it could be working at CertainTeed, he started talking to them about the difference a union could make.



*Eighty workers at the CertainTeed drywall plant in West Virginia, voted to have a union voice and joined UFCW Local 45C. Pictured left to right: Ron Moore, Andrew Gaiser, Josh Mazey, Carl Sweeney, Lance Heasley.*

He began to go out of his way to have conversations with CertainTeed workers and slowly built a committee of interested workers. He reached out to the ICWUC organizing department and worked with them to sign up CertainTeed workers on authorization cards. Workers began texting and calling each other, holding meetings and forming a Facebook group to talk about the need for a union at CertainTeed. One of those workers was Carl Sweeney.

One of the major issues for Carl was being able to speak up and speak out without fear of retaliation. “I wanted to go to work every day and not worry about what I said or if I’d be the next one out because someone didn’t like me,” said Carl. “I wanted to speak up when I saw something unsafe and know the problem would be fixed, not seeing me as the problem for bringing it up.”

As soon as the CertainTeed workers filed with the National Labor Relations Board for an election, the company brought in an anti-union law firm and began holding mandatory anti-union meetings and one-on-one sessions to persuade workers to back down. But they stood strong and stayed united, despite company attempts at intimidation.

“I knew I could lose my job, but I also knew something had to change,” said Carl. “We had to stick together, stay united, to make CertainTeed a better place to work.”

That work paid off and Carl and his coworkers are looking forward to addressing their concerns at the bargaining table – including rapidly rising healthcare costs, favoritism, and safety concerns in the workplace. **OP**

## Labor Unions Come Together to Highlight Collective Action as a Solution for Working Families

America's labor unions will focus on the challenges facing working families, particularly women through a series of activities leading up to the June 23 White House Summit on Working Families.

A broad coalition of national labor unions and worker organizations will join together in the week prior to the summit to raise awareness and mobilize support for collective action as a solution to the challenges facing the nation's working women, from equal pay to raising the minimum wage to sick leave and fair scheduling. The week's activities will culminate with an event on Sunday, June 22, where 150 workers from around the country will gather for a forum.

A brief outline of the issues that will be at the center of the labor organizations' activities this week are as follows:

### **Wednesday, June 18: Raising Wages**

- Minimum wage
- Tipped workers
- Child care workers

### **Thursday, June 19: Working Women**

- Study on working women
- Walmart moms
- Child care

### **Friday, June 20: Collective Action**

- Importance of collective bargaining
- The stories of America's workers

### **Sunday, June 22: Working Families Speak Up!**

- Join a broad coalition of unions and worker organizations to lift up working family voices in advance of the White House Summit on Working Families

**Where:** AFL-CIO Headquarters, 815 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. **When:** 3- 7 pm ET **OP**

## UFCW Locals & Walmart Workers Team Up with Columbia Univ. for Summer for Respect Program



*OUR Walmart member Colby Harris addresses a crowd of community supporters at the launch of the Summer for Respect program in New York City.*

Building upon last year's success, the Making Change at Walmart Summer for Respect program is continuing to grow. To mark the anniversary of Freedom Summer, UFCW and OUR Walmart are teaming up with Columbia University's Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics (INCITE) to run an intensive summer of organizing and oral history documentation.

As part of the program, training will be provided in worker communication, leadership development and direct action. A key component of the program will include online meetings and social media that will connect people across the country.

The goal of the program is to equip local unions, schools and organizations with the tools necessary to lead actions and campaigns. The program will also build volunteer support teams that will be available to assist MCAW and OUR Walmart, as well as other labor and social justice initiatives, in future actions. Participants, allies and local unions will host the "Income Inequality Tour," which will focus on the role that Walmart and the Walton family play in leading income inequality.

Walmart strikers, fired worker leaders, union members and retirees, students, community activists and others will join together for this historic summer. Students, children of union members, community supporters and current or former Walmart workers are invited to apply. The program will run June 15 – Sept. 1 in Calif., and July 17– Sept. 30 elsewhere throughout the nation. **OP**

## UFCW Local 400 Members Kickoff Educational Wage Increase Campaign



*Subway fast food worker Jacqueline Midence talks about benefits of wage increases for workers and working families.*

UFCW Local 400 and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) joined together with elected officials and community supporters in Maryland to kick off a week-long education campaign aimed at bringing awareness to area employees on the new minimum wage laws, set to take effect Oct. 1, 2014. The campaign will run from June 16 through June 20.

“Jobs should lift workers out of poverty, not trap them in poverty,” said Executive Director of LCLAA Hector E. Sanchez. “While we celebrate this important victory, we recognize that Latino workers suffer more minimum wage and overtime pay violations than any other ethnic group. That is why we have joined this critical tour to ensure Latinos are not robbed of their hard-earned wages. We want to make it clear to employees and employers that paying what the law requires is not negotiable.”

In November 2013, Prince George’s County and Montgomery County were able to achieve a wage increase victory and set the tone for minimum wage increase statewide. The first increase to \$8.40 per hour will be implemented by October 1, 2014, and steadily increase every year reaching \$11.50 per hour by 2017. The implementation of the wage increases in these counties is higher than the state’s minimum wage, which is set to gradually increase to \$10.10 by July 2018.

“I’ve worked my entire life, so I know how hard it is to try and make ends meet, especially off minimum wage,” said Jacqueline Midence, a Subway worker. “When you’re supporting your family, every cent helps you survive. The new law will help people like me live better, it will give us more hope for the future.” **OP**

## UFCW Members Attend AFL-CIO Young Workers Committee



*UFCW members attended the Young Workers Committee hosted by the New Jersey chapter of the AFL-CIO to learn how to help young members become more active in the labor movement.*

This month, members from UFCW Locals 464A, 1360 and UFCW/RWDSU Local 108 attended the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Young Workers Committee. The New Jersey state program is part of a larger national program committed to strengthen young worker involvement in the labor movement. Young workers from across the state attended the AFL-CIO’s statewide conference where they met labor leaders including AFL-CIO secretary treasurer Elizabeth Shuler. They discussed ways to all support each other in their efforts to activate younger rank and file members in the labor movement. UFCW members were excited to meet other AFL-CIO members who together, will support ongoing efforts to build a stronger labor movement with more involvement of younger workers. **OP**