

UFCW Instrumental in Creation of New National Labor Coordinating Committee

The AFL-CIO, Change to Win and the National Education Association announced today the creation of a National Labor Coordinating Committee to consult among their affiliated unions and to act nationally on the critical issues facing working Americans. President Hansen has been instrumental in leading this effort, pulling the unions together at the UFCW as early as last January, and arranging numerous subsequent meetings to arrive at this point.

“Recognizing the historic moment we face, the American labor movement must unify to restore the American dream for working families,” said David Bonior, who continues as Chair of the unification effort. “A unified labor movement is the way to ensure that the vast majority of Americans who want a union are able to join one.”

The members of the National Labor Coordinating Committee are the Presidents of: AFL-CIO, Change To Win, National Education Association, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, Communications Workers of America, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Laborers International Union of North America, Service Employees International Union, UNITE HERE, United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, and the United Steelworkers.



UFCW International President Joe Hansen spoke to Local 135 stewards last week, and attended a Cesar Chavez Day rally with Local 135 President Mickey Kasparian (shown left). **OP**

The Committee will work on some of the biggest challenges confronting our nation, including the reform of our labor laws, the renewal of our economy and the passage of national health reform. The affiliates of the AFL-CIO, Change to Win and the NEA collectively represent more than 16 million workers in over 60 national and international unions. **OP**

New Ad Features UFCW Textile and Garment Council Members at Work

American Rights at Work (ARAW) has launched a new TV ad to help kick off new activity in support of the Employee Free Choice Act during Congressional recess. This ad, "Fabric of America," stars UFCW Textile



Members of the UFCW Textile and Garment Council display their handiwork in a new American Rights at Work ad

and Garment Council members at work making an American flag. It is airing nationally on cable and in certain targeted states, and you can watch the ad on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXvGYr8a5o8>. **OP**

NAACP Urges Congress to Pass Employee Free Choice Act

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is urging House and Senate Members to take up Employee Free Choice Act legislation as soon as possible after the spring recess. The NAACP is asking its members to call, email, fax and write their members of Congress urging them to pass Employee Free Choice.

“The Employee Free Choice Act will make sure workers have a fair chance to exercise their democratic right to choose a union,” writes Hilary O. Shelton, Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau, in a recent Action Alert. “The impact of unions – ensuring that all working Americans are treated well and share in the prosperity – cannot be overstated.” **OP**

Unionization Substantially Increases the Wages of Service-Sector Workers

A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) shows that unionization significantly boosts the wages and benefits of service-sector workers.

The report, "Unions and Upward Mobility for Service-Sector Employees," found that having a union raises wages for the average service-sector worker by 10.1 percent, or about \$2.00 per hour. The report also found that unionization increases the likelihood that service-sector workers will have employer-provided health insurance by 19 percentage points.

"The data show that workers in service jobs benefit as much from unionization as workers in manufacturing do," said [John Schmitt](#), a Senior Economist at CEPR and author of the study. He said the study shows that unionization can turn "what would otherwise be low-paying jobs with no benefits into middle-class jobs." **OP**

Specter, Lincoln and Employee Free Choice: New Talking Points

Senators Arlen Specter and Blanche Lincoln, two important votes on Employee Free Choice, have voiced some opposition to the legislation. This is disappointing for Employee Free Choice supporters; however, both those Senators have left the door open for compromise. And their opposition to the bill in its current form does not signal the end—in fact, this is just the beginning of our fight to pass Employee Free Choice. Here are some talking points to use when addressing doubts about the legislation passing in the Senate this year:

- We're confident that labor law reform *is* going to pass, and we have more support than ever. President Obama, Vice President Biden, leadership in the House and Senate, and 73 percent of the public support this legislation.
- Workers across the country, including thousands of UFCW members, are contacting their members of Congress and participating in events showing the growing momentum and support for the legislation.

- Business clearly believes it's going to pass—why else would they be spending millions to oppose it?
- We have to fix our broken system if we're going to restore our middle class and have an economy that works for everyone.
- Our economy is severely out of whack and working people are committed to restoring some balance and creating an economy that works for everyone. **OP**

New UFCW Local 75 Members Stronger Than Ever and Ready to Organize



Kroger workers and members of the new UFCW Local 75

Local 911 and Local 1099 have now merged, creating the new UFCW Local 75. This new local represents members in supermarkets, drug stores, slaughterhouses, packing and food processing plants, and at other workplaces—nearly 30,000 workers in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Members of Locals 911 and 1099 voted overwhelmingly for the merger, which they say will make them stronger—whether at the bargaining table, or organizing workers in their core industries. **OP**