

Unity Bargaining for 40,000 UFCW Members at A&P-owned Stores



UFCW Local 1262 members working at A&P-owned Pathmark display their stickers and show their solidarity on the job.

UFCW members working at A&P-owned stores on the East Coast have been showing their commitment to good jobs in the community by wearing stickers in their stores. The stickers show customers and management that workers understand that the economic situation is tough right now, but that good jobs in grocery stores will help—not hurt—working families in the community.

A&P is one of the leading supermarket operators along the East Coast. UFCW members are the backbone of this company-- 40,000 members in 26 different UFCW locals are either in bargaining or soon will be at the table with A&P-owned employers. Members are standing together for a fair contract that protects quality jobs and allows workers to provide for their families.



For more information on A&P bargaining and grocery bargaining across the country, see www.groceryworkersunited.org. **OP**

Alatrade Food Poultry Processing Employees Win First Contract

For the first time ever, the 550 employees at the Alatrade Foods poultry processing plant in Phenix City, Alabama, will have a union contract guaranteeing annual wage increases, paid holidays and vacation time. The agreement between the company and the RWDSU/UFCW was ratified on April 9. The RWDSU/UFCW represents 1,000 other Alatrade workers in Alabama.

Eric Arrington, a processing line-leader at Alatrade, said, "The most important things this contract brings us are job security and a voice in the workplace. Before, we had no say in the way things were done, but now, we have a process in place to speak our minds. We know that our jobs are secure, and that's a great feeling."



Workers at Alatrade joined the RWDSU/UFCW by majority sign up last August, 2008.

The significance of the new contract isn't limited to the wages and benefits it provides: it's how the workers won union representation to begin with. In 2008, a majority of workers at the Phenix City

plant signed cards designating the RWDSU/UFCW as their union. Rather than battle the workers as many employers do, Alatrade chose to respect its employees' choice to join the union.

If the Employee Free Choice Act is passed, more workers will have the opportunity to join a union like the Alatrade workers—by majority sign-up. The legislation would ensure that workers, not the company, would decide how they want to make the choice whether or not to join a union. **OP**

Chemical Workers Merge PAC into ABC for Greater Power for All UFCW Members
 The UFCW International Chemical Workers Union Council has merged its Political Action Committee (PAC) with the UFCW International's ABC PAC. Prompted by a resolution passed last summer at the UFCW's 6th Regular International Union Convention to merge the PACs, the Chemical Workers Union Council took action and immediately initiated the merger.

Int'l Chemical Workers Union Council President and UFCW International Vice President Frank Cyphers said of the merger, "This will increase the unity, strength, and political power of the Council members and all UFCW members. We are all part of one union, one voice, and this merger will make that voice even louder and stronger." **OP**

Nebraska Workers to Members of Congress: Employee Free Choice is American as Apple Pie



Jim Sheard, Nebraska Change to Win President, presents a UFCW-sponsored apple pie to Senator Nelson's representative, Bob Holmstead

Last week in Fremont, Nebraska, workers and UFCW members of Local 22 gathered to rally with other labor unions and supporters to urge Congress to support Employee Free Choice.

At the rally, union members and workers shared their

stories about union representation in the workplace, including workers who went to Washington, D.C. last month to lobby Congress on the Employee Free Choice Act. Union members and workers also presented members of Congress and staff with pies to remind them that good jobs are as American as apple pie. **OP**

SAFETY ALERT

Last week, an 18-year-old member of UFCW Local No. 700 suffered a brutal injury. Her right hand was amputated while cleaning a HOBART meat grinder (Model #4632A) at Kroger in Wabash, Indiana.

The incident is currently under investigation by the Indiana Department of Labor. However, we know several things about the injury and want to **ALERT ALL** Retail Local Unions to them.

1. Meat grinders that lack interlock systems that shuts off when the lid is lifted are dangerous. **THEY SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM OUR STORES.**
2. The meat grinder plug, the only sure way to prevent accidental start-up while cleaning, was high on the wall behind the machine, virtually out of reach.
3. The cleaning of this machine was being done by a young high school student with no experience in the Meat Department of the store. Her only job is to clean various pieces of equipment around the store in the evening. We believe she was not properly trained.

Send your union representatives into the stores you represent to determine if the meat grinder currently in use has built-in safeguards.

If you have any questions, please contact the International's Occupational Safety and Health Department. **OP**