

Local 1776 Members and Staff Inform Acme Customers about Company's Refusal to Negotiate a Fair Contract



UFCW Local 1776 Union Representative Erv Cofield talks to UFCW member and Acme worker Diane Williams about the company's unfair contract offer while leafleting customers outside of a store in Bala Cynwyd, Pa.

Members of UFCW Local 1776 who work at Acme held an informational action on Friday in front of a grocery store just outside of Philadelphia, Pa. Union members and staff leafleted customers and talked to the store's workers about how the company's greed is hurting negotiations for a decent contract that respects workers and their communities.

Acme, owned by Supervalu, refuses to agree to what's fair for its hard-working employees and instead has proposed a contract that would hurt workers' pensions, gut their health care benefits, and lower the living standards for working families in the Greater Philadelphia area. **OP**

UFCW Locals Converge on Nation's Capitol for Reform Immigration Forum



UFCW Local 700 organizer Rojelio Valenzuela holds up a sign made during a workshop at the Reform Immigration Forum in Washington, DC.

UFCW Locals 5, 7R, 75, 99, 348S, 400, 464A, 540, 700, 881, and 1776 took part in the Reform Immigration Forum held in Washington, DC, in early June. They met with hundreds of leaders from immigrant, labor, and faith organizations from around the country to build momentum for comprehensive reform.

The summit was sponsored by the Reform Immigration for America Campaign, a national coalition of labor, faith, and immigrant communities—including the UFCW—who are committed to winning congressional support for real immigration reform.

Mark Lauritsen, UFCW International Vice President and Director of Food Processing, Packing, and Manufacturing Division, addressed the crowd at the forum about the need for comprehensive reform to protect all workers. He also spoke about the UFCW's initiative to stop the ICE raids that terrorized workers, their families, and their communities.

“We formed a national commission to examine the conduct of these raids and their ramifications on workers, families, and communities. After nearly a two-year examination, we have found that the enforcement-only strategy of the Bush administration not only led to

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violations of our constitution, but instigated and exacerbated violations of worker rights,” Lauritsen said. “We cannot enforce our way to a workable immigration system in this county.”

On Thursday, the UFCW-led National Commission on Worksite Raids is releasing its published report. Locals will be able to view it that day at www.ufcw.org. **OP**

Local 1500 Rallies for Workers’ Rights at the Agata & Valentina Grocery Store



Recently fired Agata & Valentina grocery worker Roberto De La Cruz speaks at a rally in front of the Manhattan supermarket.

UFCW Local 1500 rallied with community members and leaders, politicians, and religious groups in front of the Agata & Valentina grocery store in support of a worker recently fired for wanting a union. Local 1500 activists spoke to hundreds of passers-by while handing out informational flyers.

Roberto De La Cruz, fired after six years of employment, spoke in front of a large crowd outside the Manhattan grocery store about trying to improve his working and living conditions and how his managers told him bluntly why he was terminated. “I was called into the office and fired. They told me it was because I supported a union,” he said.

Agata & Valentina is just one of many independently owned, specialty supermarkets in Manhattan, N.Y., that

exploit a largely immigrant workforce with low wages and poor working conditions. Local 1500 is a voice to raise the working and living standards for the area’s large workforce through its Gourmet Grocer campaign.

For information on this campaign, go to www.buildingblocksproject.com. Watch a video of the rally at www.nothingfineaboutit.com. **OP**

Organizing Software to be Upgraded by Early Next Year

The UFCW International’s Information Technology (I.T.) Department is upgrading the OPAS software that UFCW organizers use on the ground, and a retooled program is expected by early next year. Developed 20 years ago, the software has been a valuable resource for organizers, but new technology will improve organizers’ ability to report data efficiently during campaigns.

The redesign will be a more user-friendly, web-based software that will allow UFCW organizers to access the software from any computer with a web browser and internet access. The secure data will be centrally located to allow instant access to data.

UFCW Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing Pat O’Neill is encouraging local unions to provide feedback to help update the OPAS software by contacting I.T. Department Director Mark Leander at mleander@ufcw.org. **OP**

UFCW Women’s Network Convention Slated for October 22-25 in Florida

The UFCW Women’s Network is holding its Ninth Biennial Convention on October 22-25, 2009, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The official Convention Call was sent yesterday and can also be viewed online at <https://home.ufcw.org/documents/WebConvCallLU.pdf>. Registration and payment can be made online at <http://ufcwwomenetowrkconvetnion2009.eventbrite.com>, or mailed in to UFCW Women’s Network, P.O. BOX 66125, Washington, DC, 20035-6125.

The deadline for hotel reservations is Sept. 24 to get the special convention rate. Contact Michelle Clemens for more information at mclemens@ufcw.org. **OP**