

UFCW Local 21 Members Give Senators an Earful on Health Care at Stewards' Training



Local 21 stewards making phone calls to Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell's Washington, D.C. offices

More than 400 stewards from across Washington State gathered last week in Seattle for UFCW Local 21 stewards' training.

The training focused on building a 21st century worker movement, more power at the bargaining table, engaging new members, and retirement security.

In addition, Local 21 used the opportunity for a call to action on health care. Stewards made hundreds of phone calls to Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Maria Cantwell's (D-WA) Washington, D.C. offices until their mail boxes were full. An additional 350 postcards were sent to the Senators as well. **OP**

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Now that the Senate Finance Committee has passed its bill (Baucus bill), the next step in the Senate is about merging the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee bill (Kennedy HELP bill) and the Baucus bill.

Go to www.ufcwactnow.org and use the click to call feature to let your Senators know that the bill that makes it to the Senate floor must have strong employer responsibility, a robust public insurance option and fair financing.

It's time to get it done!

UFCW Chemical Workers Council Scores Consecutive Organizing Wins



ICWUC organizers Kerry Phillips (L) and Maria Torres (C) with General Chemical worker Jose Garcia (R)

The International Chemical Workers Council (ICWUC) of the UFCW, last Friday, scored an organizing victory when a majority of the 20 workers at General Chemical Corporation in Midlothian, Texas, voted to join UFCW Local 3C in Grand Saline, Texas.

The victory last week at General Chemical Corporation follows two other ICWUC/UFCW recent organizing wins at Texas Gas in south Louisiana and Norit Americas, Inc., in Marshall, Texas.

The 25 workers at Texas Gas, a gas transportation company, had voted in late August to accept Local 187C in Kenton, Tenn., as their bargaining representative. A few weeks later, 15 workers at Norit Americas, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of activated carbon, followed suit and voted to be represented by UFCW Local 130C in Waskom, Texas.

"We are very proud of our efforts to organize new members into the ICWUC/UFCW," said Frank Cyphers, President of the International Chemical Workers Union Council of the UFCW. "The recent victories are a proof that the UFCW Chemical Council is growing, not going," Cyphers added. "We are preparing to begin contract negotiations shortly and we look forward to achieving a better standard of living for our new members." **OP**

UFCW Local 328 Members Sponsor Health Care Rally in Providence, R.I.



UFCW Local 328 members participated in a health care rally on October 1, 2009, in Providence, R.I.

Two hundred people turned out at Brown University for the kick off of the rally. They marched through the streets of Providence to make their voice heard on the urgent need for quality and affordable health care. Marchers then rallied at Whole Foods in downtown Providence to handbill customers.

The event was co-sponsored by UFCW Local 328, Jobs with Justice, the Brown Students Labor Alliance and several other coalition partners. **OP**

New National Poll Shows Support for Mandate with Public Insurance Option

A new poll commissioned by Health Care for America Now (HCAN) found that 60 percent of voters do not want to be forced to buy health insurance without being given the choice of a public health insurance option to compete with private insurance.

The poll also found consistent support for employer responsibility. Sixty-one percent of voters support a requirement that all but the smallest businesses help pay for coverage.

Finally, the new poll found that voters support a surcharge on upper-income households. Sixty percent of voters favor raising taxes on households making more than \$350,000 a year in order to pay for health care reform.

The full results are available at

<http://healthcareforamericanow.org/page/-/documents%20for%20download/Mandate%20and%20Tax%20Poll%20memo.doc>. **OP**

Hundreds of Cincinnati and Toledo Areas Stewards Converge for Local 75 Steward Seminar on Growth



The recently merged UFCW Local 75 convened its stewards for a seminar to develop and implement programs to strengthen the new local at the bargaining table and in organizing drives in core industries.

Close to 400 stewards from the Cincinnati and Toledo areas gathered in Bowling Green, Ohio.

The two-day training focuses on building a stronger union and the imperative for growth. Participants are also discussing, among other topics, the Employee Free Choice Act as it relates to union growth, communicating for growth and strategies to tackle double breasted employers.

“This has been educational and informative,” said stewards Barb Imm and Mary Colling. “We picked up a lot of knowledge we didn’t really know before—tools that will help us meet and overcome our challenges. I think our stewards at former Local 911 have always been interested in sharing information, and now that we have joined with Local 1099 to be Local 75, we are sharing even more information.” **OP**