

Unity Bargaining Protects Pilgrim's Pride Members Through Company Bankruptcy

Pilgrim's Pride filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy in December 2008. Early in 2009, the company began reorganizing with production cuts, job cuts, and other cost cutting measures aimed at returning to profitability. As part of the restructuring, Pilgrim's Pride asked the UFCW for economic and other concessions. Without unity bargaining, it was very possible that a bankruptcy judge would have granted the company's onslaught of concessions and destroyed union contracts.

Leadership from UFCW Locals 227, 455, 540, 1996, 2008 and UFCW's RWDSU district council came to the bargaining table together with the challenge of protecting our members' wages, benefits, and working conditions while making sure the company could successfully emerge from bankruptcy and remain in the communities that depend on it.

Thanks to this unity bargaining effort, the new contracts will raise wages and maintain most overtime pay; save and keep as many members at work as possible; streamline health care coverage making it more efficient and affordable for the company and for our members; and give local unions better union access in the plants—including in-plant offices and walking stewards.



The Pilgrim's Pride deal opens door for bringing a union contract to more poultry workers

"Speaking as one union with one voice, we came together to get the best deal possible for the most members," said International Vice President and President of Local 1996 Steve Lomax.

Although each local had to make some concessions, no one local union took the brunt of the cuts. In addition to protecting wages, benefits, and conditions, we were able to settle some contracts that had been open for months. Finally, the negotiations put the UFCW in a position to organize more members in right-to-work plants and across the poultry industry. **OP**

New Report: Women Breadwinners Change How We Live and Work

A new report entitled *The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything* finds that women now make up half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from a generation ago.

--Women now comprise half the workers on employers' payrolls.

--While men and women still tend to work in different kinds of jobs, most workers under 40 have never known a workplace without women bosses and women colleagues.

--Schools still let kids out in the afternoon, long before the workday ends, even though the majority of families with children are supported by a single working parent or a dual-earning couple.

The report goes on to outline how government, business and other institutions rely on outdated models of who works and who cares for families. The report also investigates women's transition to being family breadwinners, immigrant women in America, and why today's working families need more family friendly policies. Visit <http://www.americanprogress.org/> to download the full report. **OP**

Fred Meyer Damages Relationship with UFCW Members who Make the Stores Successful

Last Friday, a Fred Meyer manager in Hillsboro, Ore., created a scene at his store when he called the police to arrest three union representatives for talking with workers—a right guaranteed to workers under federal law. Workers at UFCW Local 555 are currently at the bargaining table seeking a fair contract.

One representative was leaving the store when he was arrested. Local 555 President Dan Clay was driving into the parking lot to find out what was going on when police arrested

him. Union members at other stores in the area were baffled when they heard about the company's behavior.

"We meet with our reps in the store all the time," said Anne Lilley, a Hillsboro Safeway worker and UFCW Local 555 member. "If we're not busy, it's easy to just step aside and take care of an issue quickly with our reps—it's something that workers in grocery stores do every day, all across the country. I can't believe that Fred Meyer management would raise a fuss about something so routine." **OP**



Overkill: Police in Hillsboro, Ore. utilized a mobile police station to arrest three Local 555 Reps for talking with workers.

Local 881 and Good Jobs Chicago Challenge Walmart to Live up to American Standards

Walmart has only one store in Chicago—but the company wants to aggressively expand in that community without committing to any standards. UFCW Local 881, in conjunction with Good Jobs Chicago, is spearheading a campaign to insist that if Walmart comes to Chicago, it must raise standards in the workplace and the community. The coalition has proposed principles of community and worker benefit standards which demand that big box stores provide a living wage, offer affordable health care, respect workers' rights—including the right to form a union; hire locally; reject taxpayer subsidies; invest locally; and respect the environment.

Today, coalition members gathered for a media strategy and training meeting to make plans on how to best get out their message.

For more information about this effort, visit <http://www.goodjobschicago.org>

American's Support For Public Option in Health Care Reform Bill Grows

A new *Washington Post-ABC News* poll shows that support for a government-run "public option" health-care plan to compete with private insurers has clear majority support.

Fifty-seven percent of all Americans now favor a public insurance option, while 40 percent oppose it. Support has risen since mid-August, when a bare majority, 52 percent, said they favored it.



If a public plan were run by the states and available only to **Senators need to hear from UFCW members now on the public option. If your local needs health care signs for your health care event, contact healthcare@ufcw.org**

those who lack affordable private options, support for it jumps to 76 percent.

Senators are now working on producing a compromise bill from two separate versions passed by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (Kennedy HELP Bill) and the Senate Finance Committee (Baucus Bill). The first bill includes a public option. The Senate Finance Committee does not. **OP**

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

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.