

UFCW Local 21 Members Ratify Contract with Macy's in Washington State



UFCW Local 21 bargaining committee members

Members from UFCW Local 21 in Washington State overwhelmingly approved a new contract with Macy's last week. The three-year agreement covers 1,200 workers from SeaTac to Bellingham and includes better wages, a signing bonus, and improved seniority, scheduling, and union security language.

Negotiations were fought in a difficult economic climate as Macy's business has been down. But the bargaining committee successfully bargained a fair agreement with the company by engaging community support and showing worker solidarity through newspaper ads, community involvement, a sticker campaign, and other in-store actions.

"This was a tough bargain, and the members showed each other and management that while we can never get everything we want, we speak with one voice and we can get what we need: respect as workers and better wages and benefits," said Local 21 Negotiating Director David Fleishman.

Workers had been working under the terms of their previous contract that expired in April. **OP**

UFCW International President Joe Hansen and National Labor Coordinating Committee Meets with President Obama

The National Labor Coordinating Committee, which includes UFCW International President Joe Hansen, met yesterday with President Obama to discuss issues critical to working families. The Committee is made up of labor leaders who collectively represent 16 million workers.

Committee members spoke with a unified voice about passing the Employee Free Choice Act and working with the President to win health care for every American. The Committee reiterated its support for a public option and the need for employers to participate in a universal plan. The Committee voiced that achieving universal coverage can and should be done without taxing the benefits of workers.

With 6.5 million jobs and \$14 trillion in wealth lost in this country, the Committee also spoke about supporting President Obama's recovery and reinvestment program and said it should be reinforced with more stimulus to create millions of good jobs that can not be outsourced.

OP

UFCW Front and Center in Shaping Debate on Health Care Reform

President Hansen Takes Walmart to Task for Hypocritical Health Care Stance in Letter to President Obama

On June 30, UFCW International President Joe Hansen sent a letter to President Obama cautioning him about Walmart's recent announcement supporting an employer mandate in health care reform.

In the letter, President Hansen raised several questions about the mammoth retailer's commitment to playing a constructive role in health care reform, considering the company's significant role in fueling our nation's health care crisis.

A PDF of the letter can be viewed on the UFCW website at www.ufcw.org/issues/health_care. **OP**

UFCW Local 1473 Members Slowly Return to Work after Patrick Cudahy Plant Fire in Milwaukee

Approximately 100 production workers have returned to work at the Patrick Cudahy plant in Cudahy, Wisconsin, after a five-alarm fire broke out July 5 and blazed for more than two days. UFCW Local 1473 represents 1,400 workers at the Smithfield-owned plant, and expects several hundred more workers to return to work by the end of the week.

Firefighters from around the state worked feverishly to extinguish the fire and avoid a local economic crisis with the loss of hundreds of jobs. While more than half of the plant remained intact, Local 1473 immediately set up a relief fund, food pantry, and community fundraisers to help plant workers who are without work while the plant rebuilds. **OP**

UFCW Canada Local 401 Members in Calgary Stay Strong on Picket Line at Old Dutch

Over 100 devoted, full-time picketers from UFCW Canada Local 401 have stayed strong for more than 90 days on the picket line at Old Dutch Snack Foods in Calgary, Alberta.

After working for more than a year without a collective bargaining agreement, 170 workers have been locked out

of their jobs since March 29, 2009. Local 401 says the major issues in the dispute are a food safety clause and a union security clause, along with minor improvements in wages and benefits.

While no further negotiations are currently scheduled, Local 401 is pursuing a charge of bad-faith bargaining against Old Dutch at the Alberta Labour Relations Board, and hearings are set to finish later this month. **OP**

UFCW Stewards' Guide and Training Module Now Available Electronically

Empowering the UFCW Steward, a guide and training module for UFCW stewards, is now available in electronic format. The guide includes English and Spanish language material to lead group trainings of stewards in one-to-two hour segments with step-by-step instructions.

The trainings are designed to help stewards understand the correlation between growth and bargaining, and for stewards to take an active role in building their union's strength.

To request a DVD with the materials, contact field@ufcw.org. The guide is also available to download on the UFCW's private website, www.ufcw.org/private, under the Stewards section. If you need access to the website or have trouble downloading, contact mpond@ufcw.org. **OP**

Members of UFCW Canada Local 401 remain energized on the picket line at Old Dutch Snack Foods. Workers have been locked out of the Calgary, Alberta, plant for about three and a half months.

