

Local 1439 Members Ratify First Contract With Tyson Foods



New members of Local 1439 at the Tyson Foods plant in Pasco, Washington.

Workers at the Tyson Foods plant in Pasco, Wash. who are members of Local 1439 ratified a new 51-month contract with their employer this past Saturday.

This contract protects the approximately 1,200 workers at the beef slaughter and fabrication plant and guarantees them a voice at work. Highlights included preserving health care and retirement benefits, as well as a \$.65 raise over the life of the contract.

The new contract was overwhelmingly approved by the new Local 1439 members.

“Labor is about people working together to better their lives and that’s what this is about,” said Local 1439 President Larry Hall. “Without the other Tyson locals, especially Local 222, we never could have made this happen. The unity agenda and unity bargaining gave these workers a voice.” **OP**

Workers at Maple Leaf Foods Choose a Voice at Work with Local 175

Maple Leaf Foods, a 180 worker poultry kill and processing plant located in Mississauga,

Ontario, Canada, have stood together to form a union with Local 175 and will begin to bargain their first contract this month.

“We welcome the new members at Maple Leaf in Mississauga,” says Local 175 President Shawn Haggerty, “and look forward to providing the service, support and empowerment that UFCW Canada membership brings.” **OP**

Local 5 Rallies Support for BevMo! Workers in California



Local 5 member and Safeway worker Maggie Feder shows her support for BevMo! worker Catherine Cordero at a rally in downtown Oakland, California.

On August 1, 2010, BevMo!, one of the largest alcoholic beverage retailers in Northern California and Arizona, announced it would be cutting hours for most of its full-time workers—a move that would eliminate health care coverage for hundreds of workers. In addition, the company also announced a suspension of its 401(k) plan.

BevMo! workers, who are not union, turned to Local 5 in San Jose, Calif. for help. On August 6, BevMo! workers and Local 5 kicked off an organizing drive and on August 12 held a rally in downtown Oakland to take their case to the public.

Catherine Cordero, a BevMo! worker who had her hours cut from full- to part-time and lost her health benefits



shared her story at the rally and demanded BevMo! recognize her union.

“They have continued the trend in the retail and food service industry of creating permanent part-time jobs,” Cordero said, “forcing our families into crisis, creating a negative impact on our well-established customer service, and all the while expecting our local communities—we the taxpayers—to foot the bill when it comes to financial assistance.”

To learn more about the campaign and what you can do to help, visit www.dobetterbevm.com. **OP**

UFCW Members Support Bangladeshi Garment Workers

Thousands of UFCW members and supporters spoke out last week on behalf of labor leaders at Walmart suppliers in Bangladesh who have been fleeing from government prosecution. The government of Bangladesh, under pressure from manufacturers, has begun systematically attacking worker rights' groups, especially targeting the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity. The Center and other groups had been supporting garment workers, mostly young women, who make as little as 11.5¢ per hour and had been protesting for higher wages.

The Wake Up Walmart campaign coordinated with other international labor organizations to send thousands of letters to Walmart's Vice President of “Ethical” Sourcing protesting the treatment of these workers. Walmart is the largest purchaser of garments from Bangladeshi garment manufacturers like Nassa Global Wear, whose ex-military owners may have pressured the government to attack labor leaders.

Join us in calling on Walmart to demand higher standards for their suppliers by visiting WakeUpWalmart.com and taking action today. **OP**

Local 464A Gears Up for Election Season with Voter Registration Drive

Local 464A in Little Falls, N.J., has launched a new drive to register members to vote for the upcoming

elections. Local 464A President John Niccollai said they plan on registering as many as 8,000 new voters out of their membership before the election.

“We have found that many members who were registered to vote were dropped from the voting rolls and classified as unregistered because they haven't voted in a number of years,” said Niccollai. “Many of these members don't even realize they are not eligible to vote.” **OP**

UFCW Canada Stands Against Mott's Greed and Efforts to Make the Caesar Canada's National Drink



Mott's, the company that forced Local 220* members out on strike by demanding huge pay and benefit cuts while executives made record salaries, is leading a push to make the “Caesar,” a cocktail made with Mott's Clamato the national cocktail of Canada. Because Clamato is made at the Williamson, N.Y. plant where Local 220* workers are on strike, UFCW Canada members are fighting back.

At www.ufcw.ca members can sign a petition arguing against the Caesar as the national cocktail of Canada, and pledge to support the striking Mott's workers. You can also use the “Clamato Cannon” to fire tomatoes at greedy Dr Pepper Snapple executives who are pushing down wages and benefits for Local 220* members.

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