

Giant Eagle Has Local 23 Member Arrested for Talking Union



UFCW Local 23 member and Giant Eagle employee Deb Wieloch was arrested over Labor Day weekend for speaking to her co-workers about the union.

Wieloch was not on the clock at the time of the arrest and was speaking to her co-workers in the store's café while they were on break. When asked to leave, Wieloch pointed out that her union contract protected her right to be there and that she was not being disruptive. It was at that point management called the police and had her escorted from the store.

Wieloch, who has worked for the grocery chain for 34 years, was appalled at the actions of her employer, who she had always trusted to do what's right by her and her co-workers.

Giant Eagle's recent actions have violated that trust. In addition to Wieloch's arrest, Giant Eagle recently sent intimidating and misleading letters to its non-union employees, trying to scare them away from talking to UFCW Local 23 members and representatives.

UFCW Local 23 represents approximately 7,000 workers at Giant Eagle Stores in Western Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia, but there are a number of Giant Eagle franchise stores in the area where workers are not afforded the same rights and benefits.

"My Giant Eagle job has been made better by having a union voice with UFCW Local 23," says Wieloch. "I see it as my responsibility to make sure all of my coworkers have the chance to talk about the workplace and how a union contract makes our Giant Eagle community stronger."

You can help by sending a letter to Giant Eagle management telling them to respect the rights of their workers. Go to <http://www.ufcwaction.org/respectatgianteagle>. **OP**

President Hansen Labor Day Address on the Future of Work

In a Labor Day address on the front page of the *Huffington Post*, President Hansen outlined a new Lake Research Partners poll of registered voters nationwide, commissioned by UFCW, showing that during this time of grave economic concerns, voters are demanding an economic recovery that provides jobs that pay enough to support a family and provide health and retirement benefits. According to the poll:

- Eighty-seven percent of voters are very or somewhat concerned that America's future jobs will be low wage and low benefit -- including 65 percent who are very concerned.
- Eighty-nine percent of voters agree that economic development should result in jobs with good wages and benefits that can support a family.
- Eighty-four percent of voters agree that economic recovery means creating jobs with good benefits so people can afford to take care of their families, not low wage jobs with no benefits.
- Eighty-four percent of voters favor requiring that government contracts go to companies that provide good paying jobs and benefits so that their employees don't end up on welfare programs like Medicaid and food stamps.

Read more online http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joe-hansen/post_784_b_703681.html **OP**

Partnership Between UFCW Local 99 Members and AZ Company Wins National Recognition

UFCW employer and Arizona-based company Eurofresh is featured in the American Rights at Work 2010 Labor Day List, which honors businesses that are committed to respecting workers' rights.

Eurofresh is the country's leading producer of greenhouse tomatoes and is thriving thanks to its fruitful relationship with its 846 greenhouse workers and UFCW Local 99 members.



One of Southern Arizona's largest employers, Eurofresh respects its workers' rights and their union. UFCW Local 99 Secretary Treasurer Paul Rubin says the company and union have "a very cooperative relationship," and talk through solutions regarding employee health and safety on a daily basis. In an industry characterized by low wages and few benefits, Eurofresh workers have full family health care coverage with no premium costs, and earn approximately 65 percent more than non-union agricultural workers.

Food safety is a top priority at Eurofresh, which credits the union-led orientation and training programs for raising standards. "Thanks to our employees and the union we have a good quality product that is safe," says Robert Pulido, Vice President for Human Resources, "It's a group effort." The union also collaborates with the company to train employees on plant disease prevention procedures, protecting the company's crops and ultimately consumer safety.

To see the full Labor Day List from American Rights at Work, go to http://www.ufcw.org/labor_day_events.cfm. **OP**

UFCW Members Across the Country Stand with Mott's Workers

Around the country, UFCW members continue to show support for their brothers and sisters at the Mott's plant in Williamson, New York as the strike there moved past the 100-day mark. UFCW members have organized over 600 actions across the country since the strike started, including hand-billing, rallies, and other events.

In Louisville at the 11th annual "Labor Day at the Zoo" picnic, union members and their families signed billboards pledging not to buy Mott's products until the dispute is settled. Thousands of members attended the event, which was sponsored by UFCW 227 and other labor unions in the area.

For recent PBS coverage of the strike, go to <http://tinyurl.com/28emmnj> **OP**

UFCW Locals Celebrate "Labor Rights Week" with Mexican Consulate

The UFCW was proud to participate this past week in "Semana de Derechos Laborales," or Labor Rights week. Semana de Derechos Laborales focused on the inclusion of Mexican nationals in American workplaces and communities.

Programming included workshops and informational sessions on labor, immigration, and human rights.

UFCW local unions joined Mexican Consulates in 13 cities across the nation to present educational and outreach programs in celebration of Labor Day. Participating UFCW Locals include: 1996, 881, 1546, 540, 5, 770, 99, 8GS, 135, 7R, and 789.

IVP and United Latinos President Johnny Rodriguez joined Mexican Consul Juan Carlos Cué Vega to launch a "Labor Window" at the Dallas Mexican Consulate. Through this service, all workers will be able to obtain information about their rights.

"The UFCW is standing up for workers' rights across the country," said Rodriguez. "Educating immigrant workforces about rights in the workplace helps raise the standard of treatment for all workers in industries where new immigrants often work, including meatpacking, food processing, and grocery."

This is the second year that the UFCW and the Mexican Consulate organized the Semana de Derechos Laborales.

For more information visit www.ufcw.org/labor_day_events.cfm or www.laufcw.org (Spanish). **OP**



IVP and United Latinos President Johnny Rodriguez with Mexican Cónsul Cué Vega during Semana de Derechos Laborales event in Dallas, Tex.