

ON POINT

UFCW
Unity Agenda of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

Special Edition: A Look Back at the Mott's Strike

One Union, One Voice Won for Workers



Recently, 300 of our union brothers and sisters won a tough fight that reminded all of us what we can accomplish when we come together as one union with one voice.



Dr Pepper Snapple (DPS) came to the bargaining table last May with Local 220* members with one purpose: force concessions and lower living standards for its Mott's workers in Williamson, New York. The company thought it had these 300 workers right where it wanted them – isolated, intimidated by the economic downturn, powerless in the face of a multinational corporation. They had no idea what they were up against.



UFCW members from all across the U.S. and Canada stood united to support their brothers and sisters in Williamson, letting consumers everywhere know about Dr Pepper Snapple's outrageous greed.

With over 600 events nationwide to spread the word and a groundswell of online support from tens of thousands of allies, the strike at Mott's defined what "solidarity" really means.

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Thanks to the solidarity UFCW members showed, the Mott's workers are keeping their jobs. They ratified a contract that preserved wage levels, maintained their pension, and ensured affordable health care after more than a 100 days on the picket line. Mott's workers noted again and again what a difference it made to them to have the support of more than a million of their UFCW brothers and sisters. It kept morale high and helped them stay strong in the fight for a fair contract.

What's more, the message UFCW members sent about Mott's and DPS's unconscionable greed sparked a national conversation about the state of work and workers in America and the war we wage every day against corporate greed.



The strike was covered in countless newspapers and blogs, on national television and radio programs, and really struck a nerve. Columnists, pundits, and bloggers were asking the big questions: Do we real-

ly want an economy where it's okay to compare workers to soybeans? Do companies have no obligations to workers, families or communities? Do they have no responsibility to build a better America with good, career jobs that people can be proud to work? And what kind of jobs will people have when we finally emerge from this recession? Will they be family-supporting jobs with benefits and wages that pay the bills and let you save for retirement and send your kids to school?

Observers around the country also applauded our members for coming together to support their brothers and sisters at Mott's. "The UFCW's mobilization for the strikers ought to be an inspiration for other unions. It's a great example of what a strong and effective union can do!" said one commentator.

There are many lessons to be learned from the Mott's strike, but perhaps the most important lesson is that when we work together as one union with one voice, when we join together to rise up against corporate greed and injustice, workers can win even the most uphill of battles. **OP**

UFCW Local 5 and 101 Stewards Take Action Against BevMo

On September 21, over 300 UFCW Local 5 and Local 101 stewards closed down a BevMo liquor superstore in Campbell, Calif., in protest of the company's recent anti-worker actions.



UFCW Local 5 and the BevMo workers began mobilizing in August shortly after the company announced it was eliminating all full-time, non-management positions in its stores. This change in status led to the elimination of medical benefits for the newly reclassified employees per BevMo policy. BevMo workers are demanding the company reinstate health benefits, restore full time positions, put into effect a \$1 an hour pay increase and recognize employees' right to form a union with UFCW.

The action at the store took place after the annual UFCW Local 5 and UFCW Local 101 Joint Educational Conference in San Jose. **OP**

Toledo Kroger Workers Ratify Agreement

UFCW Local 75 members at Toledo Kroger stores

ratified new three-year agreements on September 20th. Members working in Grocery and Non-Food classifications voted overwhelmingly to approve a new, merged contract; Meat Department members also approved a separate agreement by a large majority.

Local 75 members stood strong and fought for a fair agreement that secures contributions for all pensions, strengthens languages for bonuses and wage increases, and includes numerous improvements to the health and welfare plan. For more information or for updates from Local 75, go to www.ufcw75.org. **OP**

Poll Shows That Voters Want New Economy Defined by Jobs with Good Benefits and Wages

As activists, advocates and working families from across the country prepare to rally for good jobs in Washington on October 2, 2010, a new national poll conducted by Lake Research for the UFCW shows:

- 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.

To view the poll or find out more about the One Nation Rally on October 2nd, go to: http://www.ufcw.org/press_room/index.cfm?pressReleaseID=509 **OP**