



**Rhonda Nelson**  
International Chair,  
Women's Network

### CHAIR'S COLUMN

#### Dear Sisters and Brothers:

It's been quite a year for women everywhere. This year started with a flurry of anti-worker legislative fights in states across the country to strip workers of the basic right to join together and collectively bargain for better pay and benefits.

Many state lawmakers targeted women's livelihoods, while exempting public employee professions largely populated by men. Women make up more than 50 percent of the state government work-

force, and many of these women belong to unions. In Wisconsin, Republican Governor Scott Walker exempted firefighters, police and trooper unions from his anti-worker legislation. In Michigan, Republican Governor Rich Snyder targeted home-based child care workers and their collective bargaining rights, and in Tennessee, legislation was introduced to abolish teachers' collective bargaining rights. Within a matter of months, 48 states had proposed anti-worker legislation that impacted women's lives across the country.

In addition to legislative attacks against women on the state level, we also saw the U.S. Supreme Court close the door on millions of women working at Walmart, the world's largest retailer, in June. The court ruled that Walmart's written general discrimination policy was proof enough to overturn a lower court's determination that Walmart women could join together to address widespread gender discrimination claims as a class.

But 2011 also had good news for hard working women and their

### UFCW Canada Poster Campaign Raises Awareness of Violence Against Women

In 1999, the United Nations designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. But a decade earlier, the largest, one-day mass murder in Canadian history indelibly marked December 6 as the day Canadians commit to end violence against women.

Each year on December 6 — the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women — Canadians commemorate the loss of the 14 young women who were murdered that day in 1989 at Montreal's École Polytechnique (Polytechnical College), simply because they were women. It was a hideously shocking event but the rage of gender-based violence is very familiar to Canadian women, and more than half of all females in Canada will experience violence at some point in their lifetime.

Sometimes the assailant is a stranger, but often the vio-

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*UFCW International President Joseph Hansen poses with U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. President Hansen has worked hard to address the challenges that many working women experience, including unequal pay and a lack of opportunities to advance, and is dedicated to leveling the playing field for women in the workplace.*

### Poster Campaign *continued from page 1*

lence lies closer to home. Over the past decade, approximately 70 women in Canada a year have been murdered by their partners or ex-partners, and annually more than 25,000 Canadian women have reported they've been the target of a domestic assault. In fact, more than 100,000 women and their children will struggle to find emergency shelter this year. Unfortunately, it is in desperately short supply because of government underfunding.

"More funding for emergency shelter is one critical component in reducing violence against women," said Nancy Quiring, Western Region director for UFCW Canada, chair of the UFCW Canada National Council Women's



Advisory Committee, and member of the UFCW Women's Network. "Without a

safe place to go, many women remain locked in abusive relationships. Increased government support for counseling and job training is also needed for our sisters escaping an abusive relationship to rebuild a safer, independent life."

To raise awareness on December 6, and the issue of violence against women, the UFCW Canada National Council Women's Committee annually publishes a poster to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

The poster is distributed to UFCW Canada Local Unions and to members, and is also available online at <http://www.ufcw.ca/women>. **WN**



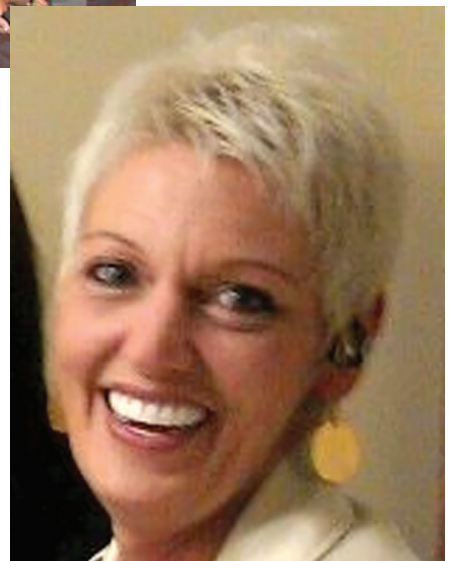
## UFCW REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

*Right: On October 5, the UFCW Women's Network Region 1 - South held a benefit to honor UFCW International Secretary-Treasurer Marc Perrone and raised over \$8,000 for the region's scholarship program. Pictured left to right with Marc Perrone are Treasurer Peg Michalowski; former Chair Paulette Amodeo; Regional Coordinator for Region 1 - South Fallon Ager Nelson; Secretary-Treasurer and Regional Coordinator for Region 1 - South Sherry Van Dyk; and International Chair Rhonda Nelson.*



*Left: UFCW women from across the country attended the first annual Region 8 conference on October 19-20. The conference was educational, the speakers were motivational, and UFCW women left feeling inspired and energized.*

*Right: Women's Network member Gina Swinea was just elected president of UFCW Local 1657 (Region 2) in Birmingham, Ala., and will take office in January 2012.*





## UFCW REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



*The UFCW Women's Network Local 1995 is supporting the Alzheimer's Association as their main cause for their annual fundraisers. This is a disease that is growing out of control, affecting not only the patients, but also the caregivers. Many of Local 1995's workers and families have been impacted by this disease emotionally and financially over long periods of time.*



*UFCW Local 75 (Region 4) received an award for the largest team in a non-profit group at the Susan Komen event in Toledo.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Women's Network Biennial Convention, to be held May 3-6, 2012, at Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.



*On October 23, the UFCW Women's Network Local 653 (Region 6) held its first annual Halloween Harvest at Camp 653 on Lake Ida in Monticello, Minn. Over 150 people, including kids of all ages, participated in an afternoon of fun.*

## UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK E-NEWS

### Chair's Column *continued from page 1*

families. The anti-worker legislation united millions of workers and activists and sparked demonstrations across the country. In Wisconsin, Democrats won two state senate seats in historic recall elections—a major victory. In Ohio, the “We Are Ohio” campaign collected 1.3 million signatures to get the anti-worker legislation sponsored by Republican Governor John Kasich on the ballot to be overturned. And on Election Day, voters in Ohio struck down the centerpiece of the Republican’s

anti-worker agenda—Senate Bill 5 and also known as Issue 2—that aimed to curb the collective bargaining rights of teachers, first responders and other public employees.

And despite the U.S. Supreme Court setback, Walmart employees—many of them women—are taking the lead in changing the Walmart culture themselves. Last fall, the new employee association, Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart), was formed by and for hourly associates in Walmart stores to help change the way Walmart

does business. To date, thousands of Walmart associates in hundreds of stores and more than 30 states have joined the organization.

While there is no denying that 2011 has been a tough year for women and workers everywhere, the victories in Ohio and elsewhere show that women and their unions have the ability to fight back and win. We must use these victories as a stepping stone to help re-elect President Obama and put more worker-friendly leaders in Congress and statehouses across the country in 2012. **WN**

## UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**INTERNATIONAL  
CHAIR**

**Rhonda Nelson**  
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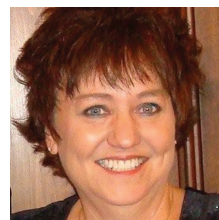
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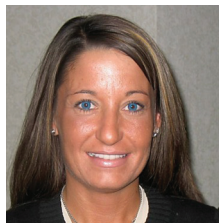
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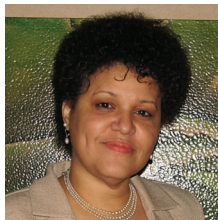
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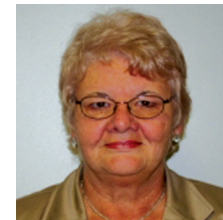
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## UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK E-NEWS

### UFCW Women's Network Membership Application 2012

Name: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Email Address:

Street Address:

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code:

UFCW Local No.: Occupation:

Work Location:

Home Phone: Work Phone:

Active membership, open to all UFCW members in good standing, includes voting rights in Network activities. Associate membership, open to those who aren't active members but support the goals and purpose of the Network, is open to all other supporters, including former members, retirees, and members of other unions. Women's Network membership dues are payable annually. Dues paid in October, November and December will be credited for the next year.

#### Active Member

☐ Regular member - \$25 for one year

☐ Regular member - \$70 for three years\*

☐ Contributing member - \$50 for one year

☐ Sustaining member - \$100 for one year

☐ Retired member - \$10 for one year

☐ Lifetime member - \$350 one-time payment

#### Associate Member

☐ Associate Member - \$25 for one year

☐ Associate member - \$70 for three years\*

\*Members wishing to pay for three years may do so at reduced rates



**Please attach your check made out to *UFCW Women's Network* to this form and return to:**

UFCW Women's Network  
Attn: Rhonda Nelson  
425 Merrick Avenue  
Westbury, New York 11590

**THANK YOU!**



# UFCW Women's Network Call to the Tenth Biennial Convention

## Accommodations

The UFCW Women's Network's Tenth Biennial Convention will be held on May 3-6, 2012, at the **Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resorts**, Lake Buena Vista, FL. Hotel reservations must be made by calling the hotel's reservation line at 407-934-3372, or by faxing your reservations to 407-934-3305. Their office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST, on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and again from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST.

The hotel has offered Convention attendees a group rate of \$169, plus 12½% tax per night, and the resort fee has been waived. The rate includes a ticket for the luncheon on Friday, May 4, 2012. To take advantage of this rate, please contact the hotel reservation line and ask for the group rate for: UFCW Women's Network Convention. This rate will be offered for attendees booking **on or before Monday, April 2, 2012.**

## Registration

The registration fee for the 2012 UFCW Women's Network Convention is \$100 (U.S. or Canadian funds). **Pre-registration is required.** Payment must be in the form of check, money order or credit card (PayPal™). You may visit our website at <http://ufcwomensnetworkconvention2012.eventbrite.com/> to register and pay online. You may also use this link to register online and pay by check or money order. Details and instructions can be found at the website above. If you are registering by mail, please forward your registration fee with the form below.

On-site registration check-in will begin on Thursday, May 3, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and continue on Friday, May 4, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Cape Cod Registration, in the Convention Center. Please visit the Registration Counter upon your arrival to pick up your Convention materials and confirm your attendance. The 2012 Women's Network Convention will convene at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012.

## Constitutional Proposals and Resolutions

Proposed constitutional changes or resolutions should be sent via email, regular mail or facsimile by **March 1, 2012**, to Rhonda Nelson, International Chair, c/o UFCW Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590 or [rhondan@ufcw1500.org](mailto:rhondan@ufcw1500.org). Faxes may be sent to Rhonda Nelson at 516-214-1313, or toll-free to 866-873-8934.

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## 2012 UFCW Women's Network Convention Registration Form

Please complete this form and return with a check or money order for \$100 (U.S. or Canadian funds) made payable to UFCW Women's Network to Rhonda Nelson, c/o Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Local No: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Member ☐ Staff ☐ Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise us if you have any special needs that require accommodation (i.e. wheelchair access, hearing or visual impairments, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_