



WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWS, 2011 IEB MEETING EDITION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN by Rhonda Nelson, International Chair, Women's Network

This last year was a full and busy one for the Women's Network. We had many accomplishments, and faced many challenges in 2010.

Last year the Network re-committed itself to better communication. The Network E-News made its online debut on October 7, we now have a Facebook fan page, and the

Women's page of the UFCW Canada website has been updated to provide more readily accessible information. There are many ways to keep up to date on Network activities and actions.

The Network was active in all UFCW regions and councils. We provided training and addressed issues im-

portant to our union and to women. We are also pleased that UFCW Region 6 held its first regional Women's Network conference, spurring on rank-and-file women to be activists.

Women's Network members got involved last year in many issues that make a difference

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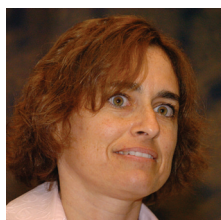
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to working women. Members got active in the November elections, participating in voter registration and GOTV activities nationwide. On April 15th – tax day in the U.S.—the Network rallied in front of post offices, schools, and state capitols to notify the public and our political leaders that Walmart uses tax avoidance schemes instead of paying their fair share of taxes. And on October 17 over 10,000 people came out in force to Rimouski, QC, to participate in the Third World March of Women, with UFCW Canada members among them participating in this strong statement for women's rights and social and economic justice.

Network members have also been helping to eradicate violence against women and children—both in the workplace and at home—through means like adoption of women's shelters and offering self-defense courses. And both in the United States and Canada, the Network has participated

in conferences, marches, and created workshops to encourage women to become more confident and active in their lives and in their union. Members have raised money for, among other things, leukemia and breast cancer treatment and research, as well as food banks nationwide and in Canada.

In sadder news, we lost two remarkable women, Regina Hicks and Huguette Plamondon, who dedicated their lives to breaking down barriers for women in the United States and Canada, and who fought to improve the quality of life for working families. We will honor them through our continuing work on behalf of all working women and families.

The year 2011 looks promising and hopeful, and with your support the Women's Network will continue to be a positive resource within the UFCW as we strive to continue to provide a better quality of life for working families. **WN**



Women's Network members gather for a Tax Day Event on April 15.