

ShopRite Workers Join Local 27

ShopRite workers in Baltimore asserted their right to a union voice on the job last week by signing cards authorizing UFCW Local 27 to collectively bargain on their behalf. The new unit will include roughly 300 new members. Negotiations are set to begin around Thanksgiving with the goal of establishing a contract by some time in December.

The victory comes on the heels of another majority sign up of 60 casino workers at Penn National Gaming in Perryville, Maryland last month. "We have a lot going on right now," said Local 27 president George Murphy, Jr. "And we hope this is the beginning of much more to come."

Region 1 Hosts Spanish Language Activist Training for Members



The first Spanish Speakers Training for active union members was hosted by Region 1 on October 29, 2010. Members from Locals 791 & 1445 in Massachusetts participated in the training that sought to energize and educate rank and file UFCW members on the importance of organizing and why we need to grow to remain a strong, positive force in our core industries and achieve better contracts and working conditions for all members.

"They are the best organizers because they know the communities. They know the people and what's going on and are able to bring all those experiences into organizing," said Heysoll Rodriguez, who helped organize the training.



The training was open to any active UFCW members with a goal of getting more members active and engaged in organizing. Attendees learned the basics about the organizing process, the National Labor Relations Board, and participated in role play activities. **OP**

Canadian Seasonal Workers Reach Groundbreaking Agreement

UFCW Local 1518 members and seasonal workers at Sidhu and Sons Nursery in Mission, Canada have reached a precedent-setting agreement with their employer after almost three years of bargaining. The new contract includes a grievance procedure, seniority rights, paid breaks, increased vacation pay, and a wage increase among other rights and benefits.

"Because of UFCW Canada's perseverance in the fight for justice and dignity for migrant agricultural workers, we have successfully achieved the first contract specifically for migrant farm workers," said Ivan Limpright, President of UFCW Canada 1518.

Many of the workers are from Mexico and Jamaica, typically spending five to eight months in Canada before returning home. The workers at Sidhu and Sons come to Canada each season under the federal Seasonal Agricultural



Workers Program (SAWP). Because they are not Canadian citizens, it has been difficult for many seasonal workers to achieve collective bargaining agreements under provincial labor codes.

The farm workers were certified as a bargaining unit in March of this year, after a hearing determined the workers had a constitutional right to unionize and bargain a collective agreement and roughly a year after voting for union representation. The agreement covers about 40 workers at the nursery, which produces more than 600 acres of evergreens, conifers, shrubs, trees and perennials, and blueberry plants.

“I want to congratulate the members at Sidhu & Sons,” said Limpricht, “and we are really pleased this agreement has been reached. This is another good step forward, and another positive signal to other farm workers, domestic and migrant alike, that joining UFCW Canada makes sense.”

“This is a great victory for the Sidhu workers who exercised their Charter rights to join a union and bargain collectively,” said UFCW Canada National President Wayne Hanley. “And the Charter is not stopped by provincial borders,” said Hanley, “so it is shameful that Ontario and Alberta continue to trample the human rights of agricultural workers there by blocking their access to unionize.” **OP**

Submission Deadline Approaching for LabourStart Photo of the Year

December 1, 2010 is the deadline for the annual LabourStart photo of the year contest. LabourStart is an online news service maintained by a global network of volunteers which aims to serve the international trade union movement by collecting and disseminating information -- and by assisting unions in campaigning and in other ways.

LabourStart will work to place the winning photos with labor publications (online and paper) worldwide and winners will receive free subscriptions to Flickr Pro.

Join, share your photos and enjoy everyone else's online at www.flickr.com/groups/union/.

For more information, visit www.labourstart.org or contact Canada@labourstart.org with any questions, including help in setting up a Flickr account or in uploading and entering photos. **OP**

Local 5 and Local 101 Merger Approved



On November 4, the memberships of Local 5 and 101 overwhelmingly voted to join forces and merge together, creating one of the largest unions in the UFCW. The merger will become effective January 1, 2011. **OP**