



## Local 21 Members Reach Tentative Agreement with Puget Sound Area Supermarkets

Those affected by the tentative agreement include UFCW 21 grocery and meat workers in King, Snohomish, Kitsap, and North Mason Counties, at Safeway, Albertsons, QFC, and Fred Meyer (including CCK and



General Merchandise), as well as workers at stores with an interim (or “me too”) agreement, such as Metropolitan Market, Top Foods/Haggen, Town & Country, and other independent stores. **OP**

## UFCW Convenes Strategy Meeting on Right-to-Work-for-Less Threat

After the recent electoral losses suffered by pro-worker governors and state legislators, many UFCW locals and members all across the country will be facing a flurry of anti-worker legislative and ballot initiative fights. With Right-to-Work measures being threatened in many states, many UFCW locals and members could be directly and negatively impacted by proposed Right-to-Work laws.

The threat of Right-to-Work for Less and/or Paycheck Deception efforts by anti-worker organizations has never been more real and the stakes have never been so high.



It is imperative that we take immediate action to defeat these anti-worker initiatives. To kick-start our efforts, a meeting has been called in Chicago on December 14, 2010 of UFCW leadership in Midwestern states.

Workers are under attack and we have to get the word out.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Special Assistant to the President Steve Powell in the Legislative and Political Action Department at (202) 223-3111. **OP**

## Local 23 Member Found Not Guilty of Talking to Coworkers

Debbie Wieloch, a Local 23 member who has been a Giant Eagle employee for 36 years, was cleared of all charges last week. Wieloch was arrested in September for talking to her coworkers while they were on break at the Waterfront Giant Eagle, about trying to bring workers from the non-union stores owned by Giant Eagle into UFCW, so they could enjoy the same opportunities and benefits as their union brothers and sisters. The manager called the police on her and had her arrested for trespassing and put in jail.

“I feel vindicated,” Debbie Wieloch said after being cleared of all charges Tuesday. “It tells me Giant Eagle knew they were wrong and did that to silence me, and they had no right to do that.”



District Judge Thomas Torkowsky found Wieloch not guilty at her preliminary hearing on Tuesday morning.

Before the hearing started, Wieloch said, "I do believe that I have the right to discuss union matters with union employees on my own time, as long as I am not pulling them off of their job. I was very careful not to do that. Everyone I spoke to was on a break or lunch."

Wieloch reached out to her fellow workers in the Waterfront store's cafe area -- a public area -- and not in the store aisles.



United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23 filed charges of unfair labor practices with the National Labor Relations Board after the incident at the Waterfront Giant Eagle.

"I have a right to discuss our contract. I'm very knowledgeable about it. I helped write it. So I have every right to go to the stores and talk to people about it, and Giant Eagle walked all over my rights," Wieloch said after her arrest in September. **OP**

## UNI Walmart Workers Alliance Launches Website

With the ever-growing power of multinational companies and the free flow of capital across national borders, it is no longer enough to focus solely on organizing efforts within national boundaries. Large companies require an international response from the labor movement, and none more so than Walmart.



It is for this reason that UFCW led the charge to unite workers from five countries - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Canada and the USA - where the unions representing retail workers in these countries came together

to form the Walmart Workers Alliance under the banner of UNI Americas. UNI Americas is a region encompassing North and South America, which sits within UNI Global Union, which in turn represents 20 million workers in over 140 countries.

No one personifies globalization better than Walmart. With sales in fiscal year 2010 of \$405 billion, Walmart has almost 8,500 retail units in 15 countries and employs more than 2.1 million workers worldwide.

The purpose for the Alliance is simple: Workers share experiences and interests when they work for the same company, whether that worker is in Syracuse, New York or Santiago, Chile. Therefore, the UNI Americas Walmart Workers Alliance will exchange information and create a forum, so workers from these five countries can communicate easily with each other and be up-to-date on what's happening within the company in each country. The Alliance will develop a common agenda and strategy to better coordinate and advance the interests of Walmart workers in North and South America.

As part of this mission, the Alliance launched a new website this week, [www.WalmartWorkersAlliance.com](http://www.WalmartWorkersAlliance.com). The website highlights Walmart's treatment of workers in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and the United States.

The UFCW is actively supporting Walmart associates in the United States and abroad in their fight for respect and a voice on the job. The Walmart Workers Alliance is one of the many components to UFCW's efforts to engage and mobilize Walmart workers. **OP**