

Southern California Bargaining Update – Pension Progress Made; Health Care and Wages Remain a Major Hurdle



Southern California UFCW members march in solidarity for good jobs in their communities earlier this year.

UFCW Locals 8GS, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442 announced this week that the bargaining committee had resolved pension funding issues during negotiations with Safeway, Kroger and Supervalu. The local unions and the companies remain far apart on health care and remain in negotiations. They have not yet discussed wages.

In the meantime, labor and community allies across the region have been out in force to show support for UFCW members with rallies, resolutions to honor picket lines and other public events. To send a message of support and solidarity, visit www.ufcwaction.org/california. **OP**

Target Shows Its True Colors

As workers at Target's Valley Stream, New York store stand together to form a union in their workplace, their multinational corporate employer is showing its true colors.

First, the company posted a public website proudly displaying the anti-union propaganda it distributes to its employees. Then, the mandatory anti-union employee orientation video was leaked on the Internet. Both the website and the video contain factually questionable claims about unions and their role in the workplace – including a claim that unions prevent workers from ever talking to their company or supervi-

sors – something we know isn't true.

As a result of this, thousands of people across the country are realizing what an anti-worker employer Target is, and are joining in support of the Valley Stream workers' organizing drive. UFCW Local 1500 has launched the "Target Change" campaign to create positive change at Target. You can learn more at www.TargetChangeNY.com. **OP**

UFCW Members Stand with Walmart Associates Calling for Respect



UFCW member organizers have been working to help support Walmart associates organize their own association.

Walmart associates from across the country are coming together to form the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart), a new associate-only organization. UFCW member organizers on the Making Change at Walmart campaign have been working hard for months to help associates get this organization started.

No single employer in America has a larger impact on the workforce than Walmart. It has repeatedly lowered the bar for wages and conditions of working people. Because of Walmart's influence, UFCW members' destinies--and the destinies of all working people--are intertwined with associates who are standing up for change. Members in every state are enthusiastically supporting these associates who are working to raise standards and improve conditions at Walmart.

Do you stand with Walmart associates? Sign a petition to show your support at www.makingchangeatwalmart.org. **OP**

President Hansen Speaks at Council on Jobs and Competitiveness Meeting

Yesterday, President Hansen delivered remarks at a meeting of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness in Durham, N.C. President Hansen spoke about the importance of addressing barriers to United States' meat exports to Asian countries, as well about the need to rebalance our economy.

The following is an excerpt from his remarks:

"Virtually all economists agree that the U.S. economy needs to be rebalanced:

- We need more national saving, investment, and new business formation; and
- We need less debt-fueled consumption.

"The continuance of defined benefit pension plans needs to be part of that rebalancing. In 2007, public and private defined benefit pension plans had nearly \$9 trillion in assets and, in the aggregate, these plans were almost fully funded. The downturn in financial markets reduced many of the plans' funding. There is a consensus among labor and employers that there is a need for relief – not to change the requirement to fully fund pensions, but to extend the time frame for achieving such funding.

"Defined benefit plans have made significant investments in infrastructure in support of job generation in the U.S. We cannot afford to lose this source of funds which help create jobs. A well-thought out program of federal government guarantees and other financial incentives directed at pension investors could encourage such plans to invest even greater allocations to rebuilding America's infrastructure. We hope that the Administration and Congress can work to achieve these goals."

To read a full transcript of President Hansen's remarks, visit the UFCW online press room at http://www.ufcw.org/press_room/.
OP

The UFCW and Smithfield Join TODAY's "Lend a Hand" Campaign, Benefitting Charities in Five Cities



The UFCW and Smithfield team prepare for their donation with Al Roker.

This week, the UFCW and Smithfield are joining TODAY's 10th annual "Lend a Hand" campaign with Al Roker, to deliver 720,000 servings of protein to local charitable agencies in Anchorage, Alaska; Las Vegas, Nev.; Houston, Tex.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Charleston, W. Va.

For over three years, the UFCW and Smithfield have partnered to donate and help deliver 20 million servings of protein to food banks around the country as part of our "Feeding the Hungry" program. The partnership brings much needed assistance to the growing number of people facing hunger and food insecurity in our communities.

"Last year we fed over 6 million people and as we take our nationwide Feeding the Hungry Tour on the road for the second year, the UFCW is committed to ensuring that families across the country have the relief and the opportunities they need to weather the current economic crises," said Joe Hansen, UFCW International President. "All across the country, UFCW members are on the frontlines of efforts to improve and strengthen their communities, and this partnership reflects their unwavering commitment to protect and advocate for families during tough times."