

## Pleasanton Macy's Workers Stand Together in Local 5



Workers at the Pleasanton, Calif. Macy's Furniture voted "Union Yes" in a National Labor Relations Board election held July 9.

These new UFCW members join more than 12,000 Macy's workers across the country who have stood together in America's union for retail workers.

"This election could not have been won without the outstanding efforts put forth by everyone on the shop floor," said Local 5 Organizing Director Jim Grogan. "Each and every one of these workers stuck their necks out. Now we will meet with the company to make sure that their contributions are validated."

The victory by these Macy's workers follows hot on the heels of the Macy's Furniture workers in Elmhurst, Queens who voted to join the RWDSU of the UFCW the last weekend in June, and a major contract victory for all of the more than 4,000 New York City Macy's workers.

"Macy's employees in Pleasanton follow in a long distinguished line of UFCW-represented members in the department store sector," said Local 5 President Ron Lind. "The last general strike that took place in the country was in Oakland in 1946 and was started by Kahn's department store workers. They were fighting for fairness, our new Macy's members follow in their footsteps." **OP**

## Virginia Premium Pet Health Workers Form Union with RWDSU, Ratify First Contract

Around 80 workers at the new Premium Pet Health facility in Virginia have chosen union representation with the RWDSU of the UFCW's Mid-South Council. The workers were able to freely choose a union because their employer let them demonstrate their interest in a union by signing cards.

Shortly after the cards were signed, the new RWDSU/UFCW members ratified a new five-year contract. It includes \$2.50 in raises over the life of the agreement, affordable health insurance, paid holidays and vacation and union protection for every worker.



Premium Pet Health is wholly owned by John Morrell & Co., which is, in turn, a wholly owned subsidiary of Smithfield Foods. **OP**

## Abbott House Workers Vote for a Union Voice with Local 888



*Abbott House workers celebrate their new union voice with Local 888.*

Around 200 workers at Abbott House Group Homes in New York have chosen a real voice at work with Local 888. In a National Labor Relations Board election held July 14, the workers voted overwhelmingly to stand together

and form a union.

Abbott House worker Rojan Andrews spoke of his desire to keep organizing in his industry. "We're not done until we have all of the developmentally disabled houses," said Andrews.

They join more than 500 group home workers with seven different employers who are already members of Local 888.

The Abbott House workers provide direct care to physically and intellectually disabled at 18 locations across Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties and in the Bronx. Workers hadn't received raises in four years, no longer received bonuses, and were unable to use the vacation they had earned.

These issues, along with a real union voice at work, will be key as they begin contract negotiations. **OP**

## Local 1149 Members Ratify New Contract with JBS



*Local 1149 Member Cynthia Porter*

Around 2,000 workers who are members of Local 1149 at the JBS pork processing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, overwhelmingly ratified a new four-year contract with their employer July 7.

The new contract includes \$1.50 in pay raises over the four years, holds the line on health care costs and benefits

and improves vacation and upgrade language.

We stood together,” said Cynthia Porter, who has worked at JBS defatting pork loins for three years, “and because of our unity we have a contract that we can be proud of, that lets us take care of our families. **OP**

## Local 401 Members Back New Contract with XL Beef

More than 2,300 workers at the XL Beef plant in Brooks, Alta. voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract with their employer on July 12.



The new contract lasts until December 2013 and includes substantial wage improvements, back pay and better benefits. Workers also gain new health and safety protections, better food safety provisions and more protection for temporary foreign workers.

“Union contracts are never good enough for our hardworking members, but this contract goes a long way towards improving the paycheques and day-to-day working lives of XL Lakeside employees in Brooks,” said Local 401 President Doug O’Halloran.

The workers had an extended contract fight since their previous contract expired in 2009. The current deal was only arrived at with the help of a provincial labor mediator. The XL Beef plant is one of the largest in the industry in Western Canada. **OP**

## UFCW Speaks Out for Revised NLRB Election Rules



*Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing Pat O’Neill speaks in favor of new NLRB election rules at a hearing in Washington, D.C.*

Recently, the National Labor Relations Board proposed new rules that would modernize the antiquated union election process. The rules reduce the amount of time between filing for an election and when the election is held, and improve the efficiency of the labor elections process.

UFCW Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing Pat O’Neill spoke on behalf of the new rule in a hearing held in Washington, D.C. today. Here is a brief excerpt of his remarks:

“American workers are struggling to make ends meet during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Workers in the grocery, retail, meatpacking and food processing industries are no exception. Union contracts offer the best opportunity for stable, middle class jobs. While the National Labor Relations Act gives workers the fundamental right to join a union and achieve the benefits of collective bargaining, the NLRB’s current rules are seriously outdated, needlessly complex, and foster frivolous litigation. The current process creates barriers to workers exercising their fundamental right to form a union. It’s time to return the process to its original intent – which is to give workers a clear path to making the choice when they want collective bargaining.

“We view the proposed election rule changes as a modest but important first step toward modernizing and streamlining an outmoded process that encourages unnecessary, time-consuming and wasteful litigation.

“Workers go to work to earn a living, not to get engaged in a protracted lawyer-driven tug of war with their employer. When workers want to organize a union, they want to do it immediately.” **OP**