

Poultry Workers Stand for a Voice at Work with Local 1529

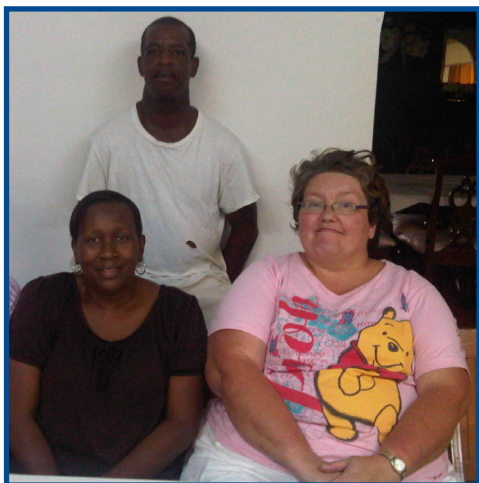


Workers at Water Valley Poultry stood together for a real voice on the job.

On August 19, almost 150 workers at Water Valley Poultry in Water Valley, Miss. voted overwhelmingly for a real voice at work with Local 1529. The workers at the plant kill and process chicken for export and for domestic non-human consumption.

The workers in the plant had been organized as part of Local 1529 when the plant was known as Valley Fresh Poultry. After the plant closed and changed owners, they lost their voice on the job.

“We didn’t have a real voice. Everything we said to management went in one ear and out the other,” said Sherrie Willis, a member of the organizing committee who works as a trimmer in the plant. “So we stood together and decided we needed a change, and we formed a union.”



Many of the workers, like Willis, worked for both owners and saw first-hand the difference the union made for them and their families. That knowledge helped them withstand a strong anti-worker campaign by their employer. **OP**

Workers at Two Bob’s Discount Furniture Stores Say Union Yes With Local 919

Around 50 workers at at Bob’s Discount Furniture stores in Manchester and Orange, Conn., voted August 15 to form a union with Local 919.

Both stores are corporate-owned outlets of Bob’s Discount Furniture, and are the first to go union in the 40-store chain, which stretches across New England and the Mid-Atlantic.

Tim West, a 12-year veteran of the Manchester store, knew it was time for a change at his job:

“It was either quit my job or change my job,” said West, “so we got together and decided to make a change at our jobs.”

The workers stuck together through a campaign in which the company held captive audience meetings and brought in the services of a massive national anti-worker law firm.

Local 919 has already scheduled the next election for Bob’s Discount workers in Stamford, Conn., and is working with locals across the Northeast as they explore organizing Bob’s Discount stores in their jurisdictions.

Bob’s Discount Furniture was formerly a privately-held company, but is now controlled by the London-based private equity firm Apax Partners. Apax also has substantial interests in a variety of American retail outlets, including DKNY, Van Heusen and Tommy Hilfiger. **OP**

Donald Cash Named Vice-Chairman of Southern Christian Leadership Council

Donald L. Cash, President of the UFCW Minority Coalition, has been named Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). The SCLC has long been one of the nation’s leading civil rights

organizations since its founding in 1957 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, among others.

Cash's history of fighting for civil rights is extensive, and he has received nationwide recognition for his work. Before becoming President of the Minority Coalition, Cash was Executive Assistant to the President of Local 400. He currently serves on the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and was awarded the NAACP's prestigious "Keeper of the Flame" award in 2001.



Donald L. Cash

Cash also serves on the Executive Council for the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and founded Faces of Our Children, an organization that works to raise awareness, support and funding for the fight against sickle cell disease. Cash has worked tirelessly with UFCW members and locals across the country to support Faces of Our Children and unite the UFCW family in the fight against sickle cell.

The new position with the SCLC will enable Cash to continue his more than 43 years of leadership on civil and human rights issues both in and out of the UFCW. **OP**

Michigan UFCW Members Gear Up to Fight Anti-Worker Bills

Across the country, UFCW members have seen the rights of workers and the living standards of working families come under attack. In states from New Hampshire to Missouri, radical politicians have taken the partisan attacks to a new level and are undermining America's working families.

UFCW members in Michigan are standing up and fighting back against this dangerous trend. They're joining a broad and effective labor coalition that includes members of Change to Win, the AFL-CIO and the NEA. Together, we're leaders in a

comprehensive campaign to stop these attacks on workers.

The anti-worker politicians in the statehouse have chosen a right-to-work law as their next attack on the working class, but labor groups are ready to take on this critical fight.

As the next session gets ready to begin, members from UFCW locals 876, 951 and the RWDSU are joining together to do their part in this important fight. This past week, members from these locals went through intensive training in Flint, Battle Creek, Detroit and Grand Rapids, Mich. As part of the training, they learned how to talk about right-to-work with their coworkers and families and how to lobby their local elected officials.

This week, they've begun efforts across the state to force legislators to listen to the voice of Michigan's workers and stop these destructive and divisive anti-worker attacks.

You can join these UFCW Michigan members in the fight to defend workers' rights nationwide, by helping the Active Ballot Club (ABC) lead the charge to elect pro-worker candidates.



Members of the UFCW in Michigan are standing up for worker rights, are you?

Push back against corporate greed and anti-worker legislation, and your local union could win big. From now until November 1, 2011, UFCW members are eligible to win one of 24 \$500 American Express gift card and/or a prize for their local union, just by signing up to contribute \$1 a week--or by upgrading their contribution to that level. Go to VoteUFCW.org and click the "Active Ballot Club" button for more information. **OP**