

National Beef Workers Vote YES for a Union Voice on the Job

A majority of the 2,500 workers at National Beef's Dodge City, Kan., beef slaughter and processing facility voted to join UFCW District Local 2 on November 3-4. UFCW District Local 2 also represents workers at a neighboring Cargill beef slaughter and processing plant in Dodge City. This vote will transform the city's meat industry workforce by giving every worker the chance to stick together on the job.

"We know that workers at Cargill have had a contract with Local 2 for many years - and that means they have always had a say in their wages, benefits and working conditions," said Ramon Prieto who works on the kill floor and who took a leading role in organizing his co-workers. "That's why I voted to join the UFCW, so that we all will have a chance to negotiate benefits and salaries, job security, and a better life for our families."



The National Beef workers are the latest in a series of meatpacking workers to join the UFCW at locations across the country. On October 19, approximately 1,000 workers at a JBS beef kill facility in Plainwell, Mich., joined UFCW Local 951. On October 25, 125 workers at a Farmland Foods facility in Carroll, Iowa, joined UFCW Local 440. And in late September, 300 workers at Nebraska Prime in Hastings, Neb., joined UFCW Local 293. **OP**

UFCW Members In Ohio Keep Up the Fight to Defeat Issue 2



It's election day in Ohio, and UFCW members across the state have been working tirelessly over the last few months to make sure Ohioans get to the polls and vote no on Issue 2 - the harmful anti-worker law the Ohio GOP rammed through earlier this year.

Locals 75, 880, 1059, 17A, and RWDSU and ICWUC in Ohio helped gather the 1.3 million signatures that put Issue 2 on the ballot. Since then, each local has been keeping up the pressure in different ways, including member mobilization, mailings, radio ads, and more.

Since October 1, 20 members from UFCW Locals 75 and 1059 have been working full-time with "We Are Ohio" to get out the vote. The locals are also running GOTV phone banks in Columbus and Dayton, and are organizing members to canvass their neighborhoods. Local 1059 also held a telephone town hall on the issue, which was joined by U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, a longtime friend to working families.

With the polls still open, we can't know yet whether Issue 2 will be defeated. UFCW members across Ohio have been standing in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in public sector unions, including a historic partnership with the National Education Association, dedicating countless hours to the fight for workers' rights in Ohio. **OP**

A&P Local Unions Sticking Together Through Final Grocery Bankruptcy Hurdles

UFCW Locals 27, 152, 338*, 342, 371, 400, 464A, 1034*, 1245, 1262, 1360, 1500, 1776 are staying unified as they work with A&P and Yucaipa to help bring the embattled grocery chain out of bankruptcy.

The bankruptcy court will rule on Monday, November 14, on the final reorganization plan, which would put Yucaipa in front as the lead investor and would require changes to the labor agreements covering the nearly 40,000 UFCW members working at A&P stores.

The UFCW and RWDSU District Council local unions are keeping in close contact with their membership and negotiating in a difficult environment to do the best for their members and what's needed to keep the stores open and the company financially viable. **OP**

UFCW and Smithfield Salute Veterans in Washington, D.C.



UFCW International President Joe Hansen joined H.R. Crawford, founder of Access Housing; Neil Jacobs of UFCW Local 400 and Marc McCaffrey, chief operating officer of the Capital Area Food Bank to deliver 120,000 servings of protein to benefit veterans and their families in the Washington, D.C. area.

Just in time for Veterans Day, the UFCW and Smithfield delivered 120,000 servings (30,000 pounds) of protein to the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C., on

November 4 to benefit local veterans and their families. This event was part of the "Feeding the Hungry Tour," a joint program of the UFCW and Smithfield to donate and deliver 20 million servings of protein over three years to food assistance organizations around the country.

The Capital Area Food Bank delivered the protein to homeless veterans and military families through their agencies, including Access Housing, Inc. (D.C.) Southeast Veterans Service Center, Disabled Veterans Affairs and the Fort Belvoir United States Army Installation. The Capital Area Food Bank also used some of the donated protein to feed 300 homeless veterans during The 2011 Veteran Stand Down and Homeless Resource Day on November 5. **OP**

Local 400 Kroger Workers Ratify New Contract

Members of UFCW Local 400 working at Kroger in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky ratified a new three-year collective bargaining agreement that maintains their health care and retirement security and increases their total compensation by an average of \$3.10/hour over the life of the contract.

"Our members took an important step forward by ratifying this agreement," said Local 400 President Tom McNutt. "At a time of economic difficulty, skyrocketing health care costs and pension funding challenges, they were able to maintain and improve their standard of living, health care coverage, retirement benefits and job security. This is a solid agreement that once again proves how vital union representation is to keeping middle class jobs alive in the retail sector of the economy." **OP**

Please note: The next issue of OnPoint will be distributed on Wednesday, November 16.

UFCW Local 5 Occupies Oakland



Last week, UFCW Local 5 provided food for “Occupy Oakland” protesters. Local 5 is one of many UFCW Locals that are supporting the Occupy Wall Street movement to hold Wall Street accountable for our country’s staggering wealth gap and its role in corrupting our political system.

NLRB Finds More Evidence of Intimidation at Target Store in Valley Springs, N.Y.

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has found more evidence indicating that Target intimidated workers at its Valley Stream, N.Y., store in the weeks leading up to a union election last June.

The UFCW lost the June election at the Valley Stream store by 137-85, and filed a number of objections with the NLRB for worker intimidation, including a website that displayed anti-union propaganda and a mandatory anti-union employee orientation video.

“Instead of playing by the rules, Target showed they were willing to do whatever it took to keep their workers from attaining a basic right: respect at work,” said President of UFCW Local 1500 Bruce Both. “Eighty-five courageous workers from Valley Stream should be

commended for withstanding the intimidation and scare tactics Target management suffocated them with every day leading to the June 17 election.”

The new NLRB charges could be enough evidence for an administrative law judge to recommend the election results be overturned which could lead to a new election. **OP**

UFCW/IUF Global Meat Conference Convenes in Omaha



Members of UFCW Local 1189 Dave Vasquez, Marlene Mena, Curtis Scarver, Salvador Estrella, Rafael Espinosa attended the conference.

On November 1-2, the UFCW and the IUF hosted the Global Meat Conference in Omaha, Neb., to address emerging issues in the meatpacking and food processing industries, including corporate consolidation and the rise of China in the pork processing industry.

The conference was the first U.S.-based gathering of this global meat and food union network. The conference drew more than 250 representatives from 20 countries and from many of the world’s largest food companies, including Cargill, Tyson, Hormel, Nestlé and Smithfield.

“It’s important for us, because what transnational companies from the EU, China and Brazil do can also affect us here in the U.S. and we need to understand this,” said Francisco Tostado from UFCW Local 222 who attended the conference. “It’s also important when negotiating contracts and salaries.” **OP**