

Master Food Employees Join Local 338



Master Food workers voted for a voice on the job with UFCW Local 338/RWDSU.

On December 8, workers at Master Food, a supermarket store in Flatbush in Brooklyn, N.Y., joined UFCW Local 338/RWDSU and ratified a new contract that drastically improves wages and benefits. The successful organizing campaign comes in the wake of a lawsuit settlement that will see the Master Food workers receive \$300,000 as a result of stolen wages.

The lawsuit and organizing campaign resulted from a partnership between Local 338 and New York Communities for Change, a community group that is fighting wage theft in New York. While New York Communities for Change was working primarily on the lawsuit, the union was working to organize the workers to provide them with long-term security once the lawsuit was settled.

Now, workers who were once overworked and paid wages reportedly as little as \$3.93 an hour without required overtime pay and with 12 hour days, will receive a minimum of \$7.60 an hour with guaranteed pay raises, vacation, holiday, sick, personal and funeral days. **OP**

Bob's Discount Furniture Workers in North Plainfield, N.J. Vote Union YES with Local 888

Employees at Bob's Discount Furniture continue to organize and win. The workers' latest victory came on December 9, when a majority of workers at Bob's Discount Furniture store in North Plainfield, N.J., voted for a voice on the job with UFCW Local 888. The North Plainfield store is the eighth store to organize in the 40-store chain, joining their co-workers in Manchester, Orange and Stamford, Conn.; Manchester, N.H.; and Freeport, Glendale and Farmingdale, N.Y., who joined UFCW Locals 888, 919 and 1445 earlier this year. **OP**

Members of UFCW Local 431 Ratify New Contract with Tyson Fresh Meats in Waterloo, Iowa



Workers at the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Waterloo, Iowa, ratified a new five-year contract that includes increases in pay and benefits.

On December 8, members of UFCW Local 431 who work at the Tyson Fresh Meats plant in Waterloo, Iowa, ratified a new contract which covers 2,200 workers at that plant. The new five-year contract includes restructured pay grades and initial first-year wage increases ranging from \$.45 per hour to \$2.45 per hour; improved funeral leave of up to 12 hours; a 60 day extension on birthday holidays; improved holiday pay that matches shift hours; and improved night shift dif-



ferential time. The contract also provides new uniforms for the maintenance crew and coveralls for employees working in cold temperatures at the plant.

“This contract is a huge victory for workers at Tyson Fresh Meats,” said UFCW Local 431 President Jerry Messer. “This contract gives workers a chance to share in the success of a company they helped make profitable. By sticking together as a union, these workers have a voice on the job and the dignity and respect they deserve.”

The UFCW is the largest union at Tyson Foods, with more than 25,000 members covered by 27 collective bargaining agreements. **OP**

Obama Administration Takes Action to Protect Workers from Immigration Raids

The UFCW has long been fighting against immigration raids in the workplace in the middle of a contract fight or organizing campaign when the result was often the intimidation of immigrant workers and undermining of workers’ rights during a labor dispute. We are pleased to announce that the Obama Administration is taking action to address this issue.

On December 7, the U.S. Departments of Labor (DOL) and Homeland Security (DHS) issued a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding ways in which DOL and DHS will work together to ensure that their

respective civil worksite enforcement activities do not conflict. The MOU includes the commitment from DHS to refrain from engaging the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) in worksite immigration raids where there are contract negotiations, organizing campaigns or labor disputes.

The International will work closely with DOL and DHS to assure they have all UFCW contract expiration data in order to assure UFCW members are not subject to raids during those periods. The International will be issuing more guidance shortly for local unions on how to register a labor dispute with DOL and DHS to protect members from raids wherever possible.

For more information about the MOU, visit http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/reports/HispanicLaborForce/DHS-DOL-MOU.pdf. **OP**

UFCW Local 21 and Washington Teamsters Joint Council 28 Challenge Costco Initiative

On December 6, UFCW Local 21 and Washington Teamsters Joint Council 28 filed a lawsuit in King County, Wash., against the Costco Initiative (I-1183) which the electorate passed in November. The public referendum was a campaign that Costco Wholesale led to kick the state out of the liquor business and allow private retailers to sell spirits instead. UFCW Local 21 and Washington Teamsters Joint Council 28 are the two unions that represent nearly 1,000 workers who would lose their jobs if I-1183 were to go into effect, and are claiming that the initiative is in violation of the Washington State Constitution because it addresses more than one subject.

While the vast majority of the public discourse around the initiative leading up to the election was on the question of privatization of the state liquor system, the Costco-written initiative had many other fundamental provisions, which is the crux of the legal challenge. **OP**

UFCW GEAR FOR THE HOLIDAYS

UFCW gear is available for purchase
this holiday season at
<http://www.shopufcw.com/>