

Delmarva Chicken Catchers Choose UFCW for Dignity on Job

About 40 workers who catch chickens to be processed in Tyson facilities, but who work for a Georgia-based contractor called Nipcam, voted to join UFCW Local 27 in an NLRB election last week. The catchers who work in Pocamoke City, VA., on the Eastern Shore and Delmarva Peninsula first contacted the UFCW when their working conditions got so bad, they nearly decided to walk off the job.

Workers said they sought to unite in a union because they lacked any respect on the job and they wanted to be treated with simple human dignity. They were also concerned that working for contractors, instead of for the poultry companies like Tyson or Perdue, was making it harder and harder to make a living.

Chicken catchers have what has been described as the hardest, dirtiest job in the poultry industry catching clawing, squawking chickens by the feet and loading them into cages to be hauled to processing plants. **OP**



Antoine Toppin works for Nipcam catching chickens for Tyson. He worked to organize his co-workers into a union.

Region 4 Kroger Stewards Hold Unity Bargaining Conference to Make Plans for 2012 and Beyond

Nearly 1,000 Kroger stewards from UFCW Region 4 including stewards from UFCW Locals 75, 227, 700, 876, 951 and 1059 met in Dayton, Ohio today for a Kroger Stewards Unity Seminar. Stewards listened to presentations about the issues they'll face in upcoming bargaining, including the state of their pension funds and the state of the retail food industry.

"We are all here for a common purpose," said Roberta Greaver, a Steward from UFCW Local 75. "As Kroger workers, we



Region 4 Kroger Stewards at today's Dayton, Ohio Unity Seminar.

know that wages, pensions and health care will all be at stake the next time we go to the bargaining table. But beyond that, in this part of the country, the very right to stick together in a union is under attack. The only way to fight back is through unity and working together. There's power in numbers."

Nearly 30,000 Kroger members in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio will renegotiate contracts with the company in 2012. In 2013, contracts expire for 12,000 members in Michigan and 13,000 in Ohio. **OP**

Wisconsin Locals Endorse Kathleen Falk in Wisconsin Recall to Unseat Governor Scott Walker

UFCW Locals 1189 and 1473 endorsed Kathleen Falk for Governor of Wisconsin last Thursday. Falk is running to replace Governor Scott Walker in the upcoming recall election.

As Dane County Executive, Falk used the collective bargaining process to achieve both fiscal responsibility and fairness for workers. She saved taxpayers \$11 million by negotiating contracts that included wage and benefit concessions without taking away workers' rights. Falk has led the charge against Walker's war on workers and she is running on a platform of good jobs, successful schools, and affordable health care.

A year ago, following weeks of protests that drew tens of thousands of people to the Wisconsin State Capitol (including hundreds of UFCW members), Governor Walker signed a bill taking away nearly all collective bargaining rights from the vast majority of the state's public employees.



UFCW members joined thousands of protestors at the Wisconsin State Capitol last year when Governor Scott Walker and Republicans in the state house threatened to take away workers' collective bargaining rights.

Wisconsin voters have already recalled two Republican state senators who worked with Walker to deny workers' rights in a recall election last summer. Recall efforts are also targeting Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch and four Republican state senators.

"The end is near for Scott Walker," said UFCW Local 1473 President John Eiden. "He has abused his office in ways that defy comprehension—inflicting pain and hardship on Wisconsin working families to line the pockets of his corporate buddies. He's been both a statewide disaster and a national disgrace." **OP**

Northern California Grocery Workers Ask Customers to Pledge Support for Good Jobs, Health Care

On Wednesday, grocery workers throughout Northern California launched a campaign to inform the public about their ongoing negotiations with their employers Safeway, Save Mart, and Raley's. They're handing out reusable UFCW grocery bags to customers, and asking customers to sign pledge cards to show community support for grocery workers who want to maintain good jobs and quality medical care for their families.

"Since San Jose passed the plastic bag ban we thought it would be a nice gesture to give our customers reusable bags so they're not surprised at the check stand," said retired Save Mart butcher Frank Tallerico. "We are also letting our customers know about our negotiations and asking them to help us continue to provide for our families and keep them healthy."

Negotiations between UFCW Locals 5, 8 and 648 and Safeway, Save Mart and Raley's have been going on since October 2011. About 52,000 grocery store workers, their families and their communities are impacted by these talks.

For information and updates on the Northern California grocery negotiations, or to pledge your support, visit www.supportgroceryworkers.com. **OP**



Northern California grocery workers launch a customer pledge card campaign outside one of their workplaces. Workers gave out reusable grocery bags and asked customers for support as they negotiate a new contract covering more than 50,000 UFCW members.

UFCW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Your union is about more than your paycheck and benefits.

That's why each year the UFCW awards several SCHOLARSHIPS of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents.

The application will be available online from January 16 - April 16, 2012.

For more information, and to find out if you're eligible, please visit:

www.ufcw.org/scholarship