



Rolling across the nation

FDC expands through Midwest states

The Food and Drug Council has added Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio to its rapidly expanding map of affiliated labor organizations.

Approximately 30,000 working men and women in the three states are represented by UFCW Local 75, which joined the FDC in April.

The FDC now has affiliates in 12 states, including a region that stretches from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, as well as states in the Far West, Southwest, Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains.

UFCW Local 75 represents workers in the retail food and meatpacking industries. As one of the largest private-sector unions in the Midwest, it has a critical role in the ongoing fight to defend collective bargaining rights. Ohio and Indiana are frontline battlegrounds in the anti-union legislative assault being waged by



The blue areas indicate states where FDC affiliates are based.

corporate interests across the country.

"This is a time of rebirth in the Labor Movement," UFCW Local 75 President Lennie Wyatt said. "In their attempt to destroy labor unions, certain anti-union legislators have, in fact, done the opposite. They have created a flag

for labor to rally around as they reveal their true union-busting agendas.

"A progressive organization like the FDC makes sense in times like these," he continued. "It provides the strength we need to fight effectively for the rights and welfare of our members."





Food & Drug Council
INCORPORATED

We believe the right to collectively bargain enhances human dignity.

We salute Wisconsin's public employees in their struggle to maintain these rights.



The Food & Drug Council's 45 affiliated national, regional and local organizations represent 375,000 working men and women in the food and drug industries in Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Mississippi, Nevada, Tennessee, Utah and Washington State.



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FDC pledges solidarity with Madison protesters in full-page ad

On Feb. 25, as thousands of pro-union activists poured into Madison, Wisc., to protest Gov. Scott Walker's attempt to strip state employees of their bargaining rights, the Food & Drug Council placed this full-page advertisement on page 11 of the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

The pledge of solidarity was seen by many of the demonstrators, as well as hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin's citizens and their representatives in state government.

This isn't an issue of pay or benefit cuts, it is an issue of blatant union-busting.

Corporate puppets like Gov. Walker want to take away the bargaining rights that give working families a decent living. They want to use unions as a scapegoat for their budget problems.

As union members, we will not, in good conscience, stand by and let workers' rights be trampled.

This is a fight for American Labor, not just state employees in the Midwest.



Above, a handbiller talks to an Alta Dena driver entering a Bristol Farms loading dock.

FDC helps workers win organizing campaign at Alta Dena's City of Industry plant

Southern California dairy industry now 100 percent union

Food and Drug Council President Paul A. Kenny congratulated 360 drivers and warehouse distribution workers at Alta Dena's City of Industry plant following their vote, in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, to approve representation by Los Angeles Teamsters Local 630.

The overwhelming vote culminated a five-year effort by the Food and Drug Council, to organize the workers (see handbills at right).

"Now, for the first time, the major dairies in Southern California are one hundred percent unionized," Kenny said. "This was made possible because of the tremendous support of many allied

unions through the Food and Drug Council.

"We thank the affiliates and many supporters of the Food and Drug Council for their commitment to these workers in the spirit of union solidarity," Kenny continued.

"This is a historic moment for our organization, both regionally and nationally, at a time when unions are under brutal attack across the country."

"The democratic process worked," said FDC Director Ellen Anreder. "The workers at Alta Dena understand that people who belong to a union earn higher wages and get better health and pension benefits than non-union workers. They will live better because they now work union."



FDC activists distributed these handbills outside Bristol Farms stores on every major holiday for more than two years.

FDC helps ILWU win five-year battle to organize workers at Rite Aid center

500 distribution workers ratify their first union contract

Five hundred workers at Rite Aid's distribution center in Lancaster, Calif., celebrated victory by ratifying their first labor contract on May 12.

The three-year agreement, negotiated by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, culminated five years of struggle by the workers to obtain union representation. It provides much-needed improvements in wages, benefits, working conditions and safety, including:

- Health insurance rates that are fair for both individual workers and their families;
- Job security provisions to prevent work from being subcontracted;
- A worker voice in production standards and ability to challenge unfair standards;
- Protection against intense summer heat and winter cold, using innovative indoor-temperature standards;
- A fair and impartial process for resolving disputes; and
- Wage increases in each of the next three years.

Pete Olney, the ILWU's Organizing Director, praised the workers for persevering in the face of intimidation by union-busting firms, coercion by company managers, illegal layoffs and years of bad-faith bargaining intended to draw out the negotiation process.

"These workers showed they had the courage and determination to fight for themselves and their families," he said. "When we approached the FDC for help, they did not hesitate to send their truck and walk our lines.

"The ILWU and the Lancaster Rite Aid employees thank you."



Above and below: Rite Aid Distribution Center workers in Lancaster, Calif., marched in 2006 to protest their company's refusal to acknowledge calls for union representation. Five years later, with the help of the ILWU and FDC, they endorsed their first labor contract with Rite Aid.



Contracts, coalitions and... cannabis?

FDC discusses new industry at Sacramento summer meeting

At its annual Sacramento meeting in June, UFCW Local 5 President Ron Lind and State Division Director Dan Rush described efforts by the union to organize workers in the “budding” industry of medical cannabis, which has the potential of employing thousands of union workers.

Lind said that UFCW Local 5 already has organized more than 300 dispensary workers in the San Francisco Bay Area and expects to have more than 1,000 dues-paying medical marijuana industry members by the end of 2011.

“This industry has so much more to offer Labor than just the store clerks,” Rush said.

“Agriculture, food processing and textile industries have many potential members waiting to be organized. And when prohibition ends — and it will end soon —



there will be hundreds of thousands of workers in California and nationwide who will be willing to unionize for their workplace rights.

“It’s a strategy for which we have ‘high’ hopes.”

Attention Service Providers!

Have your logos and information
displayed at 2012 FDC events.

Contact Food & Drug Council Director Ellen Anreder for information on
2012 FDC luncheon and convention hosting opportunities.

FDCouncil@aol.com. (818) 591-7482



FDC supports grocery workers

Southern California unions and employer



As the Fall issue of *Call to Action* went to press, members of Southern California’s seven UFCW local unions — all affiliates of the Food & Drug Council — were on the verge of the region’s second supermarket strike in eight years.

The FDC supported the workers as negotiators were engaged in an intensive round of bargaining to avert a labor dispute involving Southern California’s three largest grocery companies.

On Aug. 19 and 20, tens of thousands of members of UFCW Locals 8, 135, 324, 770, 1167, 1428 and 1442 voted by more than 90 percent to reject the latest contract offers by Albertsons (owned by SuperValu Inc.), Ralphs (Kroger Inc.) and Vons (Safeway Inc.).

About 62,000 union grocery workers are employed by the three chains.

At meetings across the region, tens of thousands of grocery workers gathered to vote and to express their frustration at the pace of negotiations after eight months of bargaining.

The workers were covered by an extension of their previous contract,

which expired in March. Immediately after the rejection vote, a federal mediator called both sides back to the table for intensified negotiations.

The Food & Drug Council was reborn after decades of inactivity from the ashes of the grocery strike and lockout of 2003-04

The 2003-04 labor dispute lasted 141 days and cost the three companies an estimated \$2 billion in lost sales.

As it was in 2003-04, health care was the main issue of contention between the workers and the companies.

Once again the employers were playing hardball, but this time the FDC was in a better position to support its UFCW affiliates in their fight to get a fair contract.

Two votes of rejection

The polling in August was the workers’ second vote to authorize a strike. In April, soon after the previous contract passed its expiration date and the employers showed no sense of urgency in wrapping up negotiations, the UFCW locals — with the support of the FDC — called a no-contract strike authorization vote to show the employers they meant business.



during entrenched negotiations *settles in 11th hour before work stoppage*

Making the first move

The vote in April also passed overwhelmingly by more than 90 percent. As a result, the grocery company negotiators moved forward with the pension fund maintenance portions of the contract, finalizing them in early June.

In late June, the companies laid their first health care proposal on the table. The union bargaining team was outraged by its complete disregard for the existing and future health care needs of the workers.

The proposal included language that would shift up to \$11,000 in yearly health care costs onto workers who earn, on average, about twice that amount.

The grocery companies made \$5 billion in profits last year and could definitely afford to shoulder an extra 3 percent in costs to preserve current standards of health care for their employees. Vons mailed letters to its employees providing step-by-step instructions on how to collect welfare.

As corporations increasingly try to shift the burden of higher health care costs onto their workers and the taxpayers, their actions sink further below unionized industry standards

and toward standards of big-box stores like Walmart.

At one of many rallies held throughout the summer around Southern California, thousands of UFCW members, backed by faith leaders, fellow union members and the FDC's blue big rig, Double Trouble, brought their message of outrage to the grocery companies' front doors. They marched to the regional corporate offices of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons.

After the second strike vote, union members began construction of picket signs and held picket captain training meetings. The companies began to advertise for temporary workers in the event of a work stoppage.

The FDC is more than a tool to persuade employers that it would be wise to unionize. It is more than a think-tank for union presidents and a big blue truck. Being in the FDC means knowing that you have the support of half a million people working in the same industry.

If grocery workers in Southern California would have been forced to walk off the job to make their voices heard, the FDC would have been there with them, holding the lines in front of



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FDC supports Southern California grocery negotiations

Continued from page 7

grocery stores, in warehouses, on the docks and wherever else was necessary.

72-hour countdown

The Seven Southern California UFCW Locals held picket captain meetings and gathered support from the public and sympathetic organizations throughout the month of August.

Besides the FDC, one of those organizations was the NAACP. During the organization's annual convention in downtown Los Angeles, hundreds of delegates took to the street and marched with union grocery workers in support of a fair UFCW contract.

On Sept. 15, after another month of stagnant negotiations, the UFCW Locals called a 72-hour notice of contract cancellation and began preparations to pull their employees from the stores on strike.

During the three days of the notice, more rallies, handbilling and preparations were made while negotiating teams worked around the clock to find a solution to the gap in health care and wages.

On Monday, Sept. 19, as grocery employees waited for their cell phones to ring and picket signs in their captains' car trunks, the 72-hour strike deadline came and went. Several hours later, the negotiators told employees to go to work as usual because "significant progress was being made" at the bargaining table.

A short while later, the news was released that a tentative agreement had been reached. The new contract was ratified by the members on Sept. 23-24.

Because of the grocery strike and lockout in 2003-04 grocery unions in Southern California are who every other retail union in the nation looks to for leadership.

They had the courage to stand up during one of the most anti-union environments in our nation's recent history and say, "enough is enough — you won't take our union benefits."

The FDC is proud to have stood beside such loyal and powerful union members.



Round two

*FDC
pledges
support
as UFCW
Northern California
negotiations enter
third month*

UFCW unions representing some 62,000 grocery workers in Northern and Central California are engaged in contract negotiations with three of the largest supermarket companies in the region.

Representatives of UFCW Locals 5, 8-Golden State and 648 have been meeting with officials of Raley's, Safeway, Save Mart and affiliated chains for several months.

Negotiators said that this is the most challenging round of talks they've faced in decades. "The economy, health care reform and the creep of non-union competitors are all straining the process," they said.

The workers' previous contract, which expired on Oct. 8, is currently on extension. The Food & Drug Council pledged its support of the Northern California UFCW locals as the contract was extended a second time in mid-November through Dec. 15

FDC supports 'Celebrate the Child' event in Ventura County, Calif.



Families from across Ventura County enjoyed a day of free food, fun and entertainment on Sunday, Oct. 16, courtesy of Oxnard-based Child Development Resources. CDR, in its 31st year administering child-care programs serving low income and high-risk families, is the largest nonprofit social service agency in Ventura County.

With more than 100 local businesses, restaurants and service providers taking part, 2,500 children and their parents enjoyed arts and crafts, food samples, free dental screenings, prize giveaways and entertainment by Ventura and LA County animal/wildlife centers, dance troops and singers.

CDR, along with its generous partner sponsors, including the Food & Drug Council, Sunbelt Enterprises, Streamline Office Solutions, First California Bank and a host of others, provide the fun day at no cost to those attending.

"Seeing the smiles on the faces of the children and their excitement as they enter the event is the best indicator of what we have in store for them. Our hope is to provide these children and their families a terrific time!" explained Don Henniger, Executive Director of CDR, as he stood watching hundreds of families stream through the gates as the event opened.



FDC lauds WinCo's decision to abandon Southern California distribution center

In a victory for supermarket workers represented by affiliates of the Food & Drug Council, WinCo Foods has abandoned its plans to build a 2-million-square-foot distribution center in Beaumont, Calif.

The center would have facilitated further growth of the non-union discount grocer in Southern California.

WinCo Foods operates approximately 30 supermarkets in California.

Idaho-based WinCo purchased the site last year, but con-



struction never took place on the property.

The Food and Drug Council and its affiliates have launched a coordinated effort to combat WinCo Foods' presence as a non-union store.

"Many challenges lie ahead, but this news represents a step in the right direction," said FDC Director Ellen Anreder.

"It's going to take a unified effort to ensure that stores opening in areas with union market share are labor-friendly and treat workers fairly."

Teamsters Local 186 celebrates 75th anniversary with 'Double Trouble'



FDC Supports National Food Day in Oxnard

Acting on its mandate as an educational organization, the Food & Drug Council sponsored a celebration of National Food Day in Oxnard, Calif., on Oct. 24.

The event was organized by the Ventura County Health Department and Feeding America, an organization that encourages healthy diets for all Americans.

The FOOD Share regional food bank distributed fruits and vegetables to citizens of La Colonia, one of the designated “food deserts” in the county, and people who struggle to afford healthy meals were put in touch with CalFresh and the federal Women, Infants and Children program.

Diet specialists were on hand to counsel visitors who struggle with obesity.

Almost a quarter of Ventura County’s population is designated by the United States Department of Agriculture as “food insecure” — unable to afford or locate healthy food for their families — while more than half of the county’s teenagers and adults are considered overweight or obese.

The business of the FDC is creating, delivering and providing healthy food and much-needed pharmaceuticals to the public.

It is, therefore, our responsibility, not just as unionists, but as human beings, to make sure those resources get to where they are most needed at home and abroad.





2012 FDC Events Schedule



Luncheon Meetings

Dates: **March 14, 2012**
 Millennium
 Biltmore Hotel

June 20, 2012
 The Citizen Hotel

Sept. 12, 2012
 Millennium
 Biltmore Hotel

Millennium	The Citizen
Biltmore Hotel	Hotel
506 S. Grand Ave.	926 J St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071	Sacramento, CA 95814

Schedule for All Meetings:
 11:30 a.m. — Check-in
 12:00 p.m. — Luncheon/Meeting

Annual Convention

Dates:
 Dec. 9-12, 2012

Location:
Caesars Palace
 3570 Las Vegas Blvd., South
 Las Vegas, NV 89109

Notes:

- Convention begins with reception on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 9.
- Convention fee details on registration form available at www.FoodandDrugCouncil.org.

Please Count Us In!

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name and Tel. #: _____ () _____

Email: _____ Luncheon Dates: _____

Names/Emails of Attendees for Luncheon:

Total Attendees: _____ x \$65.00 Per Person per Luncheon = _____

Prior to Luncheon, mail completed card with check payable to:
Food & Drug Council, Inc., P.O. Box 8160, Calabasas, CA 91372.

Luncheon registration fees are priced at \$65.00 per person.
 Separate fees apply for Annual Convention (please contact us for Registration Form or download from www.FoodandDrugCouncil.org).

Questions? Call (818) 591-7482



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