



Food & Drug Council reaches from Gulf to Great Lakes

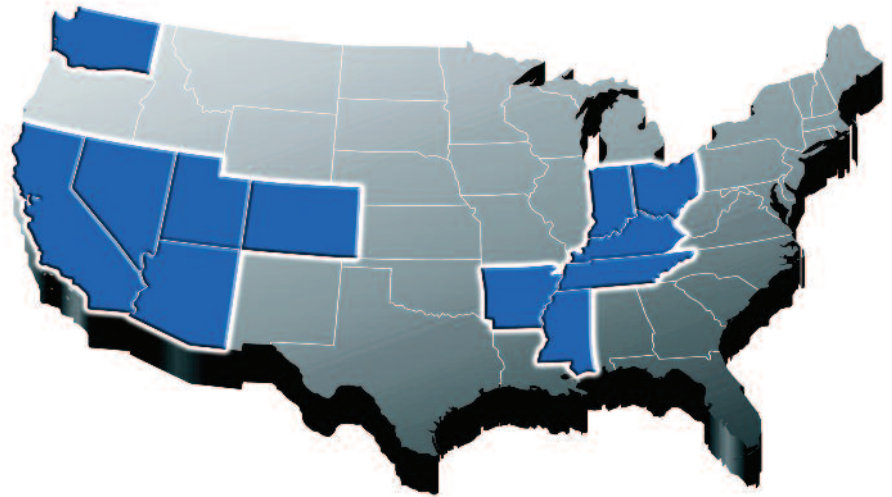
The Food and Drug Council has added Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio to its rapidly expanding map of affiliated labor organizations.

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.

The FDC's 45 affiliates serve more than 400,000 union members.

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 front-line



The blue areas indicate states where FDC affiliates are based.

battlegrounds in the anti-union legislative assault being waged by corporate interests across the country.

"This is a time of rebirth in the Labor Movement," UFCW Local 75 President Lennie Wyatt observed. "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."



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.

"When the ILWU approached the FDC for help in their Lancaster organizing campaign, we were proud to step up and offer our assistance," said FDC President Paul A. Kenny.

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."



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.

