

# DESERT EDGE

## UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

September 2011



Members in Perris cast votes Aug 19.

## Federal mediator calls both sides back to table after workers authorize walkout

UFCW members throughout Southern California voted to authorize a strike by more than 90 percent on Aug. 19 and 20. A federal mediator was able to arrange for both sides to get back to the bargaining table on Aug. 29.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# UFCW members stand proud on Labor Day

**L**abor Day arrives at an especially meaningful moment for the grocery workers of Southern California.

This is a holiday that summons us each year to remember the achievements and sacrifices of those who came before us in the Labor Movement.

Every American who earns a paycheck owes these heroes a debt of gratitude. Without them, we wouldn't have most of the rights and freedoms we are fighting to protect today — things like the minimum wage, child labor laws, workplace safety standards and the right to organize and bargain collectively.

In this season, as our negotiations with the Big Three supermarket companies reach the boiling point, we can't help considering an important question: How do the grocery workers of 2011 measure up to the trailblazing trade unionists of the past?

You gave us the answer on Aug. 19 and 20, when thousands of UFCW members assembled in meeting halls across Southern California to reject the companies' latest contract proposals. More than 90 percent cast their ballots in opposition to management's plans to devastate the health benefits of grocery workers.

At the same time, our members made it clear that, should a strike become necessary to achieve a fair contract, it will have the overwhelming backing of the 62,000 members of this bargaining unit.

Do we have what it takes to unite and do what we must — even walking picket lines, if it comes to that — to protect our health care, wages and working conditions?

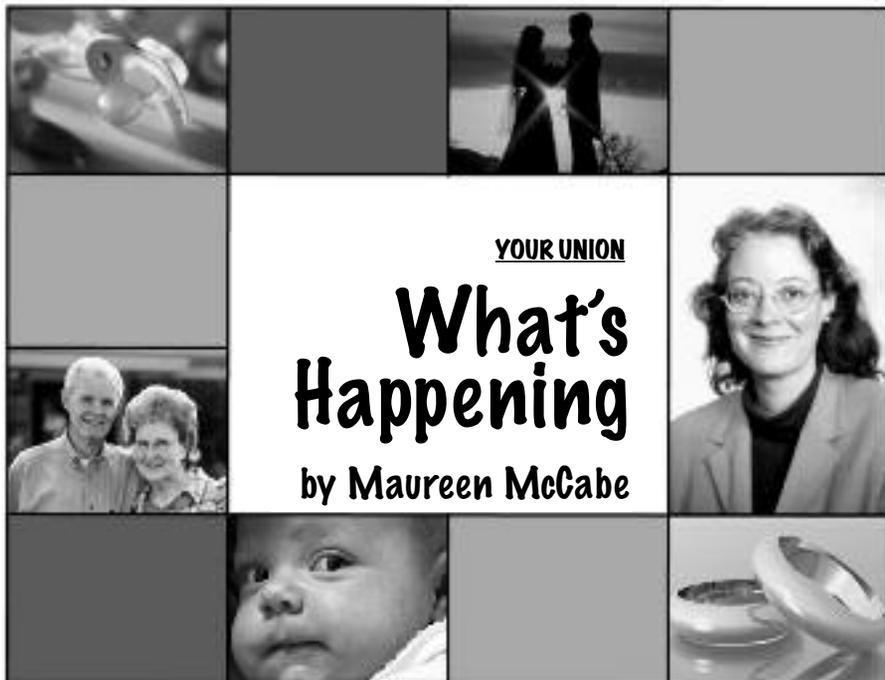
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By Bill Lathrop

## Next Quarterly Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 2011

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium, 855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington



### JUST RETIRED

The month of August brought us two new retirees. **Sheila Chamberlain** retired after 33 years with Stater Bros. **Lula Hollowell** retired after 20 years with Albertsons and Ralphs. In September **Robin Shoffeitt**, aka **Robin Fox**, retired.

**Robin** worked in the industry for 13 years with Stater Bros., Vons, Smiths' Food 4 Less, and Hughes. Congratulations to our new retirees. We wish you many healthy, happy years ahead to enjoy your well-earned retirements.

### JUST MARRIED

**Jill Ritchie**, Stater Bros., married **Robert Isham** on 7/1 in Flagstaff, Ariz. The newlyweds honeymooned with a wonderful road trip to Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and Mt. Rushmore. Congratulations to the happy couple.

### JUST BORN

**Vanessa Bentacu**, Vons, welcomed **Victoria Alexis Gates** into the world on 6/8. Victoria weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. ... **Anthony Cardoza**, Stater Bros., is pleased to announce the birth of **Israel** on 5/10. Israel weighed in at 6 lbs. 11 oz. ... **Ernie Timothy Williams**, Stater Bros., proudly announces the arrival of **Corey Angelica** on 5/23. We're told Corey is "named after his wonderful mother to honor her." ... **Ronnie Robles**, Stater Bros., has a new daughter. **Reese** was born on 6/19 and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. ... **Ryan Brosterhous**, Vons, welcomed **June Lily** on 6/26. June weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. ... **Scott G. Van Scyoc**, Stater Bros., has a new daughter. **April Marie** was born on 6/29 and weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. ... **Adrianna Dexter**, Vons, gave birth to **Nathaniel William**

on 7/3. **Nathaniel** weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. ... **Miriam Martha**, Food 4 Less, proudly announces the arrival of **Ilene Marie De La Guerra** on 7/5. **Ilene** weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz and measured 20 inches long. ... **Melissa Risinger**, Ralphs, gave birth to **Bella Dawn** on 7/7. **Bella** weighed 8 lbs. 14 oz. ... **Ronald Summers**, Food 4 Less, is pleased to announce the birth of **Alan Sebastian** on 7/8. **Alan** weighed 8 lbs. ... **Sherie Cantine**, Stater Bros., has a new daughter. **Isabella Sophia Baca** was born on 7/9 and weighed 6 lbs. ... **Danielle Wideman**, Stater Bros., gave birth to **Braiden Mullins** on 7/11. **Braiden** weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. ... **Enjolique Marshall-Carroll**, Food 4 Less, is pleased to announce the birth of **Khloe Symone** on 7/17. **Khloe** weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. ... **Nicole Conway**, Stater Bros., and **Robert Carson** have a new daughter. **Cora Belle** was born on 7/19 and weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. ... **Drena Gomez**, Stater Bros., gave birth to **Jet Jagger Josh Norio** on 7/24. **Jet** weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. Congratulations to our new moms and dads.

## NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Receive special messages  
and alerts from Local 1167

Text 'VOTE' to 37398  
or call the Hotline at  
(866) 662-0686

# SOLIDARITY!

**Union Offices Closed  
Monday, September 5  
in honor of LABOR DAY**



### DESERT EDGE

**Bill Lathrop**  
Editor

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Blaine Carney**, a retired meat cutter formerly employed by McPhee's Village Market and Market Basket, died Aug. 10, 2011 at the age of 98. He had been a member since August 1932.

**John Falzon**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Albertsons and Lucky Markets, died March 15, 2011 at the age of 61. He had been a continuous member since July 1982.

**Audrey Gallavan**, a retired meat wrapper formerly employed by Safeway, died Aug. 17, 2011 at the age of 90. She had been a member since June 1955.

**Jose Gonzalez**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway and Vons, died Aug. 18, 2011 at the age of 62. He had been a member since May 1969.

**Wanda Gruber**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Sages and UFCW Local 1167, died July 29, 2011 at the age of 76. She had been a member since July 1966.

**Ronald Long**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway and Vons, died Aug. 4, 2011 at the age of 75. He had been a continuous member since September 1960.

*We express our condolences to the families of these deceased members.*

### Your dues are now payable!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: SEPTEMBER DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2011, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your pay check. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you — a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local, as a courtesy, normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

**Avoid suspension.  
Authorize dues checkoff today!**

# Wisconsin voters unseat state senators

**W**isconsin's struggle over a law that takes away collective bargaining rights for public employees continued in August when two Republican state senators were recalled by voters in special elections.

Republicans now hold a diminished 17-16 majority in the state legislature's upper chamber.

The recalled senators, both of whom supported the anti-union law, were replaced by Democrats who oppose the legislation.

Six Republicans and three Democrats were subjected to recall votes in the aftermath of the controversial law's passage in March.

The recall efforts make it more difficult for Gov. Scott Walker to pass his anti-union agenda. It also indicates an uncertain future for him, since he could face his own recall next year.

"Using the budget crisis as an excuse to pass an anti-union agenda isn't going to work for politicians in Wisconsin anymore," President Bill Lathrop

said. "These elections show that voters aren't going to take it.

"The future of the middle class depends on politicians realizing the significance of labor in our country," President Lathrop said. "So it goes beyond what's going on in Wisconsin."

The costly special election registered a voter turnout that was nearly as high as that of 2010, when Walker was voted into office. It is rare for a special election to register such a high turnout.

Friends and foes of labor unions poured record amounts of money into the nine recall efforts.

"When Walker and all those politicians voted against working families, they made it clear whose side they're really on," President Lathrop said.

Recalling Walker won't be easy. In order to get his name on a recall ballot, 500,000 voter signatures must be gathered.

"We can't sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. It's time to get back to work," President Lathrop said.

# WinCo cancels Beaumont Distribution Center

**I**n a victory for supermarket workers represented by affiliates of the Food & Drug Council, WinCo Foods LLC 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 currently operates approximately 30 supermarkets in California.

Idaho-based WinCo purchased the site last year, but construction never took place on the property.

"Many challenges lie ahead, but this news represents a step in the right direction," President Bill Lathrop said.

"Companies like WinCo Foods continue to build stores in California," President Lathrop said. "It's going to take a unified effort to ensure that future stores are labor-friendly and encourage Unions."

## UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

# Don't let our jobs get outsourced

## The benefits of buying American

**'B**uy American!" This might sound like nothing more than a slogan created by American manufacturers to sell products made in the U.S.A., but there are many valid reasons for buying American-made clothing, American-made toys and other U.S.-manufactured goods.

Here are just a few of the benefits of buying American:

**1** As our country's ability to make things continues to fade, future generations of Americans will be unable to find good-paying, productive and relevant jobs. When you buy American, you help keep your friends and neighbors — and even yourself — employed in jobs that pay a living wage.

**2** Too many jobs and investments are sent overseas to countries that are not friendly to the United States or its democratic ideals. When you choose American-made items over foreign-made goods, you help ensure that our country's access to vital products and resources is uninterrupted in times of international conflict.

**3** Many countries around the world don't have adequate regulations that guarantee worker safety standards and environmental protections. No Western nation can compete fairly with a country that is willing to exploit its own workers and pollute its own environment. When you buy only American-made products, you demonstrate that you insist on a higher standard.

**4** Foreign standards for product safety are low. For example, poisonous levels of lead have been found in tens of millions of toys shipped to the United States. When you buy toys and other goods made in the U.S., you can be confident that American consumer protection laws and safety standards are in place to protect your family.

**5** Our nation's huge trade deficit leads to massive, unsustainable borrowing from other countries. Debt isn't good for you and it isn't good for America.

**6** Our country's diminishing ability to manufacture many products is strategically unsound. When you seek out American-made goods, you foster American independence.

**7** Many countries have no minimum-wage protections or their minimum wages are outrageously low. When you choose products made in the U.S.A., you help ensure that an honest day's wages are paid for an honest day's work.

**8** American manufacturers use processes that are much cleaner for the environment than those used in other countries. When you purchase American-made products, you know that you're helping to keep the world a little cleaner for your children.

**9** Jobs that are shipped abroad almost never return to our shores. When you buy goods made in the U.S.A., you help keep the American economy growing.

**10** Foreign labor standards allow unsafe working conditions in many countries. When you buy American, you support not only American manufacturers but also American workers, safe working conditions and child labor laws.

So, as we head to the stores to buy our kids' school supplies and make plans for our shopping for the upcoming holidays, let's remember to Buy American and Buy Union at every opportunity.



By Carmen Paz

## It PAYS to be UNION!

	AUGUST 2011	2011 TOTAL
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$10,162.55	\$95,829.56
Members reinstated	11	152
Grievances settled	51	564
Unemployment benefits restored to members	N/A	\$18,771



# Employers' offer rejected: Strike a



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# UFCW members stand proud

(Continued from front page)

You bet we do!

The stakes are undeniably huge. If they are allowed to stand, the companies' proposals would lay waste to our members' access to medical care for themselves and their families.

Within 18-20 months, the fund that pays for the medical benefits of grocery workers would run out of money. The only alternative at that point would be to cut your benefits drastically and raise your out-of-pocket costs — your premiums, deductibles and co-pays — through the roof.

We mustn't let that happen.

Almost immediately after the vote, a federal mediator called the companies and the unions back to the table for a new round of intensified bargaining to begin Aug. 29.

We have been meeting with management for eight months, trying to reach a fair labor agreement that both sides can accept. So far, the companies haven't even made proposals about wages and many other issues.

Enough with the delays! It's time to bring these negotiations to a positive end.

From the beginning, we have been ready to negotiate around the clock, if necessary.

Management needs to step forward and agree to a comprehensive settlement that our members will accept and ratify.

On Labor Day, as we join our families in commemorating the end of summer with backyard barbecues and picnics in the park, let's pause for a moment and reflect on America's Labor Movement and the united and strong UFCW members of Southern California.

I am so proud of our members' solidarity at this crucial time — and you should be, too!





# Approved by more than 90 percent





# Members at Work: Food 4 Less 397



# March on Bentonville

## Employees deliver document to Walmart's corporate offices

In June, nearly 100 Walmart employees from across the country walked up to the door of the company's headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., to seek respect.

The members of the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart) petitioned Walmart executives to hear their concerns.

Karen Casey, Walmart's senior vice president for global labor relations, met with the associates for more than an hour and pledged on camera that there would be no retaliation against employees working for change.

Walmart, the largest retailer in the world, has set the standard for low wages, benefits and poor working conditions.

"For many of us, this was the first time we had met other associates who experienced similar problems from

stores in other states," one of the OUR Walmart activists said. "When we spoke with each other for the first time, it became clear that we shared common concerns."

Another employee said: "There has never been a larger independent group of Walmart associates who has made a trip like this to Walmart's home office."

"We first gathered to determine exactly what we would stand for as an organization of, by and for associates and we wrote down our thoughts in a Declaration of Respect.

"This is a list of issues that associates share. It includes our vision for respectful treatment in our stores and improvements to our wages, hours, scheduling practices and acceptance of our organization, among other concerns," said the activist.



### News Clippings

#### Mixed ruling on anti-trust violations during grocery strike

A federal appeals court ruled that Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons were not entitled to enter a revenue-sharing pact during the Southern California grocery strike and lockout of 2003-04. The court, however, stated that it did not have enough evidence to punish the companies for violating anti-trust laws.

In a ruling that the *Los Angeles Times* called "unclear," the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco accused the "Big Three" California grocery chains of wrongdoing but, in the language of the court's final finding, "expressed no opinion on the legality of the agreement."

The court also did not specify whether punishment should be assigned for the companies' actions in 2003 or if they may take similar actions in the future.

"The court is saying that the agreement can't be illegal unless there is proof of harm to consumers," a Safeway spokesperson told the press following the ruling. "There was no such proof."

California Deputy Atty. Gen. Jonathan Eisenberg said that the state has not yet decided whether to appeal the ruling.

#### Supreme Court rules class action suit against Walmart cannot proceed

The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow to Walmart workers fighting for equal treatment and fair pay on the job in a decision last month.

In a sharply divided opinion in the *Dukes v. Walmart* case, the Court made it harder for 1.6 million current and former female Walmart workers to join together to challenge widespread unfair pay and discrimination claims against the company in a single lawsuit.

The Court didn't say that the women were not discriminated against. When this case was filed in 2001, female employees earned \$5,200 less per year than men and were disproportionately represented in the lowest paid positions.

### Healthy back-to-school lunch suggestions

Starting kids off right by packing school lunches with nutritious foods that taste good will help them establish healthy eating habits for life. Here are some suggestions:

- Tuna sandwich wrap with light mayonnaise, lettuce and tomatoes
- Egg salad sandwich on whole grain bread
- Peanut, cashew or almond butter with a 100 percent fruit spread on whole grain bread
- Sliced turkey, lean roast beef, or chicken from the deli with light mayonnaise, mustard and a slice of cheese
- Single portion-sized cups of unsweetened applesauce or fruit without added sugar
- Trail mix made with cereals, nuts, pretzels, dried fruit or raisins, and a few chocolate morsels
- Low-fat cheese spread on a whole-wheat cracker
- Individual serving-sized packages of low-fat yogurt, cottage cheese or yogurt smoothies
- Baby carrots, celery sticks or apple slices, with dips made from yogurt or low-fat sour cream
- Whole-grain snack crackers add a nice crunch and lots of healthy fiber



- Crunchy raw green beans with a small container of ranch dressing or French onion dip
- Put vegetable soup in a thermos on cold days

If they eat a school lunch and have a choice of which foods to eat, instruct them to choose the meal that isn't fried or one without the sauce. Also advise them to skip the potato chips and French fries. Fruit juice and milk are always better choices than sugary soft drinks, and a slice of fresh fruit is a healthier alternative to cakes and cookies.

STEWARD FEATURE

# Communication crucial for Mosier

**C**ommunication helps keep the union strong, Marie Mosier says.

That is why Mosier, a steward at Albertsons 6706 in Temecula, arrives early at her shift so she can walk around the store and keep her co-workers up to date on matters that concern their union and their contract.

“We need to support each other,” she said. “We need to be strong if we want our next contract to be as good as the one we have now.”

“The power we have is unknown until we express it,” she added. “We need to let people know how strong we can be during these negotiations.”

After the 2003-04 strike and lockout, Mosier concluded that communication between her steward and other employees at the store could have used improvement.

She felt she could do a better job, so she volunteered to do the

job herself.

Her co-workers noticed the difference immediately.

“I wanted to create a support system within the store,” she said. “We need to have that window open between stewards and other employees.”

Being a steward is about more

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**‘We need to be strong if we want our next contract to be as good as the one we have now.’**

---

than reporting the “bad and ugly” news, Mosier said. She does her best to report good news as well.

Unfortunately, good news isn’t



**Marie Mosier**

always abundant during the current negotiations for a new contract.

“Sometimes, not reporting any news can make people nervous,” Mosier said.

Albertsons hired Mosier as a cashier 11 years ago, but she has worked every department and shift since then. That experience is helpful when she fills in for her co-

workers in other departments so they can get some well-deserved time off.

“There is no reason anybody shouldn’t get a vacation,” she said. “If I’m trained to do a job, I’ll do it.”

Mosier also keeps busy at home, where she has a “full nest” with her daughter, Annette; her son, Steven; her grandson, Jonathen, and her husband, Steven. She enjoys spending time with them at home and taking day trips to Laguna Beach.

They occasionally fish, but they mainly enjoy observing the fishing boats as they return to harbor, watching people stroll on the boardwalk and relaxing as the waves crash along the shore.

When her work week begins, Mosier is ready to do her job, both as a cashier and as a steward building on the strength of her union.



**Members  
at Work  
Albertsons 6706**

