



UFCW Local 770

PO Box 770 Hollywood, CA 90078

www.ufcw770.org



General Membership Meeting

For the Record

The correct date for the next General Membership meeting is:
Tuesday, March 12, 2013
7 p.m. - 4th Floor
Los Angeles Office

There will also be a June meeting on:
Tuesday, June 12, 2013
7 p.m. - 4th Floor
Los Angeles Office

Office Closed

Friday, March 29, for Good Friday
Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Los Angeles

Main Office

630 Shatto Place – 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 487-7070 or (800) UFCW770

Arroyo Grande

127 Bridge Street
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
(805) 481-5661

Bakersfield

For Kaiser Members only
5000 California Ave., Suite 211
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(661) 323-2866

Camarillo

816 Camarillo Springs Road,
Suite H
Camarillo, CA 93012
(805) 383-3300

Harbor City

25949 Belle Porte Avenue
Harbor City, CA 90710
(310) 784-5340

Newhall

23030 Lyons Ave., #205
Newhall, CA 91321
(661) 726-4656

Huntington Park

For Packinghouse Members Only
1:30 to 5 p.m. • Monday - Friday
2701 Gage Ave., Suite 202
Huntington Park, CA 90255
(323) 581-2071



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March 2013

Issue 1

VOICE

O F U F C W L O C A L 7 7 0



Organizing Victory at CVS

Special Meetings to Nominate Delegates to the UFCW 7th Regular Convention

Tuesday, February 26, 2013 - 7 p.m. • See page 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Rick Icaza, President

Here We Go Again: The Food Contract Expires Next Year

Yes, it's true. The current Master Agreement covering Ralphs, Vons and Albertsons members is set to expire on March 6, 2014. That's just a little over a year away and that means it is time for us to gear up for what may be the most difficult contract negotiations we've ever faced.

We will be facing many of the same issues we always face: demands to cut our health care and retirement security in order to increase managements' profits, the fight for living wages and enough hours of work to support our families, and preserving the contract protections that we depend on.

And while we hope that passage of the National Health Care law will ultimately make health care

coverage better and more affordable for everyone, understanding all the new rules surrounding that reform and how it relates to our Trust Fund will make these negotiations even more challenging.

We also face a new owner in these negotiations. The venture capital fund Cerberus (more on them later) purchased Albertsons from SuperValu. That means that we will have a new player on the Employers' side of the table. We have already scheduled meetings to meet with Cerberus, but we do not yet know how this new entity will affect our negotiations.

What we do know is that we can only be successful in negotiations if we prepare early and stand together. We've had two successful negotiations since the lockout of 2003 because of early preparation and the support of our members and the community.

There is no time to waste, and we are starting to do the research and other work necessary to successfully prepare for the 2014 negotiations. We want to hear from you, and will soon be out in the field and in the mail with surveys and questionnaires. And we'll also be preparing the public and consumers for the upcoming negotiations, to ensure this very powerful ally is once again on our side.

Your participation and feedback are crucial to a successful contract negotiation. You will be hearing

much more from us in the coming days and months, but know now that your active participation will make the difference in 2014. Together, we're stronger. Together, we'll win. ■

PRESIDENT RICK ICAZA has been a member of Local 770 since 1956. He has served on the union's staff as a Research Assistant, Organizer, Business Representative and Secretary-Treasurer. He was elected President in 1981.



VOICE

O F U F C W L O C A L 7 7 0

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SECRETARY-TREASURER'S MESSAGE



JOHN GRANT
Secretary Treasurer

“If you don’t know where you are going, you are liable to end up somewhere else.”

So whereto Local 770 over the next year and how have we decided this? Over the past several years, the Executive Board and elected leadership of the Local Union have attempted to hew a path that embraces the two great missions of the labor movement:

1. Fighting for greater and greater democracy; and
2. Striving for a more equitable distribution of wealth—so that democracy can be realized.

And where does our agenda for 2013 take us? Does it take us there, or somewhere else?

Our **organizing** efforts over the next year are ambitious. We have our sights set on securing elections at dozens of CVS locations throughout California, retail food markets in four counties, food processing and packing plants, and medical marijuana dispensaries in Los Angeles.

Each of these drives seeks to extend democracy to workers who have never experienced it in the workplace before, and the objective in each instance is to find a more equitable distribution of wealth by increasing their wages and benefits (and thus the standard of living). This in turn helps us negotiate better wages and working conditions for our current members.

2013 negotiations take us all over California. Packinghouse with Pontrelli and Larricchia, Rogers Poultry, Overhill Foods and rendering plants Baker Commodities and Darling Delaware;

Retail food and drug with Food Maxx, Rite-Aid, the Drug Trust, Super A, El Super, and preparation for the 2014 retail food contract.

This is what *democracy* really looks like—workers having a voice in establishing what their working conditions are like. It will involve, as all negotiations do, a tough fight to get the employers’ *wealth redistributed* to those who actually produce the goods or carry out the services that create their wealth.

To enhance our capabilities of doing these tasks:

- We just signed a lease to open up a new office in Santa Barbara sometime in March or April (our 6th office);
- We will finally secure the purchase of a Vernon office to facilitate our organizing there;
- Union Representative Cheryl Butler will be appointed to the California State Pharmacy Board;
- Union Representative Armando Espinoza is now a

member of Vernon’s “Sustainability, Development & Energy Efficiency Commission;”

- The second annual member soccer tournament, in conjunction with Chivas USA, with new rules so older men don’t get pushed around as much. (I may be able to use my hands and play from an armored car);

- A far-reaching, groundbreaking initiative to develop unionized grocery stores in the segregated communities within our jurisdiction that denies access to good food **and** good retail food jobs (commonly known as the “food deserts”);

- Efforts around changing Wal-Mart and holding them accountable;

- Sponsoring and passing legislation that demands markets be accountable (democracy again!) to the neighborhoods they try to operate in.

There is much to do. But a goal without a plan is just a wish. Now is the time for us to realize our goals and end up in the right place! The only way make our dreams come true will be by increasing the numbers of and ways that the 30,000 + members of the Local fight for greater democracy and equitable distribution of wealth!

(We will make the literacy prize for this month a bit more difficult. The first two rank-and-file members to call in to Kim at **(213) 201-7117** with the correct answer to the following questions will win 4 tickets each to Disneyland. The questions are: **a.** What two essential missions of the labor movement are articulated here; and **b.** who was the author of the quote that prefaced the article? Enjoy and good luck!!) ■



**Director of Organizing
RIGO VALDEZ**

UFCW Local 770 is very proud to announce a historic victory, years in the making. CVS and UFCW have signed a cooperation agreement that would facilitate the organizing of many of their non-union stores in California.

CVS Caremark and United Food & Commercial Workers Union Announce Cooperation Agreement in 500 Stores

This agreement would not have happened without our Local's renewed focus on organizing, and it would certainly not have happened without the activism of our rank and file members.

Local 770 along with the other California Locals stood firm at the negotiations table and fought for this cooperation agreement, as well as many other improvements to the CVS contract, which will benefit our current as well as our future members.

We are excited to welcome our new CVS members. They will

make our union stronger, just like your activism and support of our Organizing Program has made our union stronger. Below is the joint statement issued by UFCW and CVS regarding this agreement. ■

RIGO VALDEZ is 770's organizing director. He has more than 15 years experience organizing workers for UFCW and SEIU, and was instrumental in the historic Justice at Smithfield and Justice for Janitors campaigns.

Jan 17, 2013

WOONSOCKET, RI and WASHINGTON, DC – CVS Caremark and the United Food & Commercial Workers today announced they have signed a cooperation agreement giving CVS/pharmacy employees at approximately 500 stores in the metropolitan Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego areas the opportunity to vote on whether or not they want to be represented by the union.

According to CVS Caremark and the UFCW, this cooperation agreement will help promote the success of the company and demonstrates the shared commitment of both parties to ensuring

that employees have the right to choose whether to be represented by a union without pressure or undue influence.

“This agreement is fair and reasonable for our employees and the company,” said Larry J. Merlo, President and CEO of CVS Caremark. “It enables CVS Caremark to focus all of its energy and resources on our purpose of helping people on their path to better health.”

“We share a commitment to making retail jobs secure, allowing workers to pay their bills, raise a family and live a middle class life,” said Joe Hansen, International President of the UFCW. The five-year agreement also

establishes a quick and simple election process that allows workers to vote on whether or not to join the union.

There are more than 8,300 CVS/pharmacy employees who are currently UFCW members in 11 states and in the District of Columbia. In California, CVS recognized the workers' union in 100 former Sav-On stores following the company's acquisition of those stores in 2006. Under this new cooperative agreement, both parties have agreed to extend the existing collective bargaining agreement for other California CVS/pharmacy employees to incoming union members for the next five years. ■

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS

For Local 770 Delegates and Alternates to the Seventh Regular UFCW International Convention

Tuesday, February 26, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.

Locations

UFCW Local 770
816 Camarillo Springs Road
Camarillo, 93012 (Orchid Room)

Holiday Inn
2100 N. Broadway
Santa Maria, 93435

UFCW Local 770 Main Office
630 S Shatto Place
Los Angeles, 90005
(4th Floor Auditorium)

Courtyard by Marriott
Santa Clarita/Valencia
28523 Westinghouse Place
Valencia, 91355

Rules for Nominations to the UFCW International Convention

Patti Vargo, General Chairperson
630 S. Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90005

pvargo@ufcw770.org
(213) 739-1509 - Fax

The UFCW International Convention will take place August 12 - August 16, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois. Local 770 is entitled to send a delegation of 26 members. Pursuant to Local 770's Bylaws and the International Constitution, the elected President and Secretary-Treasurer are Delegates by virtue of office.

Local 770 will conduct nomination meetings at the time and places set forth in the above notice to determine the remaining 24 Delegates plus 11 Alternates.

Procedures for nomination of Delegates and Alternates will be as follows:

Nominees must be active members of Local 770 and the International Union or have been a member of another organization merged with or chartered by the UFCW continuously since December 2011 and must maintain continuous active membership in the local union until the first day of the Convention.

Any member wishing to nominate a Delegate or Alternate must be

present at the meeting. Nominations will not be accepted by mail or any other method.

The nominee should be present to accept the nomination. If the nominee cannot be present, he or she may submit written acceptance of their nomination. Such written acceptance must be received by the Election Chairperson—in person, by mail, by fax or email—no later than Friday, March 1, 2013. Failure to respond will be treated as a declination. ■



DEL UFCW LOCAL 770

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE

RICARDO F. ICAZA, Presidente

Aquí Vamos de Nuevo: El Contrato de Comestibles Se Expira el Año Próximo

Sí, es cierto. El Contrato Maestro cubriendo a miembros de Ralphs, Vons y Albertsons se vence el 6 de Marzo del 2014. Eso es solamente un poco más de un año y eso significa que es hora de que nos preparemos para lo que pueden ser unas de las más difíciles negociaciones del contrato que hemos enfrentado.

Estaremos enfrentados con muchos de los mismos problemas que siempre hemos enfrentado: las peticiones de reducir nuestros beneficios de salud y seguridad de pensión (con el fin de aumentar los las ganancias de la compañía), la lucha por salarios dignos, suficientes horas de trabajo para mantener a nuestras familias y la preservación de las protecciones del contrato de las que dependemos.

Y mientras esperamos que la aprobación de la Ley Nacional de Salud ultimadamente haga la cobertura de salud mejor y más

accesible para todos, el conocimiento de las nuevas reglas que rodean a esta reforma y cómo se relaciona con nuestro Fondo hará que estas negociaciones sean aún más difíciles.

También nos enfrentaremos con un nuevo propietario en estas negociaciones. Cerberus, un fondo de riesgo capital (más información sobre ellos vendrá más adelante) compró a la compañía Albertsons de SuperValu. Eso significa que vamos a tener un nuevo jugador por parte de las compañías en la mesa de negociaciones. Ya hemos programado juntas con Cerberus, pero no sabemos todavía cómo esta nueva entidad afectará nuestras negociaciones.

Lo que sí sabemos es que sólo podemos ser exitosos en las negociaciones si nos preparamos temprano y nos mantenemos unidos. Hemos tenido dos exitosas negociaciones desde el cierre de tiendas en el 2003, debido a la preparación temprana y el apoyo de nuestros miembros y la comunidad.

No hay tiempo que perder y estamos empezando exploraciones y otras preparaciones necesarias para

exitosamente prepararnos para las negociaciones del 2014. Queremos oír de Usted, próximamente en las tiendas y por correo recibirá encuestas para saber su opinión de los temas más importantes para Usted y su familia. También estaremos preparando a los consumidores y obtendremos la opinión pública sobre nuestras próximas negociaciones, para asegurar que estos aliados poderosos una vez más estén de nuestro lado y nos apoyen.

Su participación es crucial para el éxito de nuestras negociaciones del contrato de comestibles. Usted escuchara mucho más de nosotros en los próximos meses, pero sabemos que su participación hará la diferencia en el 2014. Unidos somos más fuertes. Unidos, vamos a ganar. ■