

UNITY BARGAINING

Grocery Workers United Newsletter for UFCW Local Unions 911, 876, 1099, 227, 700, 1059, & 951



Local 1099 Cincinnati Kroger workers Margo Madik, Susan Wittekind, Dave Keim, Dave Wenzel.

Local 876

Over half of the Local 876 membership was involved in contract negotiations during 2007, as the union negotiated 15 contracts during the year, including six in the grocery industry.

“Not only did we have a very full bargaining schedule over the last year, which included negotiations with our largest employer, Kroger, but we found ourselves negotiating in very tough economic times,” Roger Robinson, Local 876’s president, said. “In Michigan, like many other parts of the county, unemployment is high, employer profits are low, and health insurance costs are out of control. Any one of these factors makes bargaining tough, and we were facing all three.”

Overall, Local 876 members emerged from negotiations with improved agreements that will provide them with security and stability during these turbulent economic times.

“Our key to success in these negotiations was the fact that Local 876 members stood united and strong,” Robinson said. “It can be scary to stand up to an employer, especially when good jobs are hard to come by,

but knowing they had the support of not only their coworkers and fellow Local 876 members, but the backing of UFCW members across the country as well, gave members additional strength and courage. At Local 876 we know how important it is to help one another, and stand ready to lend our support in any way necessary to assist our fellow UFCW members in securing fair and just contracts.” **ub**



Chanti Carter,
UFCW Local 876
Member

Local 911

Even though our negotiations with the Kroger Company are now over, UFCW Local 911 stands in support and solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the nation who are facing bargaining with the Kroger company.

As the Kroger Company continues their drive to try and take away as much as they can get away with from UFCW members, our best defense is to stand in solidarity and declare that an injury to one is an injury to all! Together we bargain—divided we beg! **ub**

Local 1099

After almost thirty meetings, nearly 11,000 Local 1099 Cincinnati Kroger members have a fair contract with no concessions. Members faced the very real possibility of a strike, but stood strong for affordable health care, a secure retirement, and wage increases that matched those throughout the region. After numerous actions, including a rally on Cincinnati’s Fountain Square and a march to Kroger Headquarters with nearly 3,000 people, the company heard our voices and shared the success. This contract is a reflection that when working people fight together, we win. Labor, faith, and community organizations joined together to keep good jobs in our neighborhoods; together, we achieved an agreement accomplishing just that. **ub**

**Future Kroger
Expiration Dates:**
Local 951- 10/25/08
Local 700- 5/24/08
Local 1059- 11/09/08

Local 1059

UFCW Local 1059 and their 9,000 Kroger members were proud to assist Local 1099 in Cincinnati in their contract dispute with The Kroger Company. Kroger continues to make millions of dollars in profit. There is no reason a fair contract settlement without any increases in employee contributions couldn't be reached in Cincinnati. Local 1099's demands were not unreasonable and were in line with contract settlements across the country. However, it took the solidarity of Local 1059 members and Local 1099 members, as well as every other Local Union in the country, to bring Kroger to their sense and settle a fair contract with Local 1099.

Local 1059 President Becky Berroyer has been actively involved in Local 1099 negotiations. In most cases, she has been a participant in their negotiations to better prepare for Local 1059's 2008 negotiations. "Our bargaining units are very similar in their demographics and contract provisions; so when Kroger takes a stand in Cincinnati on economic issues, we can expect more of the same tactics to hit Columbus in 2008," said Berroyer.

The success of Local 1099 to achieve a fair contract is proof that solidarity works, and Local 1059 was proud to be a part of it! **ub**



Local 911 President Jefferson Stephens

Local 876 President Roger Robinson

Local 1099 President Lennie Wyatt

Local 227 President Gary Best

Local 700 President Joe Chorpenny

Local 1059 President Becky Berroyer

Local 951 President Marv Russow

December 2007

Local 227

K-CAT(Kroger Contract Action Teams) meetings were held in Lexington on October 16th and in Louisville, Corbin and Elizabethtown on October 17th. Approximately seventy-five stewards attended the meetings. In addition to retail food bargaining updates, attendees were updated on health care and pension issues. At the June K-CAT meetings stewards voted to authorize the leadership of Local 227 to enter into early discussions on health and welfare with the intent on reaching an agreement on the health and welfare provisions of the contract prior to beginning bargaining on the entire agreement. Health care issues have dominated previous negotiations leaving little time for other important issues. With the health and welfare plan performing well we felt that we had a unique opportunity to have a health care package deal in our pocket giving us a clear understanding of



Local 227 Member Cary Martin

the costs of the health plan for the term of the new agreement. We think that having the health care piece finished will allow ample time to address other important contractual issues. We met with the Company on August 24th, 31st, and September 17th. While we don't have a health care package to bring back to our members yet, discussions are progressing and we hope to have something concrete in the near future. **ub**

Local 700

United we stand at UFCW Local 700 with our brothers and sisters who are engaged in contract battles at Kroger Stores across the country. We are 100 percent in support of our members' efforts and stand united - hand in hand in solidarity!

We stand proud — one union one voice.

In preparation for our bargaining in 2008 with Kroger, Local 700 stewards participated in their Steward Seminar in mid October.

The resounding message from our Steward Seminar and our members is crystal clear — wherever any UFCW member is bargaining a contract in retail food - UFCW Local 700 is there.

**We are not members in a single store.
We are not members in a single local union.**

We are one million workers in thousands of stores — in hundreds of local unions — in every state and province in the United States and Canada.

We are standing proud — we are standing together !

One Union - One Voice !

We are There !! **ub**