



UFCW Local 1428 members in front of the Rio Tinto borax mine.

## Local 1428 brings holiday cheer to Boron miners

**T**he Easter Bunny made a visit to the locked-out union miners in Boron, Calif., courtesy of UFCW Local 1428.

Miners in Boron, Calif., who had been locked out of their jobs for three and a half months returned to work on May 24 after voting to ratify a six-year labor contract.

The agreement, approved on May 15 by 75 percent of the voting members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 30, includes a \$5,000 signing bonus and wage increases of 2.5 percent a year, in addition to seniority protections and other workplace guarantees.

(Continued on page 5)

### Official notice of nominations and election of officers of UFCW Local 1428

Nominations will be conducted on Thursday, July 8, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Local 1428 office, 705 West Arrow Highway, Claremont, Calif. (See further details on page 2.)

(Should an election be necessary, the date, poll locations, election identification cards and other information will be sent to each eligible member by separate mail.)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## UFCW takes crucial role in state politics

**A**nother election year is upon us, and as usual there is much to be gained or lost.

By the time you receive this issue of the Messenger, the primaries will be over and we will be heading into the general election on Nov. 2.

On that day, California's voters will make their final decisions as to who will hold all of the statewide political offices, as well as Barbara Boxer's seat in the United States Senate and many local offices. They will also vote on several important ballot propositions.

As president of the California Labor Federation, the umbrella organization for the state's Labor Movement, it's my job to work with other unions to ensure that as many pro-worker candidates are elected as possible.

The 10 UFCW local unions in California represent a growing political power and will perform a significant role in this crucial effort.

### Early Preparation

Back in December, when we started making plans for the 2010 election cycle, one of our first goals was to increase the number of registered UFCW voters in all of our jurisdictions.

We began by asking all of the locals to send their political coordinators to a meeting and come up with a game plan. Our representative at this meeting was Mark Ramos.

After the plan was developed, it was shared with all of the UFCW union representatives in the state. The goal for each union was to increase its registered voters by 10 percent.

Over a five-week period, all of the locals focused on registering their members to vote.

At local 1428, I'm proud to say that we reached and surpassed our goal by registering 25 percent more members.

Statewide, by the end of the program, we registered 10,606 UFCW members to vote!

That is an incredible number and it just might get us over the top to put Jerry Brown back in the governor's office.

Throughout the summer and right up until election day, Local 1428

(Continued on page 4)



**Connie M. Leyva**

President, UFCW Local 1428  
 UFCW International Vice President

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## Procedures for UFCW Local 1428 Officer Nominations

The nomination procedures, eligibility to run for office, and the procedures for the conduct of the election are all governed by Article XII of Local 1428's Bylaws.

1. The offices for which nominations will be accepted are:

- President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Recorder
- Vice Presidents:

Numbers 1 through 12

2. The nominations shall be opened for the offices of President, Secretary-Treasurer and Recorder at one time, and all of the Vice Presidents' offices will also be opened for nominations at one time. Nominations must be made for a specific office and for Vice President by the specific Vice President number.

3. Any member wishing to nominate a candidate must be present at the nomination meeting. Nominations will not be accepted by mail, proxy or by any other method.

4. The nominees shall also be present at the nomination meeting unless he/she is unable to attend due to illness, official business, employment or conditions beyond his/her control. If a nominee is present at the meeting, he/she shall accept or decline the nomination on the forms provided at the meeting. If a nominee is not present at the meeting for any of the above-set-forth reasons, he/she shall be notified on the day following the meeting of his/her nomination and shall at that time accept or decline the nomination. Failure to respond by the close of business on Friday, July 9, 2010, will be treated as a declination.

5. To be eligible to run for any office, the nominee must be:

(a) an active member in Local 1428, who has been an active member in Local 1428, or who had been a member of another organization merged with Local 1428, for continuous aggregate of at least twelve (12) months immediately preceding the month in which nominations are held; or

(b) an active member in Local 1428, who has been an active member in the International Union continuously for at least twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding the month in which nominations are held.

Any member satisfying the above eligibility requirements must maintain continuous active membership in Local 1428 to remain eligible to run for or hold elective office.

No member may run for more than one office in any election and no member may hold more than one elected office at one time.

6. When nominations have been completed and there are unopposed candidates, Local 1428's President shall declare such candidates duly elected by acclamation.

7. All nominees will be notified in writing as to their eligibility or ineligibility for candidacy with the reasons therefore by the close of business on Friday, July 9, 2010.

**ZA ZETTE SCOTT HAS BEEN SELECTED AS THE GENERAL ELECTION CHAIRPERSON. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NOMINATION PROCEDURES, OR THE ELECTION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRPERSON AT (909) 626-3333, ext. 239.**

### A WORD FROM YOUR REPS...



## Don't get stung! Always check ID!

**C**heckers have a stressful job. Unfortunately, their task only becomes more hectic as the summer months approach and checkout lines become longer.

Your union and the customers you serve appreciate your hard work.

No matter how long the lines become, or how frustrated impatient customers become, checkers must always remember to ask for ID. Anyone who doesn't appear to be over age 35 must have his or her age verified before purchasing alcohol.

Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) agents routinely set up stings aimed at entrapping unsuspecting checkers. Our intense efforts to discourage singling out checkers have not yet been successful with ABC officials.

### The sting

The typical scenario has a young-looking underage customer attempting to purchase alcohol while an undercover agent watches nearby to make sure the checker asks for ID.

If the checker doesn't ask for ID, there is little your union can do to help at that point. Don't let yourself get into that situation because it could cost you your job.

State regulators are aggressive in their efforts to crack down on the sale of alcohol to minors. Huge fines can be levied against the company and the checker as well.

Tobacco purchasers also must have ID proving that they are over age 18. A good rule of thumb when selling tobacco products is to card everyone.

The state Department of Health is authorized to send underage buyers into stores as part of sting operations. Asking a customer to state his or her age isn't enough; unlike the decoys in alcohol stings, kids who are sent into the store to buy tobacco don't have to tell the truth about their ages.

Don't get caught in one of these stings and put your job in jeopardy and expose yourself to fines. Always check ID.

If you have any questions regarding tobacco or alcohol sales, please do not hesitate to call your union representative or rep on duty.



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CONNIE M. LEYVA, President  
Editor

DIANE L. SEDOR, Secretary Treasurer  
Managing Editor

P.O. Box 9000  
705 West Arrow Highway  
Claremont, CA 91711  
Membership: (909) 626-3333  
Fax: (909) 626-4942  
[www.ufcw1428.org](http://www.ufcw1428.org)



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## GRIEVANCE SETTLEMENTS

	APRIL 2010	2010 TOTAL
FORMAL GRIEVANCES	27	149
MEMBERS PUT BACK TO WORK	7	30
BACK PAY FOR MEMBERS	\$2,019.07	\$26,473.11

SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

# Annual golf tournament raises money for Scholarships and Leukemia Society

The Local 1428/1167 Annual Joe F. Barragan Foundation Golf Tournament on April 26 was a big success that made us all proud.

More than 144 union members, friends and vendors participated in the event at Los Serranos Country Club in Chino, raising \$70,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the scholarship programs of UFCW Locals 1428 and 1167.

Why do we do this every year? We do it because we believe strongly in the causes that are supported by this tournament and by fundraising events sponsored by other UFCW local unions across the country.

## The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

An estimated 139,860 people in the United States will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma in 2010. New cases of these cancers of the bloodstream will account for approximately 9.5 percent of the 1.5 million cancer cases that will be



By Diane L. Sedor

diagnosed in the U.S. this year.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancers. Its mission: cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

The society funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world. Its commitment to cutting-edge science has contributed to an unprecedented

rise in survival rates for some blood cancers.

The five-year survival rate for people with leukemia, for example, nearly quadrupled in the past 50 years. Hodgkin's lymphoma is now considered one of the most curable forms of cancer, thanks to radiation, chemotherapy or a combination of the two.

## Education is a lifelong commitment

Our union has always understood that education is the key to our dreams of better lives. That is why we have encouraged our members and their families to reach for the best education possible.

Education is a lifelong commitment for ourselves and for our loved ones. Knowledge helps us assure a secure life, but it does much more than that. It adds richness to the human spirit!

Our members and their spouses and eligible dependents are invited to participate in Local 1428's annual scholarship program, which is funded by the annual Joe F. Barragan Memorial

Foundation Golf Tournament.

An application for the scholarship competition appears below this column. Eligibility requirements and necessary documents are detailed there, along with the deadline dates.

When we help fund medical research and scholarships through the Joe F. Barragan Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament, we are investing in the future and giving back to the communities in which we live and work. It is an awesome and enjoyable event that funds the programs through the non-profit foundation established by Locals 1428 and 1167.



## UFCW 1428 Scholarship Program

UFCW Local 1428 is proud to announce its Annual Scholarship Program, designed especially to benefit eligible Local 1428 members and their eligible family members.

Your union recognizes the need to constantly provide high standards of benefits and services to its members and their families. It also acknowledges

the importance of a good education in today's complex and demanding society. With this in mind and with the help of many of our preferred providers, professional associates and the Retirees' Club, the local has created a program that will award scholarships to eligible members or spouses, sons or daughters of active members in good standing.

### APPLICATION FOR UFCW LOCAL 1428 2010 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

I wish to participate in UFCW Local 1428's Scholarship Program for the 2010/11 school year. I understand that:

- I must be a member in continuous good standing with Local 1428 for at least 12 months prior to July 1 of this year, or the spouse, son or daughter of an active Local 1428 member in good standing for at least 12 months prior to July 1, 2010. Son or daughter must meet qualifying requirements as eligible dependents in their parents' UFCW Trust Fund Benefits (covered through the month of the 24th birthday – enrolled for 12 units in an accredited school) to participate in the Scholarship Program.
- I have been accepted or I am enrolled as a student in an accredited college or vocational school.
- I must submit my proof of enrollment at an accredited college/institute for the upcoming fall school term.
- I must submit my most recent transcripts or grade records with at least a 2.5 GPA.
- I must submit a one-page typed essay on "The positive effects of unionism and how the union has helped my community, my family and me." Also, include hobbies, scholastic awards, notable accomplishments and community services or activities.

Please complete this application and mail, along with grade transcripts, proof of enrollment and the one-page typed essay, to: UFCW Local 1428, P. O. Box 9000, Claremont, CA 91711-9000 – Attention Scholarship Committee. For details, call (909) 626-3333, ext. 239

1. APPLICATIONS: MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 30, 2010.
2. GRADE TRANSCRIPTS, PROOF OF ENROLLMENT, ESSAY: MUST BE RECEIVED/POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN AUG. 31, 2010.

(Please Print or Type—Fill Out Entire Application)

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # home/cell \_\_\_\_\_ H.S. Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Level Entering (MUST BE AT LEAST A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL TO APPLY)—PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:

College Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior or College Graduate, Post Graduate

College/Institute you have been accepted at and/or enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Institute Address/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_ FT or PT \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Units Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

My Eligibility is based on the following membership in Local 1428:

Self \_\_\_\_\_ Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Father \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Employed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Store # \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Union Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE:

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# May 1 rally supports immigration reform

**U**FCW Local 1428 leaders, staff and activists joined thousands of union sisters and brothers who were among the more than 150,000 people who marched in support of immigration reform on May 1 in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor organized a group that spoke to news media before the march began to share concerns about the broken immigration system in California and the United States.

President Connie M. Leyva, along with other leaders spoke about the urgent need for comprehensive reform. In addition,



tion, labor leaders are asking that the separation of families stop and that all workers have good jobs with dignity and respect.

Streets and sidewalks were packed with tens of thousands of flag-waving people as horns sounded in support of the speakers' messages.



## Visit [ufcw1428.org](http://ufcw1428.org)

**UFCW Local 1428**  
A VOICE FOR WORKING CALIFORNIA

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**UFCW Local 1428 Office**  
P.O. Box 9000  
705 W. Arrow Hwy.  
Claremont, CA 91711-9000  
Membership Department:  
(909)626-3333

Benefits Department:  
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Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Closed between 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.  
for lunch.

Rancho Federal Credit Union  
909-626-3333 ext.6

Scholarships

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Crucial role in politics

Continued from front page  
will be walking neighborhoods and making phone calls to our members. We would love to have your help.

I ask each of you to consider donating a couple of hours to help us elect candidates who support working families. We will need these supporters in office when we go into contract negotiations in 2011.

We will also have signs that you can display in your yard or windows.

Call today and let us know how you can help.

When we work together, we win together!

# Team 1428 sets the pace at Revlon Run/Walk

## Annual event raises millions to fund fight against women's cancers

**A**pproximately 50 members of Local 1428, along with friends and family, participated in the 17th Annual Entertainment Industry Foundation Revlon Run/Walk for Women on May 8.

They joined tens of thousands of other participants from the Los Angeles area who came in support of a cure for women's cancers.

Cancer patients, survivors and supporters made their way through the 5K course, ending at the Olympic field in the L.A. Memorial Coliseum.

As finishers crossed the line, they were awarded medallions and cheered by hundreds of volunteers, friends and fellow participants.

"Cancer research is a critical and personal issue for many of us," said President Connie Leyva.

The Run/Walk for Women is the area's largest fundraiser for all forms of women's cancers.

Estimates say that in 2010 more than 273,000 new cases of women's cancers will be diagnosed this year in the U.S. and about 15,000 women will die of ovarian cancer.





# Thank you, Golf Tournament participants!



## More: Settlement reached as solidarity prevails for Boron miners



Continued from front page

During the struggle, UFCW Local 1428 assembled hundreds of Easter baskets filled with food, candy and toys and delivered them to Boron on April 3, complete with a genuine "Easter Bunny" to hand the baskets out and take pictures with the children.

Boron is the site of the world's largest borax mine, where approximately 600 workers affiliated with International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 30 were locked out since Jan. 31 by the

Rio Tinto company, an international conglomerate based in Britain and Australia.

"Community Solidarity brings people of all walks of life together for a greater good," President Connie M. Leyva said.

When the employees arrived at work on Jan. 31 after rejecting a "last, best and final offer" from the company, they were barred by company security from entering the mine. They had been working without a contract since their previous agreement expired on Nov. 4, 2009.



# STEWARDS OF THE MONTH

## May

### Ashley Hawkes

It didn't take long for Ashley Hawkes, a steward at Stater Bros. 168 in Walnut, to see the difference between working union and non-union.

"It is simply amazing how much better you are treated when you work union," Hawkes said. "The respect that you get from the supervisors is noticeable."

Hawkes, previously worked for Circuit City in the City of Industry. She was hired by Stater Bros. as a courtesy clerk in December 2008.

"The way the supervisors treated everyone at Circuit City was unbelievable," she said. "I saw a female coworker get demoted because her supervisor was jealous of her looks and the attention paid to her."

"Another coworker had gone into another department to talk to a colleague. He was fired because they said he was not where he was supposed to be."

#### Hours cut

Hawkes said managers constantly changed schedules and cut employees' hours at will.

"There were no guaranteed hours like we have," she said. "So they always cut people's hours to save money."

"Worst of all, there was no recourse. You were at the mercy of management. There was no steward and no union representative to call if you were being treated unfairly. Nothing like the protections we have as union members."

Hawkes said the failing company was trying to fire as many employees as it could to save having to pay



severance.

After she quit Circuit City, Hawkes' father, a former UFCW member who currently works as a police officer for the Port of Los Angeles, suggested she go to Stater Bros. and see if it had any openings.

"He knew that none of the things I experienced at Circuit City would be allowed to happen at a union job," she said. "I'm so glad I followed his advice."

"It's great to have better pay, guaranteed hours, regular raises and best of all, a union representative to call if you have any problems," Hawkes said.

"That's why we need to stand behind our union and do whatever we can to support it. It's a major reason I decided to become a steward. I felt it was important to give something back because the union gives us so much."

Hawkes is a student at Mt. San Antonio College and hopes to become a social worker.

When she isn't at work or school, she enjoys hiking and reading.

"When I'm not hiking, you can usually find me at Borders or Barnes & Noble," she said. "I enjoy reading so much that I can't afford to buy all of the books I'd like to read."

## June

### Teri MacDonald

When you work in the industry for more than three decades you learn a lot," said steward Teri MacDonald.

That's why MacDonald, a pharmacy tech and steward at CVS 9698 in Upland, decided to become a steward.

"Because I've been around a while, members would come to me with questions and concerns," MacDonald said. "While I could help them with a lot of things, there was still a lot I needed to learn."

So MacDonald began to attend steward training sessions and general membership meetings.

"No matter how long you work, there is always something new you can learn," she said. "As the union's eyes and ears in the stores, stewards play a crucial role, so it's important to know the contract and know when to call in your union representative."

MacDonald has always been a strong supporter of the union.

"The people who work for the union care about you," she said. "This is apparent in everyone I come in contact with, from the office staff to the union representatives all the way up to our top leadership."

#### Health care reform

MacDonald was a staunch supporter of health care reform, based on her own serious health issues and what she observes daily in her job.

"I see people each day who choose not to take prescribed medications when they see how much it cost," she



said. "They simply go home and pray that they don't get worse."

"That's no way for a civilized society to act. That's why I supported health care reform. I was so happy when it passed. It will make a tremendous difference in the lives of millions of people."

MacDonald and her husband, Scott, have two adult children and one grandchild.

"Scott works at General Mills and is also a proud union member," MacDonald said. "We kid each other about which union is the best."

"Of course we know I'm right when I say it's mine," she said with a smile.

MacDonald and her husband love the outdoors and do "just about anything we can that gets us outside."

"We love to go to Pismo Beach and this year we plan to go to the Grand Canyon," MacDonald said.

MacDonald looks forward to retirement in three years when she is eligible for the Golden-85, and will see "where life takes us from there."

"It's just one more advantage of being in a union," she said.

## Attention Members!

Local 1428 now accepts Visa, Master Card credit and debit cards for discount tickets, dues and more.

Call the Local for details:

**(909) 626-3333**

## Hobby Loans

*Let Rancho Federal Finance your dreams!*

Whether your dream involves a new RV to discover the wonder and beauty of our back roads, a personal watercraft, an ATV to feel some real freedom, or a motorcycle to get that special feeling that only two wheels can deliver, a Hobby Loan from Rancho Federal may be your best bet!

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[www.ranchofcu.org](http://www.ranchofcu.org) 909-626-3333 ext. 6



## Walmart to pay up to \$86 million to settle suit alleging wage violations

**W**almart has agreed to pay up to \$86 million to settle charges in a class-action lawsuit alleging it failed to pay vacation, overtime and other wages to thousands of former workers in California.

The settlement includes \$12 million in vacation pay and \$74 million in unpaid wages to some 232,000 former workers.

Walmart will pay a minimum of \$43 million and as much as \$86 million, plus the costs associated with a third party that will

calculate wages due to the workers.

In agreeing to settle, the company did not admit that any wages were unpaid.

The settlement, which requires court approval, is separate from Walmart's 2008 agreement to pay as much as \$640 million to settle 63 federal and state class-action lawsuits alleging it deprived workers of wages.

Last December, the company agreed to pay \$40 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over wages in Massachusetts.

## Walmart to pay \$27.6 million in fines for dumping hazardous waste illegally

**W**almart has agreed to pay \$27.6 million in fines to settle charges that it violated California's environmental laws.

Atty. Gen. Jerry Brown and San Diego County's district attorney's office filed a civil lawsuit against Walmart in April. They alleged that all 236 of Walmart's facilities in the state had been improperly storing and dumping hazardous materials, including pesticides, chemicals, paint, acid and motor oil.

The case began in San Diego's North County five years ago, when Maryam Sedghi, an off-duty environmental inspector, spotted a

Walmart employee dumping bleach down a drain.

"Is that what you usually do with things like this?" the inspector asked. The reply was "Yes."

In the settlement, Walmart agreed to pay \$1.6 million in costs for the investigation, \$3 million to a fund for other environmental investigations, and \$3 million toward keeping stores in compliance.

"This settlement serves as warning to all companies doing business in the state," San Diego County District Atty. Bonnie Dumanis said. "No matter how large or how small, you will not be allowed to flaunt environmental laws and jeopardize our communities."



Luz Bacio, left, of UFCW 1428's Organizing Department and MaryAnn Radigan, of the Pension Department demand a tax audit of Walmart.

## WakeUpWalmart.com calls for audit of Walmart's tax practices

**A**s state governments across the country are struggling to pay their own bills, WakeUpWalmart.com and local union activists are calling on Walmart to pay its fair share of taxes.

On April 15, members of UFCW Local 1428 gathered outside Walmart stores and local legislative offices to collect petition signatures and ask the California Franchise Tax Boards to investigate Walmart's history of tax payments.

"During this recession, state and local budget shortfalls are hitting our communities and the public services we count on particularly hard," said Rhonda Nelson, international chair of the UFCW's Women's Network.

"Walmart needs to pay its share for the safe streets, good schools and clean water we all use and depend on. It shouldn't rely on tax

dodges to pad its profits, leaving us to make up the difference."

WakeUpWalmart.com reports that Walmart has used 27 loopholes in state and federal tax laws to avoid liability for as much as \$2.9 billion.

"Not only has the company pushed its employees onto state-sponsored health programs, saving money for profits while draining state budgets, it has found ways to defraud the government during a widespread financial slump when the states need that money most," UFCW Local 1428 President Connie M. Leyva said. "Whether the loopholes are legal or not, the company's opportunistic actions are morally wrong."

Leyva asked union members to visit [www.WakeUpWalmart.com](http://www.WakeUpWalmart.com) "to see how you can help notify the government of Walmart's tax evasion."

## UFCW President Hansen slams Arizona's new immigration law

**U**nited Food and Commercial Workers International Union President Joe Hansen released the following statement on April 29 denouncing Arizona's controversial new immigration law:

"Arizona's new immigration law is unworkable, unconstitutional and it undermines our nation's rich immigrant history and heritage. It is a recipe for racial profiling and a marked retreat from the values and ideals that have made America strong.

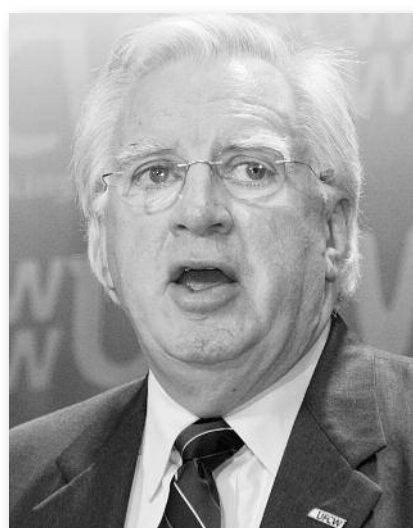
"In recent years, the debate over immigration has grown increasingly inflammatory, polarizing, and, at times, it has run counter to our nation's interests and our better instincts. This bill is the result of that

divisive debate—and the product of political expediency at its worst.

"The UFCW strongly denounces the legislation and urges the Department of Justice to aggressively challenge its constitutionality. We also urge Congress to lead on this critical issue at the federal level, where it belongs and where it can be addressed in a comprehensive, rational and productive manner.

"All across the country, UFCW locals and our members are organizing and mobilizing their communities around the importance of comprehensive immigration reform and protecting workers' constitutional rights.

"America needs a 21st century immigration system that works for the American worker — a system where



Joe Hansen

undocumented workers can come out of the shadows and get right with the law, a system where all workers can

see their job and earnings prospects strengthened because bottom feeding employers are no longer given free reign to hire and abuse undocumented immigrants, and a system where all workers can speak up without fear of retaliation or discrimination.

"Together, we can bring stability and security to our economy, to our borders and to our families. Together, we can refocus this debate on real, meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform that restores the rule of law, respects the constitutional rights of all workers, and recognizes the incredible role that our nation's diversity has played — and will continue to play — in making our communities strong and vibrant."

# UFCW Legislative Conference in D.C. pays off with Health Care Reform success

In the days leading up to the historic vote on March 21 to reform America's health care system, UFCW leaders lobbied legislators in Washington, D.C., urging them to vote for the legislation.

Local 1428 President Connie M. Leyva and Political and Community Organizer Mark Ramos, who were in the nation's capital to participate in the UFCW's Legislative and Political Action Conference, performed an important role in the lobbying effort.

They spent most of their time in Washington meeting with members of Congress, encouraging them to vote for health care reform.

"Sunday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed health care reforms that will better serve all Americans," UFCW International President Joe Hansen said in a statement released after the vote.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis opened the legislative conference with a rousing call for action.

"We need you to encourage members of Congress to vote for health care reform," she said. "We need you to implore them to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. You are the voice of working America!"

The delegates also heard from Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Rep. Phil Hare (D-Ill.), U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.), U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) and Democratic National Committee Chair Tim Kaine, among other speakers.

"Due to the efforts of the people of the UFCW, health care reform is within our reach," Sebelius said.

"We need to change the insurance rules so insurance companies can not choose who gets health care and who doesn't."

Rep. Hare said the pending health care vote would be the culmination of a hundred-year struggle on Capitol Hill.

"People have been filing for bankruptcy because of health care costs," Hare said. "That is not right. We have a moral imperative to pass this bill and I ain't leaving the legislature till we get it done."

House Speaker Pelosi congratulated the UFCW for its recent organizing victory at Smithfield Foods Co. "Unions focus on creating jobs and that is the number one pursuit of this Congress," she said.

Pelosi said that, after passage of health care legislation, Congress should focus on enacting immigration reform and the Employee Free Choice Act.

"Health care is a right, not a privilege, and so is the choice to join a union if workers want a union," Pelosi said. "That's why we need the EFCA."



Clockwise from top left: Local 1428 delegates applaud a speaker; Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis addresses the UFCW delegates; Local 1428 President Connie M. Leyva meets with Congresswoman Judy Chu; Southern California UFCW attendees in front of the Capitol; Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi speaks to the delegates.

## Thank you, Charity Golf Tournament participants!

See more photos of the tournament on page 5.

