



Food & Drug Council

I N C O R P O R A T E D

FDC UPDATE

February 2009

Unions Share Ideas, Strategies at Food & Drug Council Convention

Representatives of 32 labor organizations in the retail food and drug industries assembled at the recent 2008 Convention of the Food & Drug Council to coordinate strategies for contract negotiations, union organizing, protecting union market share and influencing public policy. More than 250 participants included leaders from the Longshore Workers, Operating Engineers, Teamsters and UFCW, many of whom traveled across the country to attend.

A highlight of the convention was presentation of a \$100,000 check to the FDC from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The grant, presented by Fred Gegare, United States Vice President and Canadian Director of

the IBT's Dairy and Food Processing Divisions, will finance FDC efforts to mobilize public opposition to non-union retailers like Tesco's Fresh & Easy Markets. The grant funds also will be used to assist the FDC-sponsored boycott of Alta Dena products in the current campaign at Bristol Farms stores.

Founded in the 1940s, the FDC has been re-energized in recent years, enlisting new affiliate unions in California and Arizona. Its affiliates include local unions of the UFCW, as well as locals of the Teamsters, Operating Engineers and Longshore and Warehouse workers. The

international unions of the UFCW and the Teamsters are also affiliates.

Down to Business

FDC Director Ellen Anreder opened the convention by summarizing the group's achievements during the previous year. These achievements included unprecedented growth for the FDC and successful contract negotiations with Farmer Bros., Rite Aid, CVS and other employers.

Following welcoming remarks by Las Vegas Teamsters Local 14 Secretary-Treasurer Gary Mauger, FDC President Paul Kenny reflected on the continuing legacy of the UFCW's 144-day Southern

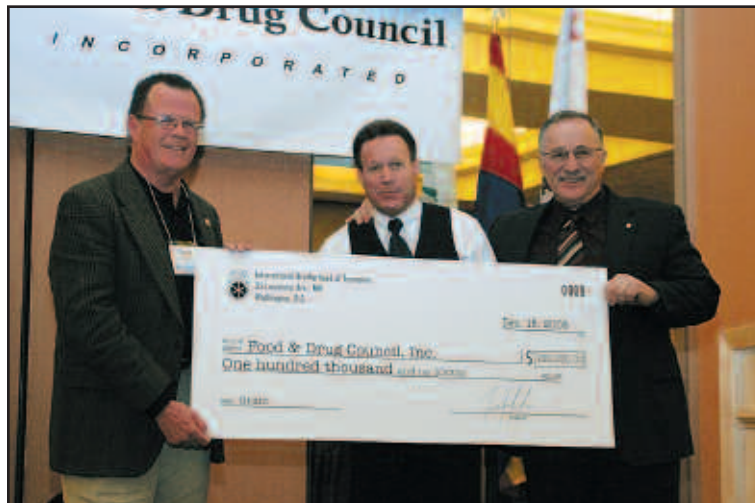
California supermarket strike and lockout in 2003-04.

"We were all together then just as we need to be now," said Kenny, who also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 630 in Los Angeles.

"We've all got negotiations going on," Kenny continued.

"We are stronger than ever before because we have each other's backs."

Kenny emphasized the importance of organizations like the FDC, which coordinates



Fred Gegare, right, and Chuck Mack, left, present a \$100,000 grant to FDC President Paul Kenny, center.

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William E. Adams
ILWU Secretary-Treasurer



Chuck Mack
*IBT JC7 President,
IBT 70 Secretary-Treasurer*



Mike Bergen
*FDC Recorder
IBT 166 Secretary-Treasurer*



Ellen Anreder
FDC Director

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activities by several unions engaged in a single industry.

“The Teamsters helped the UFCW in their strike and now the UFCW is helping us in the campaign to boycott Alta Dena products,” he said.

Hope in the White House

Art Torres, Chairman of the California Democratic Party, discussed strategies to ensure passage of the Employee Free Choice Act through Congress. The bill, which would remove obstacles to workers who wish to join unions, is the Labor Movement’s highest legislative priority.

Torres also talked about his experiences as a colon cancer survivor as he described the urgent need for affordable health care for all Americans.

“Our new president will listen to the heart and soul of America,” Torres said. “He knows in his heart

the right thing to do.”

William E. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, expanded on Torres’ thoughts. “Our new president will have pride and humility in the White House,” he said. “I see him as a rock of salvation in our crisis in America.”

Teamsters Joint Council 7 President and Teamsters Local 70 Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Mack expressed “hope for our members now that we have Barack Obama in the White House.”

“There are those in Washington who want to make sure that when the economy comes back, labor unions don’t come back with it,” he continued. “The Employee Free Choice Act will make sure that these individuals won’t succeed.”

Jacques Loveall, President of UFCW 8-Golden State and a UFCW International Vice President, praised Kenny and Anreder for their accomplishments as leaders of the FDC.

Loveall also emphasized the need to hold government officials accountable for their promises.



Lucio Reyes
IBT 601 Secretary-Treasurer



Barry Broad
Labor Lobbyist



Paul Blank
WakeUpWalMart.com



Steve Vairma
IBT 435 Secretary-Treasurer



Ralph Phillips
FDC Legal Counsel



Fred Gegare
*IBT U.S. Vice President and
Canadian Director of Dairy/
Food Processing Divisions*



Bob Filner
*U.S. Representative
(D-San Diego)*



Paul Kenny
*FDC President
IBT 630 Secretary-Treasurer*

He underscored that the needs of working people have not changed over the last few decades and the need for unions to raise their voices is as powerful as ever.

Mickey Kasparian, President of UFCW Local 135 in San Diego and Imperial Counties, closed the first day's session by reviewing a successful organizing and negotiating campaign at Brawley Beef.

"We had an extensive campaign with UFCW and Teamster members alike, all working toward the same goal," he said.

The second day of the convention began with a welcome from Roberta West, President of UFCW Local 711 in Nevada and Utah. West expressed gratitude for the FDC's involvement in the Fresh & Easy campaign, specifically in Las Vegas, and said, "I know I can count on your support in the future."

The program continued with a report by Rita Ann Richards, who invited the participants to join her efforts to assist tent-city residents in Mexico. Richards takes annual trips south of Tijuana on Christmas Day to aid Mexican families living in

tents by giving them blankets, shoes, food and other necessities.

U.S. Rep. Bob Filner (D-San Diego) addressed the attendees next. Filner is a strong supporter of Labor in the House of Representatives.

"Banks will take care of themselves," he said. "It's the people of America who need our help. We need a stimulus package from the bottom and we need to speak out on that. Move the focus back to the people of this country who drive the economy. Save the American family first."

Unions in Politics

William T. McDonough, UFCW International Executive Vice President and Director of Collective Bargaining, was scheduled to address the delegates but had to attend an emergency meeting. In his place, Paul Blank, founding director of WakeUpWalMart.com, discussed a labor organizing technique called micro-targeting and its success in changing shoppers' behavior.

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Mickey Kasparian
UFCW 135 President



Connie Leyva
*Cal. Labor Federation President
UFCW 1428 President*



Jacques Loveall
*UFCW 8 President
Intl. Vice President*

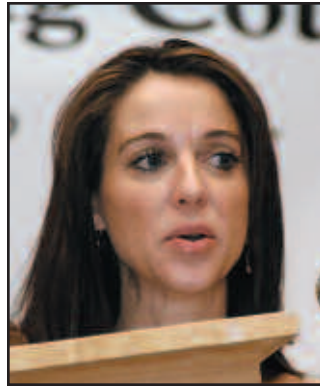


Art Torres
*California Democratic Party
Chairman*



Jeff Ferro

UFCW International Fresh & Easy Campaign Director



Rita Ann Richards

IBT 630



Gary Mauger

IBT 14 Secretary-Treasurer



Roberta West

UFCW 711 President

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Barry Broad, a Sacramento lobbyist for the UFCW, Teamsters and ILWU, said that “politicians really take Labor for granted. We need to force them to focus on the issues that are important to our members.”

Connie M. Leyva, President of both the California Labor Federation and UFCW Local 1428 in the San Gabriel Valley, emphasized the need to “talk the talk and walk the walk” when discussing issues with political officials.

“Our members got firsthand knowledge when we took a group to Sacramento to lobby officials,” she recalled. “They witnessed firsthand who our friends are and who couldn’t care less about us.”

More FDC Successes

Jeff Ferro, Director of the UFCW’s Tesco/Fresh

& Easy campaign, gave a presentation on the union’s efforts in the U.S. and abroad. Afterward, Mike Bergen, FDC Recorder, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 166 and a representative of the IBT’s Southern California Dairy Division, thanked the FDC for its help in the Alta Dena organizing campaign.

IBT Cannery Council and Local 601 Secretary-Treasurer Lucio Reyes then commented on the pivotal role of the FDC during several rounds of negotiations involving his union.

Steve Vairma, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 435, also spoke about the FDC’s role in the the U.S. Food Service campaign in Arizona.

Ralph Phillips, the FDC’s legal counsel, closed the day’s session with a report about “what is really going on in labor law reform.”

“We need substantive labor law reform and it’s up to us to put the pressure on the folks who can make that happen,” he said.



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