



Food & Drug Council.

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

FDC UPDATE

Monday, March 31, 2008

FDC helps Teamsters win landmark contract with Farmer Brothers Coffee Co.

Overwhelming ratification by members of IBT Local 630 avoids strike; agreement provides substantial wage increases and maintenance of benefits

Members of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 630 voted overwhelmingly on Saturday, March 29, to approve a new, five-year contract with Farmer Brothers Coffee Co.

The new agreement, which was attained with strategic assistance by the Food & Drug Council, includes substantial wage increases for the members who are employed by the Los Angeles-area maker of gourmet coffees and teas. It also features maintenance of health benefits.

"This contract is a solid victory for our members," said Local 630 Secretary-Treasurer Paul Kenny. "It demonstrates the power of a resurging Labor Movement."

The agreement, reached just before the previous contract was to expire, averted the threats of a strike and a boycott of Farmer Brothers products.

Kenny said that negotiators for the employer were shown advance copies of a press release announcing the strike-authorization vote, as well as a handbill that would ask customers not to buy Farmer Brothers products until an agreement was reached. Big-rig trucks bearing the logos of

Local 630 and the Food & Drug Council were parked in front of the company's headquarters. In addition, the company was informed that the Teamsters had the full backing and assistance of the FDC.

"These measures had a definite effect on Farmer Brothers' negotiators," Kenny said.

"This was a successful strategy that can be repeated by other FDC affiliates to win great contracts."

Kenny added: "Our members came to Local 630 headquarters on Saturday expecting a strike-authorization vote. Instead, they learned about a great contract that they happily ratified with a 99% vote."

Kenny gave special thanks to Jim Santangelo, Teamsters Joint Council 42; Randy Cammack, Teamsters Local 63; Bill Elder and Dennis Shaw, Teamsters Local 186; and Bill Lathrop, UFCW Local 1167.

"They were all instrumental in demonstrating strength and solidarity to the employer."

Kenny also thanked the members of Teamsters Local 630 for their solidarity through the negotiating process. "They are our true strength," he said.

