



2011 Negotiations Update UFCW Local 5 Northern California

October 3, 2011

Volume 1, Number 4

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Northern California Grocery Talks Begin: Deadline Extended to November 8

On September 28 representatives of UFCW Locals 5,8 and 648 met with officials from Raleys, Savemart/Lucky and Safeway to begin negotiations for a new contract. The bargainers set multiple dates for future negotiation sessions and extended the October 8 expiration date a month to November 8.

At the initial meeting Raleys engaged in a diatribe about non-union competition. This is curious since out of the big three Raleys is the only one that operates non-union stores. Raleys was joined by Lucky/Savemart in blasting the cost of health benefits and signaling that they intended on pursuing cost reductions in that area. Should management insist on taking this route the likelihood of a amicable settlement will be greatly reduced and the possibility of a confrontation will be enhanced.

The parties have five more bargaining sessions scheduled and more will be added if necessary. If there is any hope of this contract being settled in a favorable manner it is going to take the participation of every member working under these contracts and the ones that will follow. Please contact your steward or union representative to find out how you can contribute. You can also visit the union's website at www.ufcw5.org, visit us on Facebook, use one of our smart phone applications or sign up for texts. Stay informed!

