



2011 Negotiations Update UFCW Local 5 Northern California

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Northern California Grocery Negotiations Resume

The week of January 9th marked the first face-to-face bargaining between UFCW Locals 5, 8 and 648 and Safeway, Save Mart and Raleys since the holiday break. The unions used the time away from the bargaining table to examine ways to slow the rising cost of benefits while maintaining affordable health care for members and retirees. Several of those concepts were discussed with the employers throughout the week.

The bargaining team also met with the entire representational staffs of all three locals, local leadership and representatives from the international union to discuss the talks. Preparations were made for all possible contingencies that may develop as a result of negotiations.

At meetings later in the week there was lengthy discussion about union proposals to maximize hours and to restore and protect full-time jobs. No agreements have been reached and the union and companies remain far apart on the issues. While union negotiators and members who joined them at the bargaining table indicated a willingness to deal with legitimate company concerns about low-wage, non-union competitors they continued to resist employer proposals to slash or eliminate benefits and to cut wages.

Negotiations are scheduled to pick up again the week of January 23. Extensions of the contract are in full force and effect with Raleys through January 24 and with Safeway and Save Mart through February 25. Continue to check in here, on our website and our social media applications for updates.