



**Rhonda Nelson**  
International Chair,  
Women's Network

### CHAIR'S COLUMN

#### Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The month of March marks the annual celebration of Women's History Month and International Women's Day. This special month and day provides us with an opportunity to honor those who paved the way for women's empowerment and equality in this country and around the world, and to renew our pledge to correct persisting inequalities.

The theme of this year's Women's History Month,

"Women's Education—Women's Empowerment," reminds us that the fight to learn was a struggle waged by many tenacious women in our country for generations. While women have made great strides in education and more than half our college students today are female, too many women continue to be paid less than male workers. Women are also significantly underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Women also suffer disproportionately from the effects of poverty. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, poverty among women climbed to 14.5 percent in 2010 and poverty rates were even higher for women of color. The poverty rates also rose for single mothers and the child poverty rate increased as well, with more than half of poor children living in female-headed families.

Women also have greater difficulty than men when it comes to affording health care, and Republicans in Congress have continued the assault on a women's right to choose. Many of the social safety nets, including food stamps and low-income housing, that

*Continued on page 6*

### Facing the Child Care Challenge in Canada

Finding affordable, accessible, safe and regulated child care is a challenge for many working people. For workers in the retail sector it's "an ongoing issue restricting many of our UFCW Canada members from becoming more involved in their union, and in their community," said Regional Director of Western Provinces Nancy Quiring. Sister Quiring is also an executive committee member of the UFCW Women's Net-

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## Time is running out!

Don't forget to register and attend the

UFCW Women's Network  
Biennial Convention on

May 3-6, 2012,

at Disney's Yacht and  
Beach Club Hotel in

Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The  
registration form is on page 9.

## UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK E-NEWS

*Esther Lopez was elected International Vice President at the International Board Meeting in Bonita Springs, Florida, on January 26. She directs the Civil Rights and Community Action Department and works closely with all of UFCW's constituency groups, including the Women's Network. Congratulations, Esther!*



*UFCW International President Joe Hansen released the results of the first UFCW Diversity Survey at the International Board Meeting in January with the goal of increasing diversity at all levels of the union. The report provides the first set of baseline demographic data about our membership in relation to UFCW local staff, stewards and leadership.*

### **Child Care Challenge** *continued from page 1*

work, as well as the chair of the UFCW Canada National Council Women's Advisory Committee (WAC).

"Research shows that for retail workers with children, two-thirds of their shifts fall outside of traditional day-care hours. This means that sometimes our members are leaving their children in unlicensed daycares, or sometimes have to phone in sick in order to take care of their children," said Quiring. "It is a crisis for many working parents, so this year WAC committed to the fight for better child care and to help local unions and members mobilize around the issue."

The commitment includes partnering with organizations that are at the forefront in the fight for publicly funded

accessible child care. Some of these NGO agencies include the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC), and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (CCABC), "which have developed tremendous materials on the issue of child care, as well as workshops to encourage participants to become more aware of how to create change on this issue in many unique ways," said Quiring. "These materials and workshops are available to UFCW Canada local unions. The agencies have also offered to provide facilitators, or train facilitators at local unions to present the workshops."

With the full support of UFCW Canada National President Wayne Hanley, the UFCW Canada National Of-

fice is a sponsor of CCAAC, as well as a backer of the "Child Care Is a Right" Project. UFCW Canada locals have also been invited to participate.

"UFCW Canada and its local unions can make a unique and important contribution to assist our members who face daily challenges in accessing appropriate child care by our participation and involvement," said Hanley. "UFCW Canada, along with the Advisory Committee, believes that the issue of child care affects both men and women members and sees this as an issue where our involvement and action can make a difference."

**WN**

## UFCW REGIONAL NETWORK HIGHLIGHTS

*Right: Members of UFCW Local 700 (Region 4) led the effort to defeat anti-worker legislation in Indiana by telling both their neighbors and legislators that we need jobs, not more politics. After successfully halting right-to-work legislation last year, anti-worker forces held too many seats, including the Governor's office, to stop a bill introduced this year from becoming law. Now, Indiana will become our nation's 23rd right-to-work state. The law is effective March 14, or upon the expiration date of existing contracts.*

*"We fought hard to keep right-to-work out of Indiana, but UFCW members will stick together, and continue to fight for strong contracts with livable wages and affordable benefits," said UFCW Local 700 President and International Vice President Joe Chorpenning. "A united membership is the best way to combat this disastrous legislation."*



*Left: On March 8, International Women's Day, workers from Kroger Store #570 in Franklin, Tenn.(Region 5), donated personal items and toys to a local women's shelter. Denise Lane (right) chaired this drive.*

*Right: On February 29, the Executive Board of UFCW Local 888 (Region 1) nominated Agueda Arias to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. She is the first woman and Latina to serve in this position in the 55 year history of Local 888. Congratulations, Agueda!*



### Susan G. Komen Foundation Backs Down

By Kathy Finn,  
Executive Board Committee  
Member (Region 8)

What happened with the Susan G. Komen foundation in early February is a great example of the power of the people raising their voices in an organized public outcry against injustice.

Last year, the Susan G. Komen foundation, the leading organization raising awareness and funding in the fight against breast cancer, decided to end its practice of giving grants to Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading provider of reproductive health care services for women, including breast cancer screenings. Planned Parenthood used the \$650,000 in grants from Komen to assist in providing breast cancer screenings to low-income women. Planned Parenthood provides nearly 750,000 breast cancer screenings each year, as well as many other reproductive health and contraceptive services.

Despite the fact that abortions make up only about three percent of Planned Parenthood's yearly budget, anti-choice groups have pressured Komen to end its partnership with Planned Parenthood for years. Last year, the Komen

leadership, many of whom have close ties to right-wing anti-choice groups, decided to adopt criteria excluding Planned Parenthood from future grants because it was the subject of a bogus government investigation launched by an ultra-conservative Florida congressman at the urging of anti-choice groups.

When Komen's decision became known in early February, the public outcry was powerful. Between February 1-3, Planned Parenthood reported an outpouring of donations, large and small, that totaled \$3 million. Planned Parenthood said the funds will be used to expand its breast health services.

The wave of public support forced Komen to overturn its decision to defund Planned Parenthood, at least for this year. As this issue could arise again, we must always be ready to speak out against injustice. We have the power to make change and we must wield it wisely. **WN**

### Let's Keep Minnesota Moving Forward, Not Backward

Local 653 (Region 6) is looking to the members of the Women's Network, along with all of our other members, to join us in speaking about "what being union means to you," and what it has done to

help you improve the quality of life for you and your family.

Similar to Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio, Minnesota is facing the right-to-work issue which has been introduced as a constitutional amendment.

We are urging all of our members to come out for "A Day at the Capitol" on March 14, 2012. We will be speaking with our senators and representatives about how right-to-work would personally affect you and your family.

The more voices they hear, the greater the impact! **WN**



*Lourdes Castellano, a Cargill worker and member of Local 1776 (Region 2), poses with President Obama during his visit to Scranton to promote his jobs bill. Lourdes is an assistant chief union steward at the Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Hazleton, Penn. A ten year member of Local 1776, Lourdes is on the Union Negotiating Team at Cargill and actively participates in the Packinghouse Division Chain Meetings.*

### UFCW Stands with President Obama



By Nikki Budzinski, UFCW Political Director

The UFCW proudly announced its endorsement earlier this year for the re-election of President Obama. At a time when workers are under attack by big corporations, special interests, and their cronies in government, President Obama has been an unyielding friend to working men and women. He is the only candidate for president in 2012 that has our interests at heart.

President Obama has delivered on health care; expanding coverage to 32 million Americans and ending discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions. He's fought for the middle class by protecting families from losing their homes through no fault of their own with mortgage

relief, and his administration passed the most significant financial reform law since the Great Depression. President Obama also continues to fight for comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for undocumented workers.

The UFCW and its allies are committed to helping elect pro-worker candidates this fall, but more importantly holding those elected officials accountable once they take or resume office. Our top priority is making sure those elected stay true to their promise of fighting for our members and for all working families around the country.

This year, we look to overturn the U.S. House of Representatives from Republican control, and to keep our Democratic allies in the U.S. Senate while hopefully picking up a few more along the way. Democrats need to pick up 25 seats in the House to take back the majority, and the races are already heating up around the country.

Keeping a Democratic majority in the Senate will be no easy task, but with a six seat margin over Republicans and many high profile races across the country, Democrats remain confident in their ability to keep control.

Among these races, the UFCW proudly supports several women candidates including: Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts); Lois Capps (California); Amy Klobu-

char (Minnesota); Tammy Duckworth (Illinois); Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin); Debbie Stabenow (Michigan); and Heidi Heitkamp (North Dakota), among others.

Elsewhere in the states, the UFCW continues its battle against the assault on workers. Indiana recently became the 23rd state to adopt a deceptively named right-to-work law. In 2011, we saw an onslaught of attacks against public sector employees, most notably in Wisconsin and Ohio.

We won five of the nine State Senate recall elections in Wisconsin after Governor Walker and the Republican-controlled legislature stripped collective bargaining rights for public sector workers in 2011. And the UFCW helped provide a strong victory in Ohio by repealing the state's controversial decision to eliminate collective bargaining for 350,000 public sector workers, including police, fire fighters and nurses.

Special interest groups, big corporations, and anti-worker zealots will try to use their victory in Indiana as leverage to pass "right-to-work" in Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Maine, New Hampshire, and in more states around the country. But our members and activists are ready for the challenge. We stand united to take back our country for the middle class and for our families. **WN**

# UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK E-NEWS

## Chair's Column *continued from page 1*

have served women and children for so many years have been targeted by Republicans for budget cuts.

In spite of these setbacks, there are reasons to be hopeful. President Obama has stood up for women's rights and created the Council on Women and Girls to ensure that his administration provides a coordinated federal response to issues that have an impact on the lives of women and girls, including providing assistance to women-owned businesses and working to increase the

participation of women in the science, engineering, and technology workforce.

The president has fought for the health and well-being of women and their families by extending health care to 32 million Americans, and ending discrimination against Americans with pre-existing conditions. The president has also addressed gender-based wage issues by passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which helps to ensure equal pay for equal work.

This month and every month leading up to the election, it

is imperative that we stick together to fight anti-worker legislation and the continued political assault on women's rights.

I hope you will join us at the UFCW Women's Network's Biennial Convention on May 3-6 in Florida which will focus on the economic and political landscape in 2012. By exercising our right to vote, we can write another chapter of women's history by re-electing President Obama and other worker-friendly leaders in Congress and statehouses across the country. [WN](#)

## UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**INTERNATIONAL CHAIR**  
**Rhonda Nelson**  
UFCW Local 1500  
rhondan@ufcw1500.org



**TREASURER**  
**Peg Michalowski**  
UFCW Local 1360  
pmlocal1360@aol.com



**RECORDER**  
**Laurie Mesa**  
UFCW Local 5  
lmesa@ufcw5.org



**POLITICAL ACTION CO-CHAIR**  
**Lynn Knaak**  
ICWUC of the UFCW  
lknaak@icwuc.org



**EDUCATION CO-CHAIR**  
**Bette Mercer**  
UFCW Int'l Union  
bmercer@ufcw.org



**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CO-CHAIR**  
**Kathy Finn**  
UFCW Local 770  
KathyF@ufcw770.org



**DIVERSITY CO-CHAIR**  
**Cassandra Berrocal**  
Local 3 RWDSU UFCW  
cassandrab3rwsu@aol.com



**ORGANIZING CO-CHAIR**  
**Lois Taylor-Honeycutt**  
UFCW Local 431  
ltaylor@ufcw431.com



**COMMUNICATIONS/ MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR**  
**Nancy Quiring**  
UFCW Canada  
nancy.quiring@ufcw.ca

# UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK REGIONAL COORDINATORS



**REGION 1 - NORTH**  
**Ellen Jordan**  
 UFCW Local 328  
 ellen@ufcw328.org



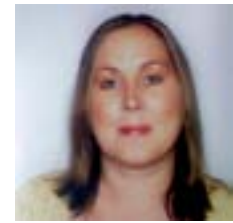
**REGION 1 - SOUTH**  
**Sherry Van Dyk**  
 UFCW Local 1245  
 svandyk@local1245.com



**REGION 1 - SOUTH**  
**Fallon Ager Nelson**  
 Local 338 RWDSU UFCW  
 fager@local338.com



**REGION 1 - SOUTH**  
**Agueda Arias**  
 UFCW Local 888  
 aarias@ufcw888.org



**REGION 2 - NORTH**  
**Gail Heath**  
 UFCW Local 400  
 gheath@local400.org



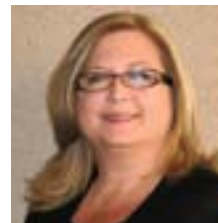
**REGION 4**  
**Rhonda Judd**  
 UFCW Local 227  
 ufcwlocal227@hotmail



**REGION 4**  
**Jessica Gibbons**  
 UFCW Local 75  
 jgibbons@fuse.net



**REGION 5**  
**Nancy Parker**  
 UFCW Local 655  
 nparker@ufcw655.org



**REGION 5**  
**Julie Bryant**  
 UFCW Local 1995  
 jbryant@ufcw1995.org



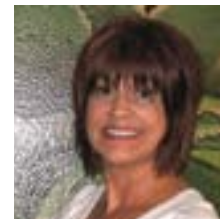
**REGION 5**  
**Angela Johnson**  
 UFCW Local 1000  
 awjohnson292@yahoo.com



**REGION 6**  
**Jeanine Owusu**  
 UFCW Local 789  
 jeanine@ufcw789.org



**REGION 6**  
**Nancy Vaillancourt**  
 UFCW Local 653  
 nancyv@ufcw653.org



**REGION 8 - SOUTH**  
**Teresa D'Asaro**  
 UFCW Local 99  
 TeresaD@ufcw99.com



**REGION 8 - CENTRAL**  
**Sylvia Pino**  
 UFCW Local 5  
 Sylviaf.Pino@gmail.com



**RWDSU COUNCIL**  
**Kathy Campbell**  
 RWDSU  
 kkcampbell@local108rwdsu.org



**RWDSU COUNCIL**  
**Tina Buonaugurio**  
 RWDSU NE Joint Board  
 bosselait@nejb.org



**ICWUC COUNCIL**  
**Jacquelin Allen**  
 ICWUC of the UFCW  
 jackierallen@sbcglobal.net



**ICWUC COUNCIL**  
**Mary Davis**  
 ICWUC of the UFCW  
 mdavis@icwuc.org

# UFCW WOMEN'S NETWORK E-NEWS

## UFCW Women's Network Membership Application 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  New Membership  Renewal

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

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

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

UFCW Local No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Active membership, open to all UFCW members in good standing, includes voting rights in Network activities. Associate membership, open to those who aren't active members but support the goals and purpose of the Network, is open to all other supporters, including former members, retirees, and members of other unions. Women's Network membership dues are payable annually. Dues paid in October, November and December will be credited for the next year.

**Active Member**  Regular member - \$25 for one year  Regular member - \$70 for three years\*

Contributing member - \$50 for one year  Sustaining member - \$100 for one year

Retired member - \$10 for one year  Lifetime member - \$350 one-time payment

**Associate Member**  Associate Member - \$25 for one year  Associate member - \$70 for three years\*

\*Members wishing to pay for three years may do so at reduced rates



**Please attach your check made out to *UFCW Women's Network* to this form and return to:**

UFCW Women's Network  
Attn: Rhonda Nelson  
425 Merrick Avenue  
Westbury, New York 11590

**THANK YOU!**



# The Economic and Political Landscape 2012

## Winning Strategies for Working Women

TENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION ■ MAY 3-6 ■ 2012 ■ LAKE BUENA VISTA ■ FLORIDA

### Accommodations

The UFCW Women's Network Tenth Biennial Convention will be held on May 3-6, 2012, at the [Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resorts](#), Lake Buena Vista, FL. Hotel reservations must be made by calling the hotel's reservation line at 407-934-3372, or by faxing your reservations to 407-934-3305. Their office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and again from 1 to 4 p.m. EDT.

The hotel has offered Convention attendees a group rate of \$169, plus 12½% tax per night, and the resort fee has been waived. To take advantage of this rate, please contact the hotel reservation line and ask for the group rate for: UFCW Women's Network Convention. This rate will be offered for attendees booking **on or before Monday, April 2, 2012.**

### Registration

The registration fee for the 2012 UFCW Women's Network Convention is \$100 (U.S. or Canadian funds). The fee includes a ticket for the luncheon on Friday, May 4, 2012. **Pre-registration is required.** To register by mail, please forward your registration fee, in the form of check or money order with the form below. You may register and pay by credit card (PayPal™) at our website <http://ufcwomensnetworkconvention2012.eventbrite.com>. Additional instructions, news and updates can be found by visiting the website.

On-site convention registration will begin on Thursday, May 3, from 3 to 6 p.m. and continue on Friday, May 4, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Cape Cod Registration, in the Convention Center. Please visit the Registration Counter upon your arrival to pick up your Convention materials and confirm your attendance. The 2012 Women's Network Convention will convene at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012.

### Convention Schedule

Thursday, May 3	Welcome Reception	6:30 to 9 p.m.
Friday, May 4	General Session	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 5	General Session	8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 6	General Session	9 a.m. to Noon

### Constitutional Proposals and Resolutions

Proposed constitutional changes or resolutions should be sent via email, regular mail or facsimile by **March 1, 2012**, to Rhonda Nelson, International Chair, c/o UFCW Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590 or [rhondan@ufcw1500.org](mailto:rhondan@ufcw1500.org). Faxes may be sent to Rhonda Nelson at 516-214-1313, or toll-free to 866-873-8934.

## 2012 UFCW Women's Network Convention Registration Form

Please complete this form and return with a check or money order for \$100 (U.S. or Canadian funds) made payable to UFCW Women's Network to Rhonda Nelson, c/o Local 1500, 425 Merrick Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Local No: \_\_\_\_\_

Position:       Member       Staff       Other (list): \_\_\_\_\_

Please advise us if you have any special needs that require accommodation (wheelchair access, hearing or visual impairments, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_