

# Organizing: 7UP Steps Up

158 new members are warehouse workers, including forklift operators and delivery drivers, as well as display stockers.

The three-year contract between the Teamsters and 7UP was ratified on September 16th and the margin of victory was a huge one.

Local 63 Business Agents Randy Korgan and Ramiro Alonzo were key players on the negotiating committee, along with Doug Martinez, Larry

Woods and Keith Boklage.

“For the Teamsters, 7UP was unique,” Korgan explained. “Because of some legal challenges, we had to wait two-and-a-half years to complete the organizing process. We used this extra time to make the network stronger and tighter.”

The extra time paid off: the election was won by a landslide. “After spending all that time organizing, and then finally seeing everyone’s hard work pay off by winning and getting the contract in four months — that was an amazing experience.”

“Doug Martinez was the star of



**Burt Self**



**Michael Clark**



**Negotiation Committee: Doug Martinez, Randy Korgan, Keith Boklage, and Larry Wood**

the show,” declared Korgan. “He was fantastic at keeping the channels of communication open and was the glue that held the community together.

“It was truly impressive how Doug learned such a tremendous amount about what was involved in this kind of process in a very short period of time.”

Martinez, a member of the negotiating committee and a shop steward, has worked at the Redlands branch of 7UP for three and a half years as a delivery driver.

“It was my first time ever being on a committee like that,” reported Martinez. “I admire the way the Teamsters handled the negotiating process. They really took charge. If the discussion began to stray, they would pull everyone back in and keep everyone focused on where we had to go.”

At 32 years old, Keith Boklage, a shop steward and forklift operator at the Redlands distribution center, was the youngest member of the negotiating committee and was there to represent his warehouse.

“I was just trying to soak it all in,” said Boklage. “If questions come my way from workers, I need to be able to



**Steve Clemmons**

understand what’s going on. I’m glad I took part in it.”

“A retirement plan was an absolute priority for the workers and now they’ll actually be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor,” Korgan added.

“Improvements to the health plan include better plan selections and lower co-pays. Plus we increased the company’s contribution percentage from 80/20 to 90/10. Because of all of these savings, premium costs



**Mike Lozoya**

were cut by more than half.”

Reset Specialist Larry Wood is a thirty-one-year veteran at 7UP. Thirty of those years were spent serving his co-workers and the local as a union steward.

“I have to say that this was the best negotiating session I’ve ever seen. As far as benefits and wages go, the company gave more than they ever have before.”



**Gilbert Sauceba**



**Jesse Saenz**



**Robert Sierra**