



The Executive Council of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO is proud to introduce

CONNIE M. LEYVA.

Leyva, 37, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1428, is a trailblazer. As the first woman president of a UFCW local in Southern California, she distinguished herself during the grocery strike as a strategist, field director and media spokesperson.

She led the union through five months of exhausting picket lines and brought renewed energy every day to her members who struggled for a fair contract.

In recognition of Leyva's farsighted leadership during the crisis, UFCW International President Joe Hansen appointed her to co-chair the UFCW National Committee on the Future.

Leyva has deep roots in the labor movement. Her father was a supermarket worker and member of Local 1428, and her mother is a 28-year veteran of the California State Employees Association.

Leyva joined Local 1428 during her senior year in high school, while working for Alpha Beta. She worked her way through college, graduating in 1992 from the University of Redlands with a B.A. in communicative disorders.

She began her career at Local 1428 in 1994 as a temporary employee in the benefits department. Leyva quickly rose through the ranks. She was appointed a union representative in 1995, and by 2002 she became president.

As a senior officer of the UFCW Western States Council, Leyva took prominent roles in the UFCW International Conventions in 1998 and 2003. She has also served as coordinator of the UFCW Region 8 Women's Network.

President Leyva has won praise throughout the labor movement for her tireless work as a campaign strategist for pro-labor candidates at the federal, state and local level.

Leyva's extraordinary leadership has not gone unnoticed by other unions. In 2004 the California Teachers Association saluted Leyva as one of "Thirteen Amazing Women."

Leyva met her husband Albert when they both were working at Alpha Beta. They have twin 12-year-old girls, Allie and Jessie. They live in Chino.

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