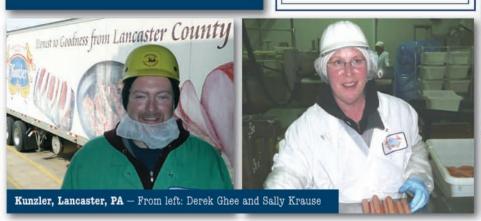
## a VOICE for working America Fall 2011





Kraft Foods, Dover, DE — From left:
Dale Smith, John Lockerman, Wanda Bythwood,
H. Dolores Hendricks and John Rowe.

# SHOP UNION! Buy products and services





Progresso, Vineland, NJ — From top: Andre Henry, a Progresso mural and Angel Vasquez.

## **Buy American!**

Visit.

### www.americansworking.com

for information on finding American-made products. Support U.S. workers and help save jobs.



### UFCW Local 152 Unity

Official Publication of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 152

EDITOR

Brian String

### Union Headquarters

One White Horse Centre P.O. Box 637 Hammonton, NJ 08037 (888) JOIN-152

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## President Brian String and entire leadership slate re-elected to serve Local 152 for new three-year term

he entire Local 152 leadership team was re-elected by acclamation in July to serve a new three-year term on behalf of the membership beginning Jan. 1, 2012.

In a letter to members, President Brian String thanked them for their support and solidarity.

"We must still confront the day-to-day challenges of any union that is dedicated to improving the lives of its members," he said. "But we take on our duties with a united spirit that has surprised many observers along the way."

String praised the leadership team for guiding Local 152 through its formation period which began six years ago.

"Together, let's build upon our accomplishments and keep our eyes on a brighter future," he said.

## Leadership team

President Brian String

Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Benigno

Recorder Lisa Sanders

Vice President 1 Nelson T. Albano

Vice President 2 Michael G. Benson

Vice President 3 William P. Brennan, Jr.

Vice President 4 Charles S. Clark

Vice President 5 Dennis B. Clifford

Vice President 6 Carmen Delvicario

Vice President 7 Jose E. Echevarria

Vice President 8 Peter J. Evangelidis

Vice President 9 Annamarie Henigan

Vice President 10 Edna Inge

Vice President 11 Daniel F. Konczyk

Vice President 12 Michael P. Williams

Vice President 13 James F. Murray

Vice President 14 Edward J. Nescio

Vice President 15 John J. Puesi

Vice President 16 Andre Rapattoni

Vice President 17 Bruce Robinson

Vice President 18 John G. Romeo

Vice President 19 Roy J. Washel

Vice President 20 Louis J. Yacovelli

## AYS TO BE UNION!

## **Grievances filed or resolved:**

3rd Quarter 2011

2011 Total

103

368

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

3rd Quarter 2011

2011 Total

\$74,465.56

\$159,202.62



## Apply for the Local 152 T.E.A.M. Fund

nion members look out for one another. That's why UFCW Local 152 has established the Terminated Employees Allowance for Members (T.E.A.M.) Fund using the savings from the cancelled 2011 Stewards' Seminar.

These limited funds are available to qualifying members on a one-time basis until the Fund has been depleted.

These are especially difficult times for many of our members, such as those affected by the closing of several A&P-owned

supermarkets in our jurisdiction. These closings left hundreds of our union brothers and sisters unemployed in a time when new jobs are not easy to come by. For this reason, the Fund is available to laid-off A&P members exclusively.

Who would qualify? *Only former laid-off members who were not offered a position or bump with the company.* Former full-time workers will receive \$700 in assistance and former part-time workers will receive \$300 from the fund.

-President Brian String

If you meet the requirement listed above, please complete and send the entire form to: T.E.A.M. Fund Council, UFCW Local 152, P.O. Box 637, Hammonton, NJ 08037

Name:		
Address:		<u></u>
City:		
Zip:Email:		_
Home Phone Number:		
Cell Phone Number:		
Employer:		
Location (Store and Address):		<del></del>
Years of Service:		
Position Held:	_Full Time:	_Part Time:
Were you offered another position? YesNo	If yes, where?	
Bump Offered: YesNo If yes, where?		
Signature		
Official Use Only: Approved	l Declined	



## Unity newsletter honored again by ILCA

he Local 152 *Unity* newsletter has been recognized by the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) for the second consecutive year.

At the organization's annual award ceremony in September, it bestowed an Honorable Mention award to *Unity* in the General Excellence category, placing it among the top Labor publications in the country.



## **Retirees 'Club 56'**

You are cordially invited to join Club 56.

Join us at the Club 56 Annual Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 5, 2011, at noon at the Coastline Restaurant, 1240 Brace Road in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Meetings are held at 10 a.m. in the Yellow Room of the United Methodist Church, 3541 Pennsylvania Ave., Pennsauken, NJ.

Next year's Club meetings will be held on March 5, May 7 and Oct. 8, 2012.

For more information, please contact Chairman George Kerth at (856) 429-0237 or (856) 663-2864.



## **Members shine in crisis**

☐ In this column, analyst Jeff Metzger looks at developments in the food and drug industry around the country.

t may not have been as bad as Hurricane Isabel in 2005, but for a sheer water event, Hurricane Irene was bad enough. And for those who live in parts of Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey and New England, the power of the storm brought horrific flooding.

And once again the industry shone in its preparation and execution of handling the unusual and challenging issues that only a hurricane can bring.

Two days prior to
Hurricane Irene, I visited 15
stores under the banners of
six retailers in Virginia and
Maryland, and each unit I surveyed was fully prepared for
the onslaught. All stores were
well-stocked and department
managers told me they had
extra inventory on hand.

Other than issues of personal safety or loss of power, most stores remained open even during the most intense periods of wind and rain. And those stores that did lose power (and thus were forced to close) were in solid condition when I checked back on Sunday, the day after the storm.

So where am I going with this? It's very easy to forget how good the food distribution system really is in this country. From a pure blocking and tackling perspective, the efficiency of getting product from farm to table is unbelievably efficient and perceptibly seamless.

### **Grace under pressure**

Yet we all know there's a lot more to it than sound mechanics. The true differentiator is people from all segments of the business:

Manufacturers who made sure enough product was available at the most critical times. Warehouse associates and truck drivers who ensured that distribution and logistic needs would be met before, during and after a weather event as devastating as a hurricane.

And, of course, the clerks and meatcutters who work in the stores, who toiled tirelessly to make sure the customers enjoyed the best shopping experience they could during the most daunting of times.

The grocery business is unsung and under-appreciated, but when you analyze how well the industry performed in the most difficult of times, it's easy to recognize how amazing this industry is and how many wonderful people contribute to its greatness.

☐ Jeff Metzger's "Taking Stock" column appears in Food World and Food Trade News.

## Our union shares the struggles and successes of workers everywhere

successful union doesn't live in a bubble. We can't pretend that our concerns at Local 152 pertain only to the industries we serve or the states where our members work.

We were reminded of this recently when the union rights of our brothers and sisters in the public sector came under attack in Wisconsin, Ohio and elsewhere.

While our union primarily serves workers in the private sector, that doesn't mean developments in the public sector won't have a ripple effect that touches all of us.

### Union activism nationwide

That's why we sent representatives to rallies in the Midwest and gathered with thousands of other union activists in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to deliver our message that an attack on union members anywhere is an attack on us all.

It is important to keep up with news that affects union workers in all parts of the country and beyond. We want to know what's going on with Smithfield workers in the South or Walmart workers in Canada because we want to see a better future for all workers.

We share other unions' struggles, but we also share their successes.

In Southern California last month, seven UFCW locals representing

'The members stood strong and came away with a contract that protects their health care and pension benefits'

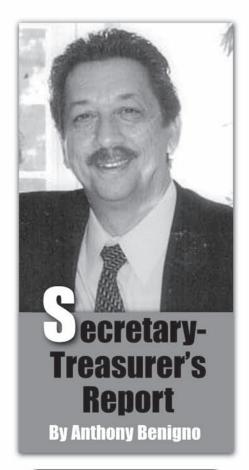
62,000 grocery workers reached an agreement with the Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons supermarket chains, averting a strike after months of tense negotiations that nearly collapsed.

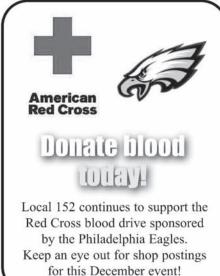
The members stood strong and came away with a contract that protects their health care and pension benefits.

As is so often the case today, those benefits were the first things the employers wanted to cut.

Verizon workers in the Northeast went on strike during the summer, returning to work in late August.

These and other actions by union members across the country are calling attention to the struggle to maintain the standards we have fought to achieve over the years. They also show employers nationwide that America's labor unions are not afraid to stand up for what's right for all Americans who work for a living.







## Earn money and keep your union strong!

Would you like to earn some extra cash? Provide an organizing lead to Local 152 that results in a union election. Some involvement will be required. By getting involved, you are helping to make your union stronger and you have an opportunity to earn \$275! For additional information, please contact Chad Brooks, Director of Organizing, at (888) 564-6152.

























Above: President Brian String with the first place winners of the charity golf tournament. From left: William Harner, String, Reid Carnes, Derek Wilson and Todd Jillson. **Below:** A wall of gifts donated by generous contributors and the list of supporters.





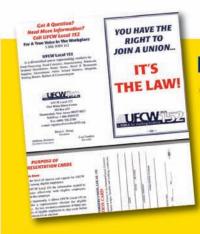
The sixth annual UFCW Local 152 Charity Golf Tournament was held on Sept. 6 at the Avalon Golf Club in Swainton, NJ. All proceeds benefit the Leukemia Society of America, the Bryan D. Ross Foundation and other charities.

## Visit the new www.ufcwlocal152.org!

## **Locate Your Representative**

The new "Locate your Representative" box on the main page of the website is a quick and easy way to keep in touch with your union. Just select your workplace and/or enter your store number and you'll have instant access to your union representative's contact information.



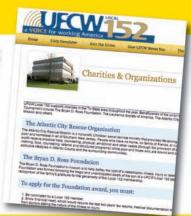


## **Forms & Documents**

Commonly requested forms from the union offices are now available for download. Authorization for Representation, Change of Address and Grievance forms, along with many others, are available now.

## **Charities & Organizations**

Visit the "Charities & Organizations" section of the website to learn about the many ways Local 152 gives back to the communities it serves. Members can get involved with the Retirees Club or Women's Network, and eligible members can apply for charitable assistance.





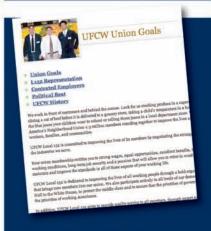
## **Unity Newsletter**

Read the digital version of the latest *Local 152 Unity* newsletter or browse a digital archive of past issues.



## News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest union news. Meeting dates and times, volunteer opportunities, breaking announcements and more can all be found here.



## How The UFCW Serves You

Learn about your union's goals and team of experienced representatives. Meet your union brothers and sisters in the other industries served by Local 152. Get involved in legislative actions to protect your job and read up on the history of the UFCW International Union.





## Marie Laurence's will is as strong as her biceps

ne might be surprised to learn that Marie Laurence, a 69year-old Deli Manager at Holiday Markets, is a member of the United States World Team for weightlifting.

Even more incredible is the fact that she took up the sport after having a brain tumor removed and suffering a stroke.

"I feel great because people look at me and wonder how I do it," Laurence said. "In the beginning though, I didn't have a desire to lift, but my family encouraged me to do it."

Weighing in at a lean 110 pounds, Laurence can lift up to 200 pounds. She is the current titleholder in weightlifting in her Master 3 category. She has competed in eight tournaments and won gold medals in each of them.

Most recently she competed in Canada where she placed sixth in the All Around competition (1st place in her weight group) as part of the U.S. World Team. In September, the Titan sports equipment company agreed to sponsor Laurence, providing \$600 worth of gear, arranging a photo shoot and using her image for the company's Facebook profile picture.

## **Tough beginnings**

Laurence's interest in weightlifting began in 2006 after she suffered her stroke.

"I remember feeling funny at work and yelling my co-worker's name for help," she recalled. "At least I thought I was yelling."

She fell to the floor without uttering a word. Her co-worker called for an ambulance, but it was taking too long. She placed Laurence in her car and drove her to Frankfurt Hospital.

Doctors determined that a leaky heart valve pumped too much blood to Laurence's brain. She underwent surgery to repair the valve.

While recovering, her granddaughter Beverly and daughter Jonnell introduced her to weightlifting.

"I used to be able to only lift 30-40 pounds, but now that's nothing,"
Laurence said. "My doctor is impressed with me and continues to encourage me to be active."

But this wasn't the first time Laurence had a brush with death. In 2000, concerned that she might have Alzheimer's disease, she scheduled a visit with her doctor.

"My doctor told me they found a brain tumor the size of a golf ball," she said.

The tumor caused her to experience double vision in her left eye and total loss of hearing in her left ear. She had surgery and took a leave from work for one month, but she couldn't wait to get back.

"My manager took very good care of me," Laurence said. "He made sure my job was there when I got back."

These days, you'll find Laurence at home with her family, at the gym where she trains for two hours at a time, or at casinos having some girl time with her friends.

"I go to Las Vegas at least once a year with my girls," Laurence said. "But it's all in good fun. I go there with a little bit of money and sometimes I come back with some of it."

## Look for the Mobile Wellness Van at your workplace to receive a **flu shot** this season

he UFCW Mobile Wellness
Van will visit job sites this
season, administering flu
shots to participants of the
Local 152 Health & Welfare Fund
and their eligible adult family
members.

Please be sure you have your medical card and ID available for the staff.

For a schedule of locations, dates and times, visit www.ufcwlocal152.org.

### Why get a flu shot?

It is important to get a flu shot to protect yourself, your family and your co-workers from illness. The most common flu types tend to change, so a new flu shot is necessary every year.

Inoculations are especially important for children between 6 months and 18 years old, adults 50 and older, and people with heart or lung conditions or chronic condi-



Member Jose Velez, who works at the Progresso plant in Vineland, NJ, receives a flu shot.

tions like diabetes or kidney disease.

To limit the spread of germs that cause illness, cough or sneeze into the bend of the elbow. Also, wash hands frequently and thoroughly after close contact with others.





## **Health & Wellness Fair at Kraft Foods**

raft Foods held its first Health & Wellness Fair on Sept. 14 in the Employee Conference Room at the Dover, DE plant. Those who participated were able to get health screenings, speak with vendors and participate in raffles. Members also had access to the union's Mobile Health & Wellness Van and benefited by receiving a host of preventative screenings. It was a huge success!

Retirements				
Name	Company	Date		
Karen J. Achey	Super Fresh	06/01/201		
Jeffrey L. Bachtlin	Berks Packing Company	06/01/201		
David Baker	Kraft Foods	03/01/201		
Fanny Balaban	Lipoff's Wholesale Meats	06/01/201		
John E. Berry	Acme Markets	08/01/201		
Marcia V. Blasberg	Village ShopRite	08/01/201		
Faye E. Brooks	Acme Markets	08/01/201		
Larry Brookstein	Acme Markets	08/01/201		
Evangeline R. Brown	Bown's Superstores	08/01/201		
Edward Brzdek	Saker ShopRite	06/01/201		
John M. Byczek	Medford, Inc.	06/01/201		
James V. Callan	Saker ShopRite	07/01/201		
Ralph Canning	Super Fresh	06/01/201		
Iris E. Carr	Acme Markets	06/01/201		
Gwyneth M. Clarke	Acme Markets	08/01/203		
Elsie A. Collins	Village ShopRite	08/01/201		
Robert T. Cooney, Sr.	Pathmark Stores	06/01/201		
Patrick M. Curran	Brown's Superstores	08/01/201		
Richard Davila	Kraft Foods	05/01/201		
Gloria Demby	Kraft Foods	03/01/203		
James H. Devlin	Acme Markets	06/01/20		
Dorothy DiChristofer	Pathmark Stores	08/01/20		
William D. Dinkelacker	Laneco, Inc./Food Lane Stores			
Doris K. Eiler	Acme Markets	07/01/203		
Guenther J. Fell	Acme Markets	08/01/203		
Paul Feraco	Pathmark Stores	06/01/201		
Philip J. Finger, Jr.	Acme Markets	08/01/20		
Leonard J. Fusaro, Sr.	Acme Markets	06/01/20		
Janet M. Genardi	Laneco, Inc./Food Lane Stores			

Marcus Gillespie	Kraft Foods	02/01/2011
Kenneth Good	Homestead Turkey	08/01/2011
Stanley Gordon	Brewerytown SNB	06/01/2011
Jacqueline L. Gouge	Shaffer Market	06/01/2011
Crystal Hamilton	Kraft Foods	07/01/2011
Lucia Hardy	Acme Markets	06/01/2011
Gordon Heath	Kraft Foods	07/01/2011
Lillie Ivy	Sterling Boneless Beef Co.	07/01/2011
Charles H. John	Acme Markets	06/01/2011
Alice T. Jones	Acme Markets	07/01/2011
Jo-Ann T. Kelly	Acme Markets	08/01/2011
Rosemarie A. Kennedy	Acme Markets	06/01/2011
Joyce Levasseur	Holiday Markets	07/01/2011
Paulette Leonard	Pop's SNB	06/01/2011
Kathleen A. Luptowski	Acme Markets	06/01/2011
Patricia A. Malin	Super Fresh	07/01/2011
Jacob E. Marlatt	Super Fresh	07/01/2011
Damian Martinez	Super Fresh	07/01/2011
Patrick J. McAndrew	Pathmark Stores	07/01/2011
Helen C. McFetridge	GMS Zallie Holdings, Inc.	07/01/2011
John L. McGowan	Nalbone Enterprises	
	(Crestwood SNB)	06/01/2011
Andrew D. McNair, Sr.	Zallie's Supermarkets	07/01/2011
Charmaine Moser	A&P Tea Company	08/01/2011
Erika Muellner	Quay Meats & Provision	07/01/2011
Shirley M. Newcome	Colonial Beef Company	08/01/2011
Eileen P. Palmer	Pathmark Stores	08/01/2011
William E. Parker	George Wollman Wholesale	08/01/2011
Lynn E. Pitts	Acme Markets	07/01/2011
Carol Price	Super Fresh	07/01/2011
Suzanne Rafferty	Brown's Superstore	06/01/2011

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Name	Deceased
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Effective June 1, 2011, eligible spouses are also able to receive a free Heart Cam screening.

Find out your risk of coronary disease. Call the Fund office today for details.



## **Member receives Boy Scout honor**

n Sept. 15, Shop Steward John R. Makos Jr. of ShopRite 601 in Egg Harbor Township presented member Brandon Justis with an Eagle Scout Certificate on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Makos has worked for ShopRite for 32 years and has been active in the Boy Scouts of America for 30 years.

Brandon Justis has worked for ShopRite for a year and a half. He has been affiliated with the Boy Scouts for eight years and he reached Eagle Scout status on July 16. UFCW Local 152 One White Horse Centre P.O. Box 637 Hammonton, NJ 08037

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## Working people should take notice of Occupy Wall Street

I've been intrigued by the Occupy Wall Street phenomenon that is gaining traction across the country. It's not a perfect movement by any means, but if it maintains its focus on the right goals, I wonder if it could be the proverbial pebble in the water that creates a huge wave of change.

The frustration of the Occupy participants with corporate greed and their disillusionment with America's financial and political system are familiar emotions for union members. For decades we have fought against a corporate system that doesn't pay its fair share into the economy and sends jobs and entire industries overseas.

These actions make billions in profits for the corporations, but when it comes time to negotiate a contract with the workers who contribute to their success, they attack our members' wages and benefits.

Then, when we look to our elected officials to pass legislation that makes it easier for workers to organize, we're often met with apathy or outright hostility, depending on the administration.

When politicians - like our

president — prove to be ineffective, and when even an event as catastrophic as the financial collapse of 2008 doesn't change Wall Street's behavior, it's time to look to new methods of change. That is the only way the middle class is going to survive in this country.

## **Take ownership**

We're expected to buy into the '80s cliché that "greed is good," but as this groundswell proves, people aren't buying it. Workers certainly aren't buying it, and that's why working people — union and non-union, and from all industries — need to take ownership of this movement.

In order for Occupy Wall Street to be legitimized and recognized by the masses and those in power, the radical participants need to be pushed to the side. There's no room in this grassroots organization for anarchists, communists or anyone who seeks to tear down this country rather than improve it.

By pushing the fringe groups to the side and creating a true worker movement, Occupy Wall Street could



bring long overdue change to the way our country functions.

We need a movement that recognizes the shared goal of the American Dream and fights to help all workers achieve it.

Brian Str