Over the course of 30 years, UFCW Local 152 members Jay Jamelkowski, Sherri Moore and Jane Baxter have turned what began as “just a job” into successful careers at Super Fresh.

“My cousin worked at A&P and he told me I should apply to Super Fresh,” Jamelkowski recalled. “I was originally hired as a utility clerk in the meat department and I just kept climbing the ranks.”

Jamelkowski is now the meat manager and shop steward at Super Fresh 584 in Wilmington, Del.

“I became a shop steward because I enjoy helping people,” he continued. “Some people feel like they might not have a voice on the job, and I want to help them.”

From left: Members Sherri Moore and Jay Jamelkowski commemorate their 30 years with Super Fresh along with Shop Steward Karen Casapulla. Inset: Fellow 30-year Super Fresh member Jane Baxter.

A cause for celebration

Three members look back on the challenges and triumphs from 30 years of working at Super Fresh

Local 152 member Maureen Larsen took a trip across the world earlier this year, and she’s got the souvenirs to prove it.

As one of only three New Jersey natives selected to compete in the Special Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, at the end of January, Larsen returned home with a bronze medal in alpine skiing and lots of great memories.

“It was fun, I met a lot of new people, and the food was great too,” Larsen said.

(Please see page 3)

Also inside: Health and safety training • Spreading the union message
Nomination of delegates to the UFCW International convention

April 8, 2013

Dear UFCW Local 152 Member:

As you know, UFCW Local 152 has received notice that the UFCW International will be conducting its Regular Convention ("Convention") pursuant to the UFCW International Constitution ("Constitution"). The Convention is scheduled for August 12, 2013 through August 16, 2013 and will be held in Chicago, Illinois. Pursuant to Article 15 of the Constitution, UFCW Local 152 is authorized to send up to 21 delegates to the Convention. Article 15 of the Constitution also sets forth a procedure for the nomination and election of delegates to the Convention.

In accordance with Article 15(F) of the Constitution, please accept this as Notice of Nomination of Delegates to the Convention. In this regard, nominations for delegates to the Convention shall be held on April 29, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the VFW #2189, 500 Bethel Road, Somers Point, New Jersey 08244.

Article 15(H)1 of the Constitution sets forth the criteria to be eligible to be a delegate to the Convention as follows:

Any active member of the International Union, as defined in Article 4(B) of this Constitution, who has been an active member of the International Union, or who had been a member of another organization merged with or chartered by the International Union or merged into a Local Union of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, for a continuous aggregate of at least 12 months preceding the month in which the Convention call is issued, shall be eligible to be a delegate to the Convention from the Local Union through which he or she holds his or her membership at the time of nominations, provided that said member maintains continuous active membership in said Local Union during the interval between his or her election and the commencement of the Convention.

Lastly, Article 15(M) of the Constitution provides that the UFCW International shall pay for the reasonable and necessary cost of transportation of the duly elected delegates to and from the Convention. This section also provides that local unions may pay for other expenses associated with attendance at the convention. In accordance with this provision, the Executive Board of UFCW Local 152 has determined to not pay or reimburse any portion of the Local 152 delegates’ other expenses connected with attendance at the Convention.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding the nomination of delegates to the upcoming UFCW International Convention.

Sincerely,

Anthony Benigno
Election Chairperson
A cause for celebration

(Continued from front page)
be their voice.”

Jamelkowski appreciates the medical benefits he receives through his membership in the union.

“I’ve had numerous back and hernia surgeries,” he said. “Because of the union’s health care package, I haven’t had to pay for my surgeries.”

About three years ago, Jamelkowski was bitten by a tick. He contracted Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a disease that damaged his nerves.

“I’m still recovering from it,” Jamelkowski said. “I need to use a neuromodulator and it is completely covered by my health benefits.”

Taking comfort in benefits

Sherri Moore works with Jamelkowski as a meat wrapper. She joined Super Fresh 30 years ago as part of a cooperative education program that supplemented her bakery and food service classes at a local trade school.

“I enjoyed working here, and when I found out there was a full-time position available in the meat department, I took it and haven’t looked back since,” Moore said.

“The union has really good benefits, and luckily I haven’t had to use many of them because my family and I are healthy,” she said.

Moore takes comfort in knowing that her benefits will be there when and if she ever needs them.

“Having great medical benefits comes a close second to earning a good wage,” she said.

A reassuring feeling

Another veteran member who appreciates her health benefits is Jane Baxter, who walked into Super Fresh 562 in Claymont, Del., 30 years ago looking for a job.

“I’m just a little, tiny employee,” Baxter modestly said of her accomplishment in longevity.

“Everything about my job has been good for me. My work environment and the people are great. I’m friends with a lot of my customers.”

“I’m thankful for my medical benefits, even though I don’t use them very often,” she continued. “I know those are there when I need them, and that’s reassuring.”

Baxter plans to work eight more years and then retire with her husband, John.
OK,” she said, adding: “The skiing was hard, but I did it.”

Larsen, who has Down’s syndrome, works at the Acme Markets in Sea-ville, N.J. Incredibly, this isn’t her first time winning a medal in an international athletic competition — she received a silver for her performance in the 3,000-meter run at the 2003 Special Olympics in Ireland.

She took an interest in skiing as a young girl and has trained on slopes across the country. In December, she trained in Lake Placid, N.Y., for a week before making the trip to South Korea.

Joining the journey were her mother, Jeanie, her father, Keith, two siblings and a cousin.

Before the trip, nearly 300 friends and supporters, including nearly a dozen of her Acme coworkers, came out to a party at the family’s marina in Ocean City to wish her the best.

“Maureen was very well received,” Jeanie said. “I guess you can say I’m a pretty proud parent.”

While Martin did admit that his grueling schedule had taken a toll on him, he also acknowledged that he needed to reshape his life as he approached his 50th birthday.

According to Martin, the Utz opportunity came from out of the blue, originating from a phone call that he received from current Utz Quality Foods President Dylan Lissette. According to Martin, a lot of common ground was covered in that initial conversation and within eight weeks a deal was hammered out.

“When I spoke to Martin and Lissette separately earlier this year, both were excited. Martin sees this as an opportunity to help accelerate the growth of one of the best regional brands in the country. He also recognized that he will be entering a culture that is family-oriented with a terrific work ethic, not unlike the one he knew when he started at Martin’s in Hagerstown, Md., and helped maintain during his rise through the ranks at Giant/Carlisle and then Ahold USA.”

Grocery industry news
By Jeff Metzger

Ahold exec moves on

In this column, analyst Jeff Metzger looks at developments in the supermarket industry around the country.

When Jeff Martin abruptly resigned as executive vice president of merchandising and marketing at Ahold USA last June and was later confirmed to be taking over as senior vice president of business development at Utz, it caught many of us off guard.

Martin was so good at his job — not just in executing the exhausting day-to-day blocking that such a big role in the $25 billion organization entailed, but also in utilizing his uncan-nily strong people skills — that his resignation certainly left a void at the largest supermarket retailer in the Northeast.

Contract success

From left: Member Wanda Simons, Shop Steward James Robinson, Member Dorothy McBrinn and Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining Michael McWilliams celebrate the ratification of a new contract at J&J Snack Foods (Uptown Bakery).

Precious medal

(Continued from front page)

Maureen Larsen and Sea Isle City Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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Jeff Metzger’s “Taking Stock” column appears in Food World and Food Trade News.
On March 14, union members and other supporters of the Labor Movement assembled across the country to reaffirm their commitment to labor rights.

The National Day of Recommitment was organized by a coalition of pro-union activists as “an opportunity for activists across America to renew their fight for the rights of working families in America.” It marks the second anniversary of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker’s signing of the infamous Act 10, which stripped collective-bargaining rights from public workers in the state.

In Wisconsin, 200 labor supporters gathered in Madison to reaffirm their pledge to repeal Act 10 and restore the state’s 60-year commitment to enhancing the rights of working families.

They viewed a screening of We Are Wisconsin, which documents the solidarity of working men and women in the state in early 2011 when Walker launched his attack on collective bargaining. Similar screenings were held that day at dozens of gatherings across the United States.

Outrage at Walker’s actions led to recall campaigns the following year against the governor and legislators who voted for the law. While Walker remains in office, several of his anti-worker allies in the statehouse were removed by the voters.

Speakers at the Madison event talked about the need to resist and roll back a tide of legislation that aims to undo decades of union progress across the country.

Writing for The Nation, Wisconsin-born journalist John Nichols observed that the values championed on the National Day of Recommitment have roots that extend deeper than the Labor Movement.

“Despite the battering that unions have taken in recent years — not just in Wisconsin but nationally — a recommitment to labor rights is really a renewal of ideas and values that America once exported to the world,” Nichols wrote.

“For generations, Americans accepted the basic premise that labor rights are human rights.”

Inspiration for us all

UFCW Local 152 is firmly dedicated to the ideals expressed in commemorating the National Day of Recommitment. In 2011, our union sent staff to rallies in Wisconsin and other cities across the Midwest and participated in demonstrations of support for public workers in Trenton, Philadelphia and elsewhere closer to home.

We understand that the fight for workers’ rights has been raging for a lot longer than two years and that the struggle continues every day.

Our members can help the cause by working actively to support pro-labor candidates and legislation that favors working people. Events like the National Day of Recommitment should also inspire all of us to work harder to participate in organizing efforts in the public and private sectors. Too many of our fellow workers don’t have the protections and respect that union members enjoy.

Those who oppose the rights of working Americans have had their day. It’s up to us to fight back and win the battle — for the sake of everyone who works for a living and earns an honest paycheck.

Earn money and keep your union strong!

Would you like to earn some extra cash? **Provide an organizing lead to UFCW Local 152 that results in a union election.** Member participation 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.
On Oct. 29, 2012, as Superstorm Sandy bore down on Ocean City, N.J., Alphonsus “Alby” Bruey III reluctantly left behind his home, his cats and his life as he knew it.

“I felt like I had no time to react,” Bruey recalled.

“I had stayed back to take care of my three cats, but once I saw how severe the storm got, I knew I had to leave. I left enough food for my cats and locked them up in my attic.”

Bruey ran down his block, helping his neighbors evacuate their homes. His heroism helped save lives, but it also left him stranded for three days, away from his family.

“There was a ferry that took people off our island, but I missed the last one,” Bruey said.

He was able to return to his home after three days because he worked as a cook at The Shores of Wesley Manor nursing home. Workers at the facility are represented by UFCW Local 152.

“FEMA said I was an ‘essential employee’ and allowed me to return to work to help out the residents at the nursing home,” Bruey said.

“It was so harsh to come back to. Ocean City looked like a war zone.”

His house was “gutted up.” Miraculously, his cats survived the ordeal.

FEMA paid for Bruey and his family to stay at a nearby hotel.

**Local 152 to the rescue**

As the holidays approached, and recovery efforts slipped away from the front pages of newspapers, his union representative, Danny Ross, informed him that he could become a recipient of Local 152’s Recovery Fund.

“Danny made it possible for my daughter to have a birthday and a Christmas last year,” Bruey said. “I’m so thankful to the Lord for the union’s help in all of this.”

But the generosity didn’t end there. Ross maintained contact with Bruey to see how his recovery was going.

“Danny said I should expect a check in the mail to help with some of the costs that my insurance wouldn’t cover,” Bruey said. “I was floored when I opened the envelope he sent.”

Bruey’s family received...
$1,500 to help with hotel and food expenses.

While his house sustained $100,000 in damages, his insurance will only pay out $46,000. In addition, FEMA said its hotel support would end in March.

The prospect of being homeless was becoming a reality for Bruey’s family.

“It’s been five months since the storm, and it’s far from being over for me,” Bruey said. “I’m still rebuilding, but I know life is the most important thing that wasn’t taken away from me.”

A proud union member

“The union has helped me more than the Red Cross and FEMA,” Bruey said. “It’s great to have the people at Local 152 in my corner.”

Bruey’s faith has helped him remain optimistic despite his setbacks with his insurance companies and FEMA. A proud born again Christian, Bruey says his faith will help him finish the repairs to his house before his hotel fund dries up.

“The downstairs of my house has been repaired, we’re getting the electrical wiring put in and drywall placed upstairs,” Bruey said. “But, I’ll have no heat. Can you believe a heater costs $8,000?”

He also credits his faith for enabling his wife Carol — also a Local 152 member — to find employment at another nursing home as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Once all of the repairs are completed, Bruey plans to celebrate with Carol and their daughter, Savannah.

“Along with my cats, I left behind my Beatles record collection,” Bruey said. “I’m so glad those records made it. Carol knows that as soon as everything in the house is fixed, we’re going to go to our basement and listen to those records and dance really, really loud!”

Several Local 152 members contacted the union to express their gratitude for the assistance provided during the Superstorm Sandy recovery effort.

Here are some of the kind words that were shared:

“...thank you so much for the generous financial assistance. It has helped us put our home slowly back together.”

— Matt Durst and family

“...thank you does not seem words enough to tell you how very much I appreciated your gift.”

— Linda Lehmann

“...we are so grateful for your thoughtfulness during this trying time.”

— The family of John P. Grundy III

“...thank you so very much for the donation check after the storm. We are fixing our house and staying “Jersey Strong!”

— Andy & Debi Jackson
In this column, union representatives share their thoughts on contract issues, safety and what’s going on at the workplace.

Our union is dedicated to ensuring that all of our members, across the many industries we serve, have a safe work environment each and every day they report to their jobs.

That is why I am proud to announce Local 152 has been chosen again by the New Jersey AFL-CIO to work with our members and store management to develop a custom training and support program to reduce workplace injuries.

This training is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA and costs our employers nothing. In return for their participation, they have the benefits of safer workplaces, which ultimately will reduce the number of workers’ compensation claims and other costs associated with injuries, illness, litigation and lost productivity.

Currently, we are working with Murphy’s Markets in Tabernacle, N.J., where we are training a committee composed of membership and management. Similar training sessions will be held this year for Local 152 members in other Murphy’s stores.

The cooperation of Ron Murphy and his management team has been outstanding. They realize safety for the employees is as important as protecting the customers.

The common injuries we are dealing with are strains, pains, cuts, burns, slip and falls. We are also identifying chemical risks.

We want to thank John Kratzer and Dr. Barry Schlegel for their training, as well as the AFL-CIO for choosing our union for this program. It is good to know that Local 152 is well respected in the many industries we serve for the strong partnerships we have with our employers.
Members at Work

James McDonough, Shop Steward, Pathmark, Camden, N.J.

Will Smith, ShopRite, Lacey, N.J.

Kathy King, ShopRite, Lacey, N.J.

General Membership Meetings for all Local 152 members
Wednesday, May 29

Southern New Jersey (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.)
Holiday Inn - Cherry Hill, 2175 W. Marlton Pike (Route 70)
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Shore area (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.)
VFW #2189, 500 Bethel Road
Somers Point, NJ 08244

Pennsylvania area (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.)
Ramada - Philadelphia/Northeast, 11580 Roosevelt Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19116

Delaware area (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.)
VFW #3792, Route 71
Middletown, DE 19709

Delaware County - Pennsylvania (7 p.m. only)
Springfield Country Club, 400 West Sprout Road
Springfield, PA 19064

Spring 2013
Getting the word out

Local 152 staff spreads the union message to workers in all industries

The Local 152 Organizing Department has been working tirelessly to spread the word about the benefits of union membership to non-union workers. Recently, they have handed out information at more than a dozen locations, including the Spring Oak assisted living community in Berlin, N.J., the LaMonica Foods facility in Millville, N.J., and the Kenco warehouse in Robbinsville, N.J.

“Growth is our key to survival,” Director of Organizing Chad Brooks said. “Union membership has been steadily declining. If we don’t grow, we are going to become extinct.”

Brooks said that the Organizing Department is making an effort to educate workers about the protection that a union contract affords.

“For ‘at will’ employees across the country, their employer can change anything at any time. Joining a union gives you a contract — a guarantee in writing that cannot be taken away.”
Retirements

Elaine Beagle Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Joanne M. Beardsley Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Ann P. Becker Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Peter Bianchi, Jr. Supermarkets of Cherry Hill 01/1/2013
Chris Budesa Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Robert Burns General Supermarkets 02/1/2013
Mary Ann Carvell Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Charles H. Cordery III Village Shoprite 01/1/2013
Sharon M. Dickerson Super Fresh 01/1/2013
Jeffrey Glenn Acme Markets 03/1/2013
Charlene M. Guia Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Darlyn Heitzmann Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Dennis B. Huff Shoprite of Whitehall 02/1/2013
Linda D. Kissling Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Paul R. Kleschick, Jr. Pathmark Stores 02/1/2013
James Kocher Laneo, Inc. Foodlane Stores 02/1/2013
Martha Learn Super Fresh 02/1/2013
Michael Livingston Ball Park Brands 02/1/2013
Flinia Lugo Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc. 01/1/2013
Jean E. Lyons Zallies Supermarkets 03/1/2013
Marc A. Marusco Pathmark Stores 02/1/2013

Obituaries

Bedros Agazarian 01/31/13
Marie Andronico 01/27/13
Catherine K. Barrett 12/20/12
Isadore Blaufeld 01/29/13
Theresa B. Brennan 01/01/13
Shirley Byrnes 12/22/12
Henry Clymer 02/22/13
John Coney 12/01/13
Verna M. Crouse 12/08/12
Carol J. Deeds 01/21/13
James Delguidice 12/20/12
Harold E. Derr 12/24/12
Hazel L. Frankenbarg 01/21/13
Tillie Gatemen 02/23/13
Howard Green, Jr. 12/21/12
Clifford F. Hall 02/12/13
Izak Herskovic 02/11/13
Elizabeth C. Hritz 02/02/13
Thomas E. Hughes 12/19/12
Herbert B. Jones 02/20/13
Elizabeth Juhasz 01/28/13
Josephine M. Kealey 02/18/13
Sophie Kec 12/01/12
Debra Kocher 01/15/13
Phillip P. Latella 02/16/13
Eldred W. Learn 01/19/13
Helen Mastalski Zallies Supermarkets 03/1/2013
John J. Mathews Pathmark Superstores 01/1/2013
Doris A. McIntire Super Fresh 01/1/2013
Carol M. Milligan Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Catherine J. Moody Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Angelo Mortara Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Carl Muhlig Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Susan L. Nunez Pathmark Stores 02/1/2013
Dorothea B. Petit A&P Tea Company 05/1/2013
Diane M. Quinn-Willauer Acme Markets 01/1/2013
Dolores Racz Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Lawrence Rdesinski Kunzler Packing Company 03/1/2013
Carl L. Schnader, Jr. Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Sandra J. Seagrave Acme Markets 02/1/2013
Mitchell J. Silva Plaza Thriftway 02/1/2013
Violet S. Smith Super Fresh 02/1/2013
Patricia J. Stout Super Fresh 02/1/2013
Darlene M. Stuber Super Fresh 02/1/2013
Agnes P. Titano Acme Markets 02/2/2013
Ethel L. Waugh Pathmark Stores 02/2/2013
Donald R. Weidner Berks Packing Company 01/1/2013
Beverly Yeager Willingboro Iga 01/1/2013
Morris Yelverton Medford, Inc. 02/1/2013
Felix Lugo 12/26/12
Augustus Mackrides 12/13/12
Jeanette A. Marszalec 12/03/12
Samuel McIntire 12/12/12
Maryjean Meer 01/12/13
Doris R. Miller 02/10/13
Helen A. Mumaw 02/07/13
Edward J. Murphy 12/21/12
Winifred J. Pepper 01/31/13
Frederick L. Pettit 02/04/13
Emidio Pirri 12/13/12
Helen M. Rafferty 12/16/12
Effie Rdesinski 02/09/13
Anna J. Santarpico 01/21/13
Victor Smalling 12/18/12
Robert L. Smith, Sr. 01/30/13
Joyce M. Steigerwalt 02/08/13
Eva Subach 01/15/13
Anthony C. Titano 12/23/12
Anthony Trimarco 12/12/12
Robert B. Trimble 02/23/13
Anne Veevers 01/06/13
Emeline D. Ward 02/04/13
Mary Williams 02/14/13
Thomas Wilson 12/01/12
Josephine Wojciechowski 01/30/13
Albert Yeager 12/16/12
Morris Zoren 02/10/13
Many of us in the Labor Movement have expressed concerns that the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, will have unintended consequences for workers who have excellent health plans under union-negotiated contracts.

As Obamacare approaches its full implementation on Jan. 1, 2014, it is becoming increasingly clear that we were right to worry. The effects of this law will be wide-ranging for workers in the retail industry who have been covered under health plans funded by trust plans administered jointly by their employers and their unions.

As states establish health insurance exchanges under the law, millions of people who don’t already have employer-provided health care will be required to use them to find health plans they can purchase. Subsidies will be available to help many of them obtain basic plans that only provide 60 percent of their health care needs.

These plans will not provide the level of benefits currently enjoyed by UFCW members, but union employers will have a strong incentive to try to force their workers into purchasing inferior health plans through the exchanges. They will see Obamacare as an avenue for getting out of the health care business.

In a state not far from UFCW Local 152’s jurisdiction, we’ve already seen a contract with a prominent supermarket employer that includes ominous references to the state exchanges. New Jersey and several states are opting not to launch their own exchanges, letting the federal government step in and do it for them.

All of America’s unions need to stand up against this threat to the employment-based health care we have worked for many decades to establish.

Finding solutions

The UFCW has joined SEIU and Unite HERE, the hotel and restaurant workers union, in voicing our concerns to the Obama Administration and to Congress. Unfortunately, we have been rebuffed at every turn.

We see three potential solutions to the problem:

1. Change Obamacare so it doesn’t provide incentives for Union employers to dump their workers onto state exchanges.
2. Provide subsidies to union health care trust funds. If major health care carriers will get this kind of support, why can’t we? After all, it’s in America’s best interest to raise the standards of health care, not lower them.
3. Repeal Obamacare altogether.

If we don’t fix these flaws in Obamacare, we could have a revolution among workers who suddenly find themselves forced to pay more for fewer — and worse — benefits.

I hope something will change before 2014, but the situation looks ominous. Please contact your representatives in the United States House and Senate and ask them to fix Obamacare, before it’s too late.