

# 152 **UFCW** LOCAL **152** **Unity**

a **VOICE** for working America

Spring/Summer 2012



**Ulana Rice** — Acme, Glenolden, PA



**Cindy Brenner** — ShopRite, Bayville, PA



**Milton Haynes, Jr.**  
Super Fresh, Philadelphia, PA



**Lidia Witkowska**  
Dietz & Watson, Philadelphia, PA



**Osvaldo Sanchez**  
Kunzler & Company, Inc., Lancaster, PA



**David Sherwood**  
B&A Seafood, Philadelphia, PA

## **SHOP UNION!**

**Buy products and services  
produced by members of  
UFCW Local 152**

**Also inside:** Shopping union is now easier than ever • Clement Pappas contract ratified

## Buy American!

Visit

**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**

701 Route 50  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330  
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# Flu season 2012-2013

**T**he United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended three flu viruses for inclusion in the 2012-2013 seasonal flu vaccine, based on recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO advised inclusion of vaccines for the following three viruses:

- an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-pdm 09-like virus;
- an A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)-like virus, and
- a B/Wisconsin/1/2010-like virus from the B/Yamagata lineage of viruses.

### **UFCW Mobile Health Unit**

The UFCW Mobile Health Unit van will provide flu shots starting in September for eligible employees, eligible spouses, retirees and dependents 18 and older.

Flu shots provided on the Health and Welfare Mobile Health Unit or by the unit's staff at designated locations are covered at *no cost* to eligible participants. Have your insurance card available for identification and to verify eligibility.

To find a vaccination event near you, view the bulletin board at your

workplace, check the van schedule in the fall edition of the UFCW's *In Touch* or visit UFCW Local 152's website at **www.ufcwlocal152.org**.

### **Who should be vaccinated?**

Everyone over the age of 6 months should get vaccinated every year. Immunity to an influenza virus declines over time and may be too low to provide protection after a year.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop and provide protection. In the meantime, you are still at risk for getting the flu.

It is always a good idea to take prudent actions to reduce the spread of germs.

- Always cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze and then discard the tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze into the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home for 24 hours after having a fever.

**IT PAYS TO BE UNION!**

## **Grievances filed or resolved:**

1st and 2nd Quarter 2012

**228**

2012 Total

**228**

## **Back pay and benefits restored to members:**

1st and 2nd Quarter 2012

**\$89,501.29**

2012 Total

**\$89,501.29**



## Member profile

# Retiree Donnie Baker looks back on his union service

**W**hen Donnie Baker was first approached about becoming a steward, he wasn't sure about the idea.

The more he reflected on it, though, the more he warmed to the proposition.

"I was the type of person who'd always go to my steward if I had a problem," he said. "And I liked to get up and speak my mind when I had the chance. So I said, 'Sure, I'll do it.'"

That decision turned out to be a good one, leading to 10 years of rewarding experiences as a union steward.

"I enjoyed it a lot," said Baker, who retired on June 1 after working at the Kraft Foods plant in Dover, Del., for 28 years. "It's satisfying to win a grievance and to stand up for what you believe."

Baker began working in the plant as a millwright, fixing and maintaining heavy equipment. The job appealed to him because of the union wages and benefits it provided — benefits that weren't available at the chicken processing plant where he'd worked for several years.

In 1993, he switched to packaging and maintenance, where he oversaw the line production of dry food products, including Jell-O gelatin and pudding. That is where he remained until his retirement.

"It was challenging work," he said. "Always something new."

## Union security

Baker has lived with his wife, Connie, for 35 years and has two sons who are police officers. They also have four grandchildren.

The union wages and benefits he earned at the Kraft plant were a great help to his family, Baker said.

"I never had a reason to use my benefits in a big way, but some of my co-workers went through cancer treatments," he recalled. "They were grateful for our benefits, and I always thought it was great coverage."

Baker served on negotiating committees during



Baker with Union Representative Lisa Sanders

three rounds of contract negotiations and knew the specifics of the agreements inside and out.

"I had a lot of folks come to me with questions over the years," Baker said, "especially about wage and scheduling issues."

He praised Local 152 Union Representative Lisa Sanders for always having the answers to questions when he didn't, and for the excellent service she still gives to the members at Kraft Foods.

"The whole union staff is great," he said. "From President Brian String on down, they're good people."

In retirement, Baker hopes to spend more time with his grandchildren and work on projects around his house. Along with his wife, he enjoys working on classic cars, including a 1966 Mustang that he recently took to a car show in Ocean City, N.J.

"You just park it, set up some chairs and reminisce with the people who walk by," he said. "You have a good ol' time."



## Retirees 'Club 56'

You are cordially invited to join Club 56. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. in the Yellow Room of the United Methodist Church, 3541 Pennsylvania Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

The next club meeting will be held on Oct. 8, 2012.

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

## Local 152 Mailbox

Dear President Brian String,  
Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Benigno  
and Local 152 staff:

I can't thank you enough for the huge tub of food for Christmas. My heartfelt thanks — I really appreciate it. Thank you again and God Bless you all.

**Joyce Bonielto**

Dear Brian and staff:

From the bottom of my heart and soul, I want to thank all of you for the wonderful gifts you gave to my kids. We had an awesome Christmas.

**Heaven and Devin Lee**



## Grocery industry news

By Jeff Metzger

### 'Round the trade

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

**W**almart is clearly “walking the talk” when it comes to pricing aggressiveness. Suppliers have told us that Walmart is pushing back hard against price increases (“it reminds me of the '90s,” said one vendor) and is also taking its pricing image to the competition.

More specifically, the Behemoth is looking to reduce grocery prices by \$1 billion. Its conventional units and Supercenters generated about \$145 billion in sales last year (55 percent of total U.S. sales vs. 53 percent the prior year).

In the Charlotte, N.C., market, where the chain is the market leader, Walmart recently debuted a series of ads featuring head-to-head pricing comparisons with its closest rival, Harris Teeter.

Expect this program to expand to other markets, especially where Walmart's primary competitor is not a “price player.”

And expect Walmart's new “small format” model to begin making inroads later this year in the northeast.

Retailers and developers have both told us that Walmart is aggressively seeking sites in the 30,000-60,000 square foot range in metro New York and the Delaware Valley.

The Behemoth has already committed to build six units in Washington, D.C., and 12 stores in Chicago.

### Target pulling back

Target is slowing the pace of P-fresh (hybrid food) conversions to about 230 units this year, about half the number of retrofits it completed in 2011. The primary reason: many of the high-volume market conversions (its first priority) have been completed and the lower-volume store conversions are not at the same urgency level.

### Burkle alert

Now that A&P has officially exited bankruptcy and is a privately-held company controlled by Ron Burkle, several readers reported an actual Burkle sighting at the newly remodeled Weehawken, N.J., Pathmark.

The highly successful private equity guru reportedly toured the refurbished store, apparently gave his approval to the store manager and left with his entourage. As one of our readers commented: “It's not every day that you cross paths with a billionaire, particularly one who made much of his wealth in our industry.”

Yes, it's true, and that's why Ron Burkle truly is the “King of All Supermarket Venture Capitalists.”

□ Jeff Metzger's “Taking Stock” column appears in *Food World* and *Food Trade News*.

# Shopping union is now easier than ever

**O**ur members know it's important to patronize union businesses whenever possible. Supporting labor-friendly companies is an easy way to help keep union employers healthy as they face off against their competitors, both foreign and domestic.

The easiest part, of course, is shopping at the stores that employ your brothers and sisters at UFCW Local 152. That means buying your groceries at union companies like Acme, ShopRite, Super Fresh and Pathmark.



It also means that you never shop at Walmart or any other non-union retailer that threatens to destroy quality jobs in the retail industry.

But you can take it another step by purchasing foods and other products that are produced by union labor. You can even get your hair cut by a union barber!

Our union has members working in an incredible variety of industries, from janitorial services to nursing care facilities to manufacturing plants to food processing facilities. Think about supporting their employers and urging

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**'Take it another step by purchasing food and products that are produced by union labor.'**

---

your friends and family to do the same.

For a list of all of Local 152's contracted employers, visit [www.ufcwlocal152.org](http://www.ufcwlocal152.org), click on the "How UFCW Serves You" tab at the top of the page and select "Contracted Employers."

You can also help our brothers and sisters in the labor movement outside of the UFCW. The next time you're planning a vacation, visit [www.unionhotelguide.com](http://www.unionhotelguide.com) to discover which hotels in the area you're visiting employ union workers.

Not only will you be supporting union jobs, but you'll receive the professional, experienced hospitality that union workers provide.

## Helpful new tools

It's not always easy to identify union employers, but a new application for members who use smart



## **S**ecretary-Treasurer's Report

**By Anthony Benigno**

phones makes it much easier.

When visiting the App Store on your iPhone or the equivalent service for your Android, BlackBerry or other Internet-enabled phone, you can search for "UFCW" and download the UFCW Mobile App for free.

You can use the application to search for union grocers in your area, no matter where you are, and it will even give you directions to each location.

New tools such as these make it easier than ever to support union businesses. You'll help protect your own job and feel good about supporting union workers everywhere.



## **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**.



# Happy retirements!



## Connie Henderson

Connie Henderson retired from The Fresh Grocer in Philadelphia, PA, in May after eight years as a Local 152 member. Pictured above, from left: Shop Steward Dexter Cureton, Henderson and Local 152 Director John Robbins.



## Diane Moser

Diane Moser retired from the Super Fresh in Walnutport, PA, in June after 28 years. Pictured above, from left: Local 152 Director John Robbins, Moser and Shop Steward Brenda Bowman.

**MAKING  
CHANGE AT  
WALMART** our community  
our future  
[www.ChangeWalmart.org](http://www.ChangeWalmart.org)

### Seattle OUR Walmart members united by safety concerns

This past spring, activists from UFCW Local 21 in Washington joined with OUR Walmart members to organize an event focused on safety. They also took the opportunity to spread the word about the Making Change at Walmart campaign.

The group delivered a petition to store management at a Walmart location in the city of Federal Way, calling for better health and safety.

Walmart management responded to one of the concerns in the petition immediately, fixing a broken steel beam in the back room. This was an important victory, since many associates felt that the beam was a safety hazard, and it served as proof of what can happen when workers unite.

### D.C. says 'no Walmart'

Community members including clergy, small business owners and union members held signs in support of keeping Walmart out of Washington, D.C., at a parade in May organized by UFCW Local 400 and the Respect DC coalition. OUR Walmart had a green float in the parade.



# New contract ratified at Clement Pappas

**‘Tough but  
productive’  
negotiations  
conclude with  
strong new  
agreement**

## **Contract highlights:**

- Additional benefit contributions from the company totaling more than \$3,000 per member per year
- Wage increase
- No member contribution toward health care costs

**M**embers of the Clement Pappas processing plant voted overwhelmingly to ratify a strong new contract in May.

“This new contract was made possible by the hard work, dedication and selfless service of the bargaining committee on behalf of their coworkers,” Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining Mike McWilliams said.

The Clement Pappas bargaining committee consisted of members Jim Blankenship, Tom Huff, Carol Kasson, Al Austin, John Martinez, Art Mead, Lance Winchester and Union Representative Carmine DelVicario.

Local 152 represents 136 employees at the plant in Seabrook, N.J.

Negotiations were tough but productive, McWilliams said. The biggest challenge at the bargaining table was the sluggish economy, but the union was determined to protect members’ health care and pension benefits as well as secure a wage increase.

Both of these goals were accomplished in the four-year agreement that began on May 1. The employer will increase its health care contribu-

tions by nearly 30 percent over the length of the contract, contributing more than \$3,000 additionally to each member’s overall compensation each year.

There will be no employee contributions toward the cost of these benefits.

A wage increase of \$1 per hour also will be implemented over the life of the contract. In addition, new language in the contract explicitly requires that the terms of the contract are adhered to by any new owners of the company, although McWilliams emphasizes that no change in ownership is expected.

“I am pleased with the outcome of these negotiations,” McWilliams said. “We were able to avoid major concessions and we negotiated significant enhancements to the contract for Clement Pappas members.”

McWilliams also praised the company’s negotiations team, led by Dmitri Pappas, which he said was guided by a genuine concern for the wellbeing of the workers.

“I applaud them and hope we will continue with our positive relationship,” McWilliams said.





## Local 152 has moved!

The Local 152 offices are now at a new address: 701 Route 50, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. We're excited to continue providing excellent service to our members at this new home. Members can still contact us at **(888) JOIN-152** or **(609) 704-3900**. Please note that our fax numbers have changed: **(609) 625-0328** (main) and **(609) 625-0409** (alternate).



### Haven't registered to vote?

Do it today! It's quick and easy. Becoming a registered voter enables you to participate in the upcoming local, state and presidential elections.

Do your part to help your union by supporting candidates who respect workers.

For more information about registering to vote, contact Local 152 Political Liaison Tom Hartle at **(888) 564-6152**.

## Union representative REPORT

# Schedule your vacation time — you've earned it!

☐ In this column, Local 152 Union Representatives share their thoughts on contract issues, safety and what's going on at the workplace.

**O**ur members deserve an occasional break from the hard work they perform every day on the job.

For this reason, the collective bargaining agreement between Local 152 and your employer allows you to take vacation time.

Check your printed agreement for the details. The amount of vacation time to which a member is entitled is often determined by the number of years he or she has worked at the company.

Some contracts provide members with personal days in addition to vacation time. However, many members forget to schedule these days.

Always be sure to take your days off, both for your own health and relaxation and to affirm the importance of this benefit that your union and fellow members, past and present, have fought hard to maintain.

Normally, vacation time must be scheduled in advance. This provides employers with sufficient notice for staffing purposes and allows them to do their



By Dave Salera

best to accommodate everyone's preferred time periods for vacation. Most time off must be used within the calendar year.

If you want to enjoy this time off on the dates that are most convenient for you, you should start preparing now. Mark your calendar and talk to your employer early to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made.

If possible, coordinate with co-workers to make sure that the times chosen are convenient for everyone involved.

Take advantage of this benefit. Your union-negotiated time off allows you to travel, spend time with family or to simply relax.

Using this time wisely is key to staying healthy, enjoying life and maintaining focus when you are back on the job.





# Workers Memorial Day

Local 152 members, along with their families and friends, visited the Atlantic City Workers Monument on April 28 to commemorate Workers Memorial Day, which honors workers who died on the job.

## Union reminders

### EMAP is here to help

EMAP (Employee Member Assistance Program) is available to help members and their eligible dependents receive prompt, confidential and professional assistance for personal problems.

There is no cost or co-payment to the member for using the EMAP benefit.

EMAP counselors are available to help and listen if you are feeling overwhelmed, depressed or simply need someone to talk to.

To see if they or their dependents are eligible for EMAP, members of the UFCW Local 152 Health and Welfare Fund can contact either the Fund office at (800) 555-4959, prompt #1, or the Preferential Care Network (PCN) at (800) 366-0129.

Members of the UFCW Tri-State Health & Welfare Fund or the UFCW Health and Welfare Fund should contact the Fund office at (800) 228-7484, prompt #5.

Remember: EMAP is **free** and **confidential**.

## Join us at this fun charity event:



### 8 Hour Charity Fishing Trip

**Tuesday, September 18, 2012**  
**Boat sails at 8:00 a.m. aboard the**

**STARFISH**

**42nd and the Bay**  
**Sea Isle, New Jersey 08243**  
(Bad weather date - September 25, 2012)

**\$85.00 per person**  
(Includes rod, reels, bait and tackle)  
(does not include tip for mates)

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE**  
**LOCAL 152 IRV STRING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

*Please make checks payable to:*  
**Local 152 Irv String Scholarship Fund**

Mail payment along with a list of names and contact information (ie. cell phone/address) for each person participating to Local 152 Irv String Scholarship Fund c/o UFCW Local 152, 701 Route 50 Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330 by no later than **Friday, September 7, 2012.**

If you have any questions or for more information please contact the union office at 1-888-564-6152

## Retirements

Name	Company	Date			
Donald Baker	Kraft	06/01/2012	Martin J. McDonnell	Super Fresh	04/01/2012
Belinda Barr	Philly Pride	03/01/2012	Patricia C. McElfresh	Village ShopRite	01/01/2012
Phyllis M. Brooks	Super Fresh	04/01/2012	John E. Moran	Acme Markets	01/01/2012
Gregory Byrd	Colonial Beef Company	04/01/2012	William Oberman	Food Fair Inc.	02/01/2012
Frank Cerbo	Super Fresh	01/01/2012	Jeffrey Owens	Supermarkets General	04/01/2012
Elizabeth S. Chestnut	Acme Markets	01/01/2012	Susan T. Padgett	Super Fresh	04/01/2012
Reid J. Cohen	Eatmor Market	04/01/2012	Suzanne J. Palady	South Philadelphia Shop-N-Bag	03/01/2012
Millie Corgliano	Pathmark Stores	02/01/2012	Ranjan C. Patel	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.	03/01/2012
Ann Coughlan	George L. Wells Company	01/01/2012	Linda L. Petrovich	Acme Markets	01/01/2012
James J. Courchain	Acme Markets	04/01/2012	Ronald G. Price, Sr.	Kunzler & Co. Packing Company	01/01/2012
Mary T. Definis	Acme Markets	03/01/2012	Paul A. Ragan, Sr.	Acme Markets	01/01/2012
Carol Donahue	Stop & Shop Supermarket	03/01/2012	Linda Repp	Supermarkets General	04/01/2012
Susan F. Frankos	Acme Markets	01/01/2012	Doris Riddick	Butler Foods/Penn Packing	01/01/2012
Thomas Fromosky	Murphy's Market-Beach Haven	03/01/2012	Bernadette Rush	Super Fresh	01/01/2012
Harry Garrison, Jr.	Acme Markets	03/01/2012	Cynthia J. Santella	UFCW Local 152 Staff	04/01/2012
Carol Ann Gillespie	Bottino's Supermarkets	01/01/2012	Madeline Santiago	Pathmark Stores	04/01/2012
Elliott Goldstein	Zallie's Supermarkets	04/01/2012	George Sartorio	A&P Tea Company	02/01/2012
Mary L. Gray	Brandywine Shop-N-Save IGA	02/01/2012	June R. Saul	Holiday Markets	01/01/2012
Theresa Harrington	William Bryn	04/01/2012	Matthew Scarpato	Zallie's Supermarket	04/01/2012
Robert Henderson	Acme Markets	02/01/2012	Eileen L. Shamenek	Laneco, Inc./Food Lane Stores	02/01/2012
Leonard Hilbert	Acme Markets	02/01/2012	Patricia Siciliano	Silverstein Market	02/01/2012
Cathleen O. Holmes	Holiday Markets	01/01/2012	Carol A. Sloss	Acme Markets	01/01/2012
Judith A. King	Acme Markets	03/01/2012	Joyce A. Snyder	Pathmark Stores	04/01/2012
Dale J. Klingerman	Bear Thriftway	03/01/2012	James L. Staats	Aston Thriftway	02/01/2012
Jean Kremus	Riverdel Thriftway	03/01/2012	Linda L. Stockwell	Super Fresh	04/01/2012
Susan Luciano	Acme Markets	05/01/2012	Frances M. Thompson	Super Fresh	04/01/2012
Dennis Massa	Acme Markets	01/01/2012	Anthony Varano	Super Fresh	05/01/2012
Joseph J. Massaro	Pathmark Stores	04/01/2012	Cheryl A. Vona	Acme Markets	03/01/2012
			Nancy Wargo	Super Fresh	02/01/2012
			Phyliss White	M&E Markets	04/01/2012
			William Wojcik	Super Fresh	04/01/2012

## Raffle for Philadelphia Phillies tickets

To benefit the Bryan D. Ross Foundation to benefit individuals in need of financial assistance.

Drawing will be on Aug. 1, 2012, at the Hammonton, N.J., ShopRite location. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Contact your shop steward, Union Representative or the Union Office at (888) 564-6152 for more information.

### 1st place

**Four seats to three Phillies games:**

Aug. 10 v. St. Louis Cardinals

Aug. 24 v. Washington Nationals

Sept. 21 v. Atlanta Braves

### 2nd place

**Four seats to two Phillies games:**

Aug. 8 v. Atlanta Braves

Sept. 26 v. Washington Nationals

### 3rd place

**Four seats to one Phillies game:**

Sept. 12 v. Miami Marlins



**Look for Local 152 staff at a location near you!** Pictured above, from left: Mike Thompson, Chad Brooks and Harry Klemowitz.



## In Memoriam

Albert J. Agnew	04/28/2012
Walter Angstadt	01/30/2012
Robert Borsuk	04/24/2012
Herman Bovelsky	02/25/2012
Daniel J. Brooks	03/21/2012
Deborah Broomall	04/18/2012
Thomas J. Burke	04/09/2012
Mary E. Carsia	04/17/2012
Catherine Clark	02/10/2012
John R. Clement	02/11/2012
Joseph DeFinis, Jr.	02/01/2012
Martin DeFranco	01/18/2012
Ann M. Delp	04/28/2012
Donald F. DiGuardi	01/24/2012
Dorothy L. Donahue	04/11/2012
Madeline Dowell	01/10/2012
Geraldine Dunlap	02/08/2012
Laura Fabiano	01/09/2012
Olha Fartusznyj	02/14/2012
Iola Fazen	04/29/2012
Lillian M. Fearn	04/02/2012
Raymond J. Fiedler	04/12/2012
Philip J. Finger, Jr.	02/26/2012
Willi G. Fischer	04/02/2012
Audrey L. Fisher	01/08/2012
Rose Gallo	02/10/2012
Barbara N. Gartland	01/26/2012
Flora Ginnetti	01/23/2012
Paul L. Gomory	02/17/2012
John L. Guckes	04/18/2012
Genevieve B. Hanes	03/16/2012
Michael Harrington	03/10/2012
Lester Hildenbrand	01/09/2012
Ruth M. Hoffman	03/08/2012
Anete Nora Karklins	01/10/2012
Delores Kearney	03/07/2012
Kristen A. Kengeter	05/26/2012
Jimmie Koger	01/13/2012
Martin J. Kraft	03/23/2012
Joseph V. Laspada	04/28/2012
Charles Leonetti	04/16/2012
Barbara Marberger	04/26/2012
Thomas J. McBride	01/18/2012
Carmella Meehan	03/04/2012
Ina P. Mulford	01/07/2012
James A. Myers	03/13/2012
Virginia A. Pallante	01/29/2012
Thomas Paynter	04/26/2012
Mabel Pelzer	02/16/2012
Marilyn Pew	01/29/2012
Edward Pilipczuk	02/18/2012
Mary Ellen Powers	03/16/2012
Matilda Potalivo	03/06/2012
Sueann E. Price	04/16/2012



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215.662.LIFE

## Get your free heart screening today!

**A**ll eligible participants of the UFCW and the Tri-State Health and Welfare Funds are entitled to a free Heart Cam screening.

The Heart Cam, or Electron Beam Tomography (EBT), is an imaging system that is clinically proven to detect the buildup of coronary calcium by taking ultra-fast pictures of your beating heart. It is a simple, painless, fast and non-invasive test.

With early detection, heart disease can be effectively prevented with lifestyle changes and available medication.

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.

## In Memoriam

(continued)	
Elizabeth Reca	04/07/2012
James M. Robinson	02/05/2012
Peter Rozak	04/14/2012
Ralph L. Rudy	02/04/2012
Charles M. Saunders	02/03/2012
Patricia A. Sundstrom	02/05/2012
James Sprague	01/16/2012
Wasył Szczyrba	04/10/2012
Arthur J. Taglienti	01/25/2012
Serafino R. Vitali	04/22/2012
Robert Vanderslice	04/26/2012
Katherine M. VanSeiver	04/23/2012
Nicholas Vona	02/20/2012
Catharine M. Walsh	03/21/2012
Cyril M. Woodland	01/19/2012

UFCW Local 152  
701 Route 50  
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

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# The Recession??

There's a lot going on in our union right now: we have a new office location and strong new contracts throughout our industries. Some of our hard-working members are beginning exciting new chapters in their lives.

Many of those stories are inside this issue of *Unity*. I want to use this space, however, to talk about the "great recession" that struck our country in recent years and its after-effects that we still endure.

Almost everyone was hit in one way or another by the collapse of the financial industry in 2007-2008, as well as the subsequent stock market failures and job losses. But over the past three years, America's largest corporations have returned to posting huge profit gains. And CEO compensation is rocketing at an even faster rate.

The recession is over for the CEOs and other corporate decision-makers. But they're not exactly working overtime to see the good times extend to everyone else. For the most part they're still focused on building their own extravagant compensation packages, buying politicians who will keep their taxes low and opening new factories in China.

They could hire more workers on our own shores, but that won't

happen until they've extracted every possible gain in productivity from a work force that includes millions of intimidated survivors of past layoffs and supplemental part-timers who don't qualify for health and pension benefits.

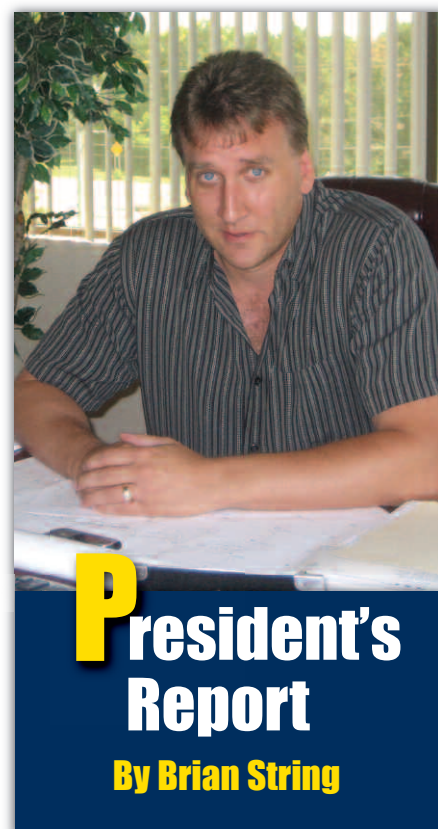
At the same time, stubbornly high unemployment provides a convenient excuse to attack the labor movement and the rights of working people in both the public and private sectors. Through well-funded publicity campaigns, corporate hacks have managed to convince large portions of the American public that strong, well-compensated jobs for working people are *bad* for the economy.

## Phony justifications

At Local 152, we encounter these phenomena every single time we sit down at the bargaining table with the companies.

As we try to negotiate contracts that extend a fair shake to the members, our counterparts at the corporate side point to the "bad economy" as justification for demanding concessions.

But the profit reports for many of these companies tell a different story — quarter after quarter of continued growth.



It's a short-sighted strategy for America's corporations. As the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer, there will come a time when even the most facile lies will lose their power and the truth will emerge.