



ShopRite members ratify strong new contract

Excellent health benefits maintained in agreement

Local 152 members at 15 ShopRite-owned stores in Southern New Jersey voted overwhelmingly on July 29 to ratify a new contract with their employer.

Approval of the 16-month contract, which covers 2,500 workers, concluded three months of negotiations between the union and ShopRite.

The agreement secures increases in wages and in pension contributions by the employer, and continuation of health benefits that do not require cost-sharing by the members.

(Please see page 2)



From left: Union Representative Chuck Clark, Vice President of Global Operations Brent Laurin, Shop Steward Roy Washel, Vice President of Human Resources Robert Donegan and Shop Steward Juan Gonzalez.

Going above and beyond

The partnership of Local 152 and Puratos produces winning results

A year after Local 152 negotiated its latest contract with the Puratos Bakery Supply Company, its workers are enjoying the results of a good working relationship between the company and the union.

"Puratos has proved that in order for a company to be successful, it not only has to be invested in its product, it also needs to be invested in its employees," Local 152 President Brian String said.

"Puratos has gone above and beyond for its employees and our union is proud of our relationship."

Puratos operates worldwide in 56 countries and owns two plants in New Jersey that employ approximately 110 workers, all of them members of Local 152.

The five-year labor agreement includes guarantees of excellent wage and health benefits and also improves career opportunities for workers who wish to move up in the company.

Brent Laurin, vice president of global operations, who took over (Please see page 3)

Also inside: Irv R. String Scholarship winners • Our members at work

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Scenes from the
ShopRite ratification
meetings, including
President Brian String
addressing members
and union leaders
answering questions.

ShopRite members ratify new contract

(Continued from front page)

"The feedback from the members at our three voting locations was entirely positive," Local 152 President Brian String said.

"These were painstakingly difficult negotiations because of the uncertainties surrounding the Affordable Care Act," he added. "Fortunately, both the union and the company were willing to roll up their sleeves and work on a solution."

Maintaining the workers' excellent health benefits was the primary concern of the union's lead negotiating team and a 20-member negotiating committee of rank-and-file ShopRite members, String said. "That was our goal and I'm proud to say we

accomplished it."

The absence of cost-sharing makes this contract the last of its kind in the industry, he said.

"We did everything we could to continue the strong benefits package for members," he said, noting that ShopRite agreed to increase its health and welfare contributions by 19 percent over the course of the contract.

The company also will increase its contributions to the workers' pension fund by 10 percent during the next 16 months in a continued effort to bring the fund back to "safe" status.

Members were provided updates at more than a dozen meetings during the course of the negotiations.



Above: Members take part in Safety Awareness Day in May, in recognition of outstanding implementation of the company's safety ideals.

'In order for a company to be successful, it not only has to be invested in its product, it also needs to be invested in its employees.'

— Local 152 President Brian String

Since Laurin's arrival in New Jersey, Puratos workers have enjoyed a positive work environment and a managerial team that rewards them for their production, Clark said. Laurin and the union have worked to resolve many of the issues that used to divide labor and management.

"When the company posts profitable quarters, it rewards workers with pizza parties," President String said. "There aren't many companies like this in America."

Working together

Recently, an employee was seriously injured on New Year's Day when he was run over by a car. The company and the union joined forces and helped extend the employees' medical coverage so his medical bills wouldn't burden him.

Last year, Puratos broke ground on a new facility in Pennsauken that will put workers of both New Jersey plants under one roof. The plant is slated to open in 2014.

The company is in the process of hiring a substantial number of employees to work at the plant in time for its unveiling.

Going above and beyond

(Continued from front page)

administration of Puratos' plants in Cherry Hill, N.J. and Pennsauken, N.J. more than two years ago, has shown great ability to work with the union.

"Brent has brought a new approach to resolving workplace issues," String said. "It's refreshing to work with a manager who cares so deeply about his employees."

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved:

3rd Quarter 2013

156

2013 to date

343

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

3rd Quarter 2013

\$59,832.68

2013 to date

\$125,602.14

UFCW Local 152 Retirees' Club 2013 meetings

Oct. 7 and Dec. 2

All meetings will be in the Yellow Room of the United Methodist Church, 3541 Pennsylvania Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

Life in corridor-land

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

We're not in Kansas anymore. Nor are we in Dallas, Miami, San Francisco or Denver.

There is no more competitive food and drug arena in America than the densely populated zone between Metro New York and Philadelphia.

Like many other markets, the 100-mile stretch between the two markets is overstored and filled with a variety of diverse retailing styles, but what makes it even more challenging to compete successfully is the cost of doing business in the corridor and the intense competition that

exists among the operators.

It's a market where real estate is scarce and very expensive; a territory that's highly unionized, and — arguably more than any other region in the country — it's a marketplace where the need for focused local marketing is vitally important. And if you're planning to enter the lion's den or open a store in a new neighborhood, expect the existing retailers to compete with even more tenacity as they look to spoil your "welcome" party.

That's not to say that you can't be successful operating in the corridor — you've just got to be smart, resilient and tough. The rewards are there for those who can deliver on that proposition.

But with the cost of doing business in "corridor-land" and the high level of execution that exists in much of the marketplace, there is simply no room for mediocrity.

For those who can't keep up (but are still breathing), expect the bleeding to get worse.

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

Local 152 Mailbox

In praise of Harry Klemowitz

I have been an employee with Acme for more than 13 years. During this time, I have had the privilege to know my union representative, Harry Klemowitz. Just mentioning his name makes me think of many things: a professional, a litigator, a gentleman, a negotiator. He's a man of kindness, gentleness, strength and brilliance — a great man.

This past year was the first time I needed union representation and I really can't express enough how grateful I am that I was guided and represented by Harry. He was comforting, guiding and calming.

I recognize Harry as such an asset to our union and I am forever grateful for him. He was there the entire time. Amazing! So grateful! So thankful!

Arlene Hansen

Member at Acme Willingboro

In praise of Daniel Ross

Thank you so much for fighting for my family and protecting my rights as a working man. Very few people in this world have your passion and commitment.

Please see page 9



May 2013 general membership meetings

Members from all industries across Local 152's jurisdiction gathered in May for quarterly membership meetings. The sessions offered an opportunity for members to ask questions, meet union leadership, connect with their union brothers and sisters, and keep up to date on what is happening at Local 152.

Pictured: Retiree Mike Barbere and Acme Somers Point Shop Steward Allison DeMasse. **Inset:** President Brian String addresses members at the Somers Point meeting.



Taking inspiration from our scholarship winners

Education begins at the home. What we teach our young children today will guide them morally and intellectually for the rest of their lives.

Just as important are our schools and colleges, where professional educators take our children's learning to ever-higher levels. Unfortunately, after graduating high school, the options that many of our children can choose are limited by a factor that has nothing to do with hard work, character and intellectual capacity.

That factor is money.

All of our colleges and universities require money — lots of money — to exist. Given the lack of adequate support by government, they rely on tuition and other fees paid by students to meet their expenses.

To help our members and their children pay these costs, our union has created the Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship Fund.

The winners of this year's scholarship competition include these inspiring students:

Cassie Apgar attends Lafayette College, where she majors in economics and minors in philosophy. She plans to earn a master's degree in business administration. Cassie volunteers as a dog walker at the Center for Animal Health and Welfare and is a lector at Saints Phillip and James Church. She

is also a food distributor at the Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter.

Tresur Bates is a senior at Camden County Technical School. She plans to attend Philadelphia University, where she will participate in the pre-medicine program. Tresur aspires to become an emergency room physician. Currently, she volunteers for the Camden City Special Olympics and Autism Speaks.

Michael Carson is a senior at Southern Regional High School. He plans to attend Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to study medicine. Michael plans to become an anesthesiologist. He belongs to his high school's Student Council, Fishing Club and Ecology Club.

Taylor Ludman is enrolled at Dickinson College but is currently studying at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. She majors in psychology, focusing on biological and clinical psychology. She plans to enter a doctorate program in clinical neuropsychology, with hopes of opening her own practice providing rehabilitation services to individuals with neurological disorders. She volunteers at the NHS Autism School, the Leaf Manor Retirement Home, Forest Park Health Care, the Quarryville Library and the Milepaalen outpatient center in Denmark.

Sarah Osenenko is a senior at Hammononton High School and plans to at-



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Anthony Benigno

tend Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, where she will study science. She belongs to her high school's Student Council, Key Club, German Club and Heroes and Cool Kids, and volunteers her time in parades and town cleanup projects.

I'm proud of our scholarship recipients and look forward to next year's program, in which we will discover our next group of inspiring students.

We wish all of our winners the best as they strive to make a difference in the years ahead.

Scholarship recipients with their awards are featured on page 6.



Earn money and keep your union strong!

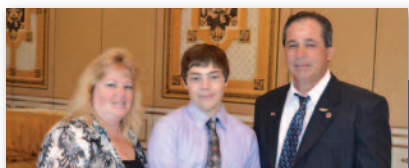
Would you like to earn some extra cash? **Provide an organizing lead to UFCW Local 152 that results in a union election.** Member participation will be required. By getting involved, you are helping to make your union stronger and you have an opportunity to earn \$275! For additional information, please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



Inaugural Irv R. String Scholarship Banquet

The extended Local 152 family, from union leadership to members and community supporters, gathered in Deptford, N.J., on May 23 for the first Irv R. String Scholarship Banquet and Awards Night. The celebration included presentation of five scholarships to deserving college and high school students.

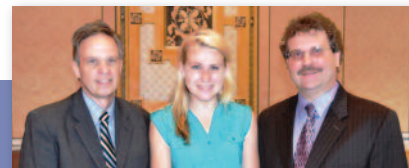
Pictured left is the Scholarship Committee. **From left:** John Puesi, Thomas Hartle, Denise DeMaio, President Brian String, Frank Vaccaro, Danette Montes-Palmore, Carmine DelVicario, Nelson Albano and Joseph Williams.



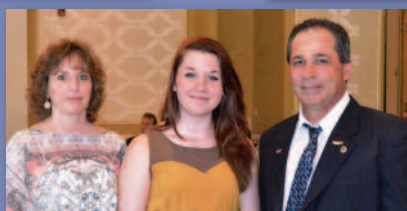
Member Debra Carson, scholarship recipient Michael Carson and Union Representative Carmine DelVicario



Union Representative Harry Klemowitz, scholarship recipient Tresur Bates and member Tracy Beaman-Bates



Union Representative John Robbins, scholarship recipient Cassie Apgar and member Gregory Apgar



Member Christine Osenenko, scholarship recipient Sarah Osenenko and Union Representative Carmine DelVicario



Phyllis Ludman, scholarship recipient Taylor Ludman, member Kirk Ludman and Union Representative Larry Lucente

Raffle winners



From left: Union Representative Mike Thompson, first-place winner Kim Sutch, Shop Steward Angela Lombardi and Union Representative Carmine DelVicario



Second-place winner Union Representative Larry Lucente



From left: Union Representative Edna Inge, third-place winner Flora Ilconich and Union Representative Jose Echevarria

The staff and leaders of Local 152 thank everyone who participated in the Local 152 Irv R. String Scholarship Fund raffle and made this event successful. The winners each received tickets to a Philadelphia Phillies game. The proceeds will benefit applicants through the Scholarship Fund for Higher Education.



Victoria Commons Employee Appreciation Beach Day 2013

From left:

Evelyn Coyle,
Frenchie Jones,
Sam Stahl,
Julie Milec,
Shop Steward
Lorie Magill,
Gabriele Vazquez,
Olivia Sanders,
Debbie Parrinello,
Dave Haigh and
Mary Mathis.

Members at work



Ismael Pelullera
Ginsburg Bakery



Aristides Garcia
Ginsburg Bakery



Shop Steward Juan Walker and Juanita Cruz
Rich Foods



Bob Hawk
ShopRite, Lacey, N.J.



Meadowlakes members vote on the new contract.

Meadowlakes Senior Living members show strong support for new contract in landslide ratification

In a landslide endorsement, union members who work at the Meadowlakes Senior Living Center voted to ratify a new three-year contract.

The new agreement will provide 177 members of Local 152 with improvements in wages, health benefits and contract language regarding leaves of absence.

Meadowlakes workers will receive ratification bonuses and successive annual wage increases of 2-, 2.5- and 3-percent.

Also, workers who invoke their Federal Medical Leave Act (FMLA) rights will be able to return to their former job positions. The previous contract did not include that guarantee.

"This is a great victory for our members at Meadowlakes Senior Living Center," Local 152 President Brian String said.

"We fought hard to preserve our members' access to health care and to guarantee good wages at a time when these things are rare in our industry."

Murphy's Markets first in N.J. to advertise on school buses

Longtime community supporter and Local 152 employer Murphy's Markets has committed nearly \$50,000 to advertise on school buses in the Medford, N.J., school district.

Murphy's ads will be the first instance of advertising on school buses in the state.

Murphy's local supermarkets are located in Medford, Tabernacle, Waterford and Long Beach Island.

Union representative REPORT

Think twice before walking off the job

☐ In this column, union representatives share their thoughts on contract issues, safety and what's going on at the workplace.



By Edna Inge

A recent study shows that, for the first time since the stock market collapse of 2008, more than 50 percent of job losses are a result of employees quitting as opposed to being fired or laid off.

The Department of Labor reports in its summary that quitting is not the smartest move to make, as the economy is far from stable and the job market is nowhere near peak health.

No one says you should stay in a physically or mentally degrading job just because things aren't the way they used to be, but you should consider that this still isn't the best time to quit a job, especially a union job, for several reasons.

First, the job market is still weak. People might feel that their finances are solid enough to quit their current jobs, but they often fail to consider how long it will take to find a new one.

A second reason is the interruption or cessation of health benefits during the period following a resignation. I am proud that our union provides some of the best health, retirement and pay benefits in the entire nation, much less our industry. These include a defined-benefit pension plan and terrific medical coverage.

When searching for a new job, consider how much more your family will pay for health insurance and the haze of uncertainty still swirling in the wake of the Affordable Care Act's passage.

Finally, it's worth remembering that changing from our defined-benefit pension plan to a defined-contribution plan, which is the type that is provided by most employers (401k plans, stock-based retirement accounts, etc.) will make it more difficult to retire at a reasonable age. It was recently found that more than half of working people with defined-contribution retirement plans were forced to "raid the cookie jar" from time to time in order to pay normal life expenses.

Beachside supermarket reopens after devastation from Superstorm Sandy



The Murphy's Market location in Beach Haven, N.J., celebrated its grand reopening on May 15, nearly seven months after the building was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy. The interior of the supermarket, which was flooded by four feet of water, was completely renovated and now features several improvements, from computer upgrades to eco-friendly waste removal.

Local 152 mailbox

Continued from page 4

It's always been a pleasure to know you and once again you have renewed my pride to be a part of Local 152.

Saying thank you is such a small gesture in response to such a huge accomplishment, and I wish I could do more. If you ever need anything, please do not hesitate to ask.

As always, your union brother,

Jim Mulholland

Member at Collingswood Manor

Local 152 member Theresa Kiett praised for her kindness

Theresa Kiett, a Local 152 member who works at the Absecon, N.J., ShopRite, so inspired a customer with a kind gesture at the supermarket that he wrote a letter to the local newspaper thanking her.

ShopRite customer Albert Maslar titled the letter "God Bless Theresa Kiett," and describes how Kiett volunteered to pay for his groceries when he realized he didn't have enough money during a trip to the market in June. The two didn't know each other, but Kiett recognized him as a regular customer.

"The thought of the incident brings me to tears," Maslar writes, "that there are such good people who do unasked-for random acts of kindness, while under the radar and outside public visibility and recognition."

"Congratulations to Absecon ShopRite for the friendliness and willingness of its employees to help, and who always seem to be at their best in helping and happily serving customers."



Theresa Kiett

General Membership Meetings for all Local 152 members Wednesday, Aug. 28

Southern New Jersey (10 a.m. and 7 p.m.)

VFW Post 2445, 914 E. Main St.
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

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 Sproul Road
Springfield, PA 19064



Local 152 participates in Walmart National Day of Action

Nearly 50 OUR Walmart activists and members of UFCW Locals 152, 464, 888 and 1360 rallied in front of a Walmart store in Secaucus, N.J., to support Walmart workers in their pursuit of dignity and justice.

The June event was “a historic collaboration between our UFCW locals and

OUR Walmart,” Local 152 President Brian String said. “Nothing like that had been done before and I’m glad our union was part of it.”

The rally was part of a Walmart National Day of Action that called for better working conditions, guarantees of better working hours and an end to retaliations against Walmart employ-

ees who stand up to management.

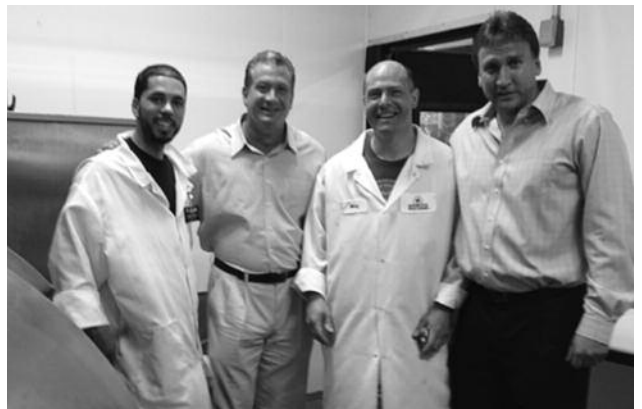
Many activists also participated in a Ride for Respect, a week-long action that culminated with a demonstration outside of Walmart’s shareholders meeting in Bentonville, Ark., on June 7.

Following the demonstration, Walmart fired many of the workers who participated in the action.

Contract success in Maryland

Members at Maryland Plastics in Federalsburg, Md., celebrate their contract ratification in May.

From left: Dolly Britt, Shop Steward Vanessa Ryans and Beth Wright.



ShopRite grand opening

From left: Member Miguel Bosch, Union Representative Dave Salera, John Springer from Enviro-Pak and Local 152 President Brian String at the David Zallie’s ShopRite in Lawnside, N.J.

Retirements

Harry Back, Sr.	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Michael Malantonio	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Patricia A. Back	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Joan B. Marsh	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Sharon Baldwin	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Salvatore Marsico	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Michael A. Bartasavich	Pathmark	03/01/13	Lenore McCarry	Riverdel Thriftway	04/01/13
Everett Bauer, Sr.	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Martin J. McDonnell	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Donna Benson	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Joan R. McGuinness	Acme Markets	04/01/13
David R. Bitler	Pathmark	04/01/13	Elvira McLaughlin	Colonial Beef Company	04/01/13
Edgar J. Brittingham, Jr.	Zallies Supermarkets	06/01/13	Raymond Morrissey	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Arlene Brown	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Nina Orlando	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Beverly A. Brown	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Thomas Palmer	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Jeanette M. Capinas	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Gayleen Paras	Cape Regional Medical Center	12/21/12
Ernest Cason	Envirochem	04/01/13	Leslie E. Phillips	Shaffer's Market	04/01/13
David J. Clark	Berks Packing Company	04/01/13	Richard J. Potts	Super Fresh	05/01/13
Linda L. Connerton	Butler Foods/Penn Packing	04/01/13	Thomas E. Powell	Pathmark	05/01/13
Crant D. Culp	Acme Markets	05/01/13	Carol L. Reeder	Acme Markets	04/01/13
William S. Cuthbertson	Acme Markets	05/01/13	Susan L. Roman	Super Fresh	05/01/13
Karen Darcangelo	Cape Regional Medical Center	04/05/13	Mary N. Roth	Acme Markets	05/01/13
Evelyn Diaz	Local 152	04/01/13	George D. Sawyer	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Patricia Donovan	Laneco Inc., Food Lane Stores	04/01/13	Stephen J. Schulingkamp	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Rosina J. Dooley	Acme Markets	04/01/13	James E. Showers, Sr.	Pickwell - SHS Enterprises, Inc.	06/01/13
Irene Fitzpatrick	Cape Regional Medical Center	03/28/13	Dorothy J. Slusarski	Pathmark	05/01/13
Nelson E. Garcia	Lawrence Shop n Bag	04/01/13	Dorothy J. Smith	Super Fresh	05/01/13
Kenneth Gold	Super Fresh	04/01/13	Shirley A. Stevens	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Elizabeth Grzeczowski	Super Fresh	04/01/13	Susanne String	Super Fresh	04/01/13
Harry J. Henry	Acme Markets	04/01/13	Susan Tabor	Cape Regional Medical Center	11/03/12
Lynda D. Hudak	Super Fresh	05/01/13	William J. Turner	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Lou Keenan	Cape Regional Medical Center	03/22/13	Beverly Tyler	Cape Regional Medical Center	02/01/13
Kim Kilgore	Pathmark	05/01/13	Catherine S. Vansteyn	Acme Markets	04/01/13
Joseph Larocco	Acme Markets	05/01/13	Elizabeth A. Venet	Pathmark	05/01/13
Marie Laurence	Holiday Markets	03/01/13	Richard Walsh	Super Fresh	05/01/13
Veronica M. Leonard	Super Fresh	04/01/13	Jeanne Weinberger	Super Fresh	05/01/13
Janet M. Madajewski	Acme Markets	04/01/13	William Wojcik	Super Fresh	04/01/13
			Erika Wuerker	BS Pincus Company	03/01/13
			Raymonth Zubrzycki	Super Fresh	04/01/13

Obituaries

Joan Bello	03/11/13	Gerald Mangel	04/28/13
William K. Bernacki	03/30/13	James J. McCarry	03/03/13
Dorothy Birgelo	03/08/13	Francis McGuinness	03/02/13
Patricia A. Brock	04/24/13	Jean Mercado	04/01/13
Jennie Carney	03/23/13	Theresa Mielke	05/16/13
Frank Cerbo	03/21/13	Dale Moeller	03/21/13
Mary E. Coleman	03/01/13	Catherine M. Nicholas	05/24/13
John J. Connerton	03/16/13	Frank Peterson	03/21/13
Jack Coppock	04/10/13	Elizabeth Polidori	03/20/13
Franziska Dueman	05/12/13	Samson Potts	03/31/13
Rita Emma	05/01/13	Mary Jane Powell	04/19/13
Margaret C. Hanna	05/06/13	Alphonso Pressley	04/17/13
Michael Hanuschak	04/26/13	James Robinson	04/28/13
Harold Hewitt	04/24/13	August Roth	04/09/13
Marion M. Howard	04/23/13	Susan Sellers	04/01/13
Leon S. Huey	05/16/13	Stanley Shear	03/05/13
Lucille Kelly	05/19/13	Virginia Sheppard	05/18/13
Maria Kluka	04/20/13	Doris C. Smith	05/16/13
Matthew Koch	05/24/13	James T. Smith	05/08/13
Eva Kuhn	03/31/13	Beverly K. Spytek	03/11/13
Shirley Lee	03/06/13	Dorothy L. Stoudt	04/30/13
Charles V. Leigh	03/31/13	Alverda Stover	03/10/13
Helen P. Lonas	04/29/13	Rebecca Thackray	05/27/13
Antonette J. Malantonio	03/29/13	Petrina M. Toritto	03/06/13
		Mary Vitez	03/28/13
		Henry B. Wilkinson	03/15/13

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Raise the federal minimum wage

In the early 1980s, President Ronald Reagan introduced the idea of “supply side” economics to the national debate.

The idea was that, by cutting taxes on the richest Americans and boosting their incomes, they would be free to invest more money into the companies that employ people. As wealth “trickled down,” everyone, including regular working folks, would end up being more prosperous.

Unfortunately, it didn’t work out that way.

Instead of creating good-paying jobs in America, our CEOs and corporate investors have chosen to close our domestic factories and open new ones overseas. Increasingly, our economy relies on low-wage jobs in the service and retail sectors.

As the poorest Americans get poorer, the rich keep getting richer.

These days, the richest 1 percent of America’s population receives 24 percent of the nation’s income. Back in the 1970s, before the “supply side” policies were implemented, the richest 1 percent earned only 9 percent of the income.

Today, the richest 1 percent controls 40 percent of the nation’s wealth, while 80 percent of Americans are left to divide 7 percent of the wealth

among themselves.

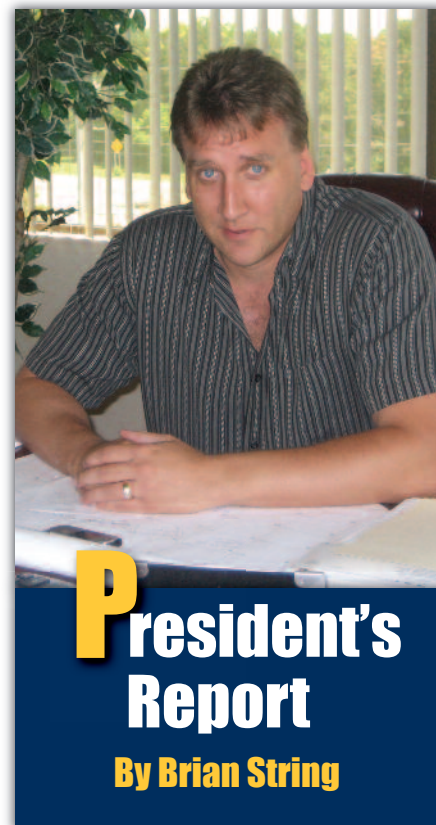
It should be obvious to all that our economic policies since the Reagan era have been upside-down. Instead of favoring the rich, our government should institute policies to promote the welfare of the vast majority of Americans.

One of the best and simplest ways to accomplish this is to raise the federal minimum wage, which has been stuck at \$7.25 since 2009. Pro-worker members of Congress are advocating increasing the federal “wage floor” to \$9.

If \$9 sounds like a steep increase, consider that the minimum wage today would be more than \$10 an hour if it kept up with inflation. If the wage kept up with productivity rates since 1968, today’s lowest-paid workers would be earning \$16.50 an hour.

Some say a minimum wage increase would force employers to reduce employment opportunities and ship more jobs overseas. But jobs in the retail and restaurant industries, which would be most affected by the change, can’t be sent to other countries. In fact, raising wages in these industries would stimulate growth in the economy in ways that “supply side” and “trickle down” economics never could.

Most Americans understand this con-



cept. A recent poll found more than 80 percent of Americans favor an increase in the federal minimum wage.

It’s time to set the economy right by empowering regular working Americans. It’s time to raise the federal minimum wage.