Looking back at 50 years on the job

Last summer, Local 152 Retiree Deloris Hendricks retired from her job at the Kraft Heinz facility in Dover, Del., after more than 50 years (53 years, one month and seven days, if you want to be exact).

Looking back across those five decades of hard work for her union and her employer, she remembered how it all began.

“I interviewed with a manager at General Foods (as it was then known) in 1964,” she said. She had two young children at the time. “He told me I should apply for the job again once I stopped having babies.”

(Please see page 7)

Health care workers in Bristol Glen ratify first contract with Local 152

Employees of the United Methodist Communities assisted-living facility in Newton, N.J. recently ratified their first contract with UFCW Local 152.

The 130 workers at Bristol Glen, including nurses and other health care workers, voted 68-8 in favor of the contract on Jan. 26.

The three-year contract includes:

- Yearly wage increases
- Grievance/arbitration language with additional focus on problem resolution
- Increased yearly allowances for shoes and uniforms
- Shift differentials

In addition, members will enjoy a substantial biweekly cost reduction in health & welfare premiums by moving to the union fund, which offers excellent

(Please see page 4)
Local 152 gives back for the holidays

A Teddy Bear Drive hosted by the Local 152 Women’s Network benefitted the ARC organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Local 152, in partnership with Village ShopRite of Somers Point, donated 120 food baskets to members chosen by shop stewards and to faith-based organizations.

Grievances filed or resolved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Quarter 2016</th>
<th>2016 total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>263</td>
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</table>

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>4th Quarter 2016</th>
<th>2016 total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$84,952.93</td>
<td>$280,929.25</td>
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</table>
All retirees from Local 152, as well as former members of Local 1358 and Local 56, are cordially invited to join the Retirees’ Club.

The club meets on Mondays for social get-togethers throughout the year to greet former co-workers, enjoy coffee and donuts and make plans for the future.

The meeting dates for 2017 are:

May 1 (Yellow Room)
July 10 (Luncheon)
Oct. 9 (Yellow Room)

Yellow Room meetings are held in the basement of the United Methodist Church, 3541 Pennsylvania Ave., Pennsauken, N.J.

Luncheons are at the Coastline Restaurant, 1240 Brace Road, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Members of the Retirees’ Club are welcome to bring their spouses and friends.

For more information, contact Chairman W.F. Kreidler, Jr. (“Sonny”) at (856) 983-4502.

Applications are due by March 31, 2017

The Scholarship Fund will award $1,000 cash grants to eligible members or dependents of members who will be attending college full time this fall. Determination of winners will be made based on school records, SAT scores, personal activities and need.

Selection will be made on the recommendation of an outside independent committee. Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by March 31, 2017.

To apply, call (888) 564-6152.

Apply for the Irv R. String Scholarship

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Selection will be made on the recommendation of an outside independent committee. Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by March 31, 2017.

To apply, call (888) 564-6152.

Local 152
Retirees’ Club 2017

UFCW CHARITY FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. —Nelson Mandela

In 2017 the UFCW Charity Foundation will award several SCHOLARSHIPS, up to $8,000 each, to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents under the age of 20.

For more information, and to find out if you are eligible, please visit: www.ufcwcharityfoundation.org/scholarship

The scholarship application will be available online from February 6-May 8, 2017.

If you are unable to apply online, you may request an application by mail at UFCW Charity Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Program, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or by e-mail at cscholarship@ufcw.org.

If you need the scholarship rules or an application in another language, please contact us at 1-800-351-4010 and we will obtain assistance for you. UFCW employed officers, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.
The Philadelphia Sweetened Beverage Tax (PBT) is now law, making the city the largest municipality in the nation whose residents will now have to pay a tax on sweetened soft drinks.

Any hope for a delay or dismissal of the controversial law abruptly ended on Dec. 19, when a lawsuit filed by the American Beverage Association and other industry affiliates against the City of Philadelphia was dismissed.

The soda tax now adds 1.5 cents per ounce to the cost of most sugary and diet beverages. More than 1,000 products found in grocery stores would fall under the proposed tax, including teas, coffee drinks, lemonade, juice drinks, sports drinks, enhanced water, mixers and energy drinks. Also included would be all artificially sweetened drinks.

Philadelphia officials said the city hopes to raise $91 million from the soda tax.

ShopRite and Fresh Grocer updates

Despite strong pushback from some local residents, it appears there will be a new 70,500 square-foot ShopRite in New Milford, N.J. (Bergen County). Opposition forces argued that developing the 14-acre site would create additional traffic problems and that its proximity to the Hackensack River could cause flooding problems.

One of the busiest Fresh Grocer stores, on 40th and Walnut Street in Center City, PA (on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania), is fighting to retain the rights to renew its lease. According to published reports, a Penn spokesman said Fresh Grocer did not renew its lease (which expires on April 1) in a timely fashion, adding that the college is now working on a “smooth and orderly transition” to a new operator (believed to be Acme). Fresh Grocer is fighting back, however.

Jeff Metzger’s “Taking Stock” column appears in Food World and Food Trade News.
Grocery stores have undergone countless changes in the past several decades. Everything from shape to style to size and shelf space has been tweaked over the years to meet changing customer demands.

The next wave of changes, according to a recent article, will be made to catch the attention of millennial shoppers.

“It’s hard being an old-fashioned grocery store these days,” writes Bob Sullivan for Credit.com. “Adults, for the first time since such data was recorded, are spending more money eating out than cooking in. But even when they do buy their food, the market is enduring what analysts coldly call ‘grocery channel fragmentation’.”

Sullivan says young shoppers want something different from a grocery store than what is offered by many of the longstanding chains.

“Small, boutique food shops that are part-restaurant, part-brew pub, part-exotic grocer are all the rage,” Sullivan writes.

What’s old is new

The experts interviewed in the article say the kind of knowledgeable service that young shoppers crave in a grocery store is similar to what you might find in small wine or butcher shop.

The irony is that small specialty grocers used to rule the land in the first half of the last century before supermarkets catered to larger groups of shoppers. Now, Sullivan writes, “the do-everything grocery store is struggling to stay relevant” in the current environment — not just on the coasts and in urban areas, but across the country.

This upheaval in the grocery landscape accompanies other developments in the industry, like online shopping and home delivery, which have previously been discussed in this column, and meal-in-a-box businesses like HelloFresh.

Despite all of these changes, price still reigns when it comes to where young shoppers will spend money on groceries. “(Shoppers) say lower prices are the biggest factor in where they’ll shop, with nearly twice as many shoppers prioritizing savings over variety and quality,” Sullivan writes.
ShopRite

Members at Work

Acme
As soon as she returned home, she wrote a letter to the manager to tell him that any young woman he hired might have a baby, and this wasn’t a good reason not to hire someone. Shortly after she sent the letter, the manager called to invite her to take an aptitude test, which she passed.

“When I started there, I loved it,” she said. “I was packing bags of coconuts. After a few weeks, I was called into an office to see my supervisor. He was standing with his arms crossed and said ‘I’ve been watching you,’ so I thought I was going to get fired.”

Instead, he praised Hendricks’ “fast hands” and moved her over to a brand new machine. Eventually, she was assigned to another machine that packaged desserts like pudding and cheesecake. She held that role of machine operator until her retirement.

Learning about union business

Her fondest memories of her time at the facility consist of friendly interaction with her supervisors and coworkers, especially her good friend Kathy Colleran. The two of them would meet up any time there was a union meeting or a vote on a new contract.

Hendricks credits the mechanics and the union stewards she worked with in her early years on the job with educating her about the union, which was Local 56 at the time.

“They really knew a lot about union business,” she said. “They taught me a lot. If you had a problem, you could always talk to them and they would look into it. Sometimes they would talk to the company if they felt the company was in the wrong and sometimes they told you to better abide by the rules.”

She recalls how the union helped her return to the day shift after she was reassigned to the night shift following a sick-leave absence. She also appreciates her pension and her health benefits that enabled her to deal with an injury she sustained in 2014.

Hendricks lives in Felton, Del., and enjoys visiting with her children and grandchildren when she can. She looks forward to helping others in retirement and working with her church to visit residents of hospitals and nursing homes and read the Bible with them.
Health care industry update

Health organizations worry the immigration ban will affect care

The response from health care organizations to President Donald Trump’s executive order on immigration has been overwhelmingly negative, MedPageToday.com reports.

The main concern is how the order will affect health care workers from other countries who are working or studying in the United States.

“Impeding U.S. immigration pathways jeopardizes critical access to high-quality physician care for our nation’s most vulnerable populations,” the Association of American Medical Colleges said in a statement.

Several other health care organizations criticized the order, including a union of resident physicians who fear patients in need may forgo receiving care at hospitals or clinics where a police officer may be present.

Health care workers unite for a better future in Florida

The UFCW is proud to welcome some new additions to its union family.

Last fall, a group of health care providers working at Consulate Health Care in Pensacola, Fla., took the first step toward a better life and a better workplace by joining the RWDSU/UFCW Mid-South Council.

The hard-working employees – all women – wanted fair schedules they could plan their lives around, and to feel heard and respected at work.

“There are no words for how it feels to have a union,” said one woman.

Advice on fine-tuning a food processing plant

Gerry Gomolka, vice president of Business Development for design-build company Stellar, recommends food processing plants undergo a facility assessment in order to keep them functioning efficiently.

According to a recent article on FoodManufacturing.com, Gomolka said an assessment can save money, enhance safety and streamline production at plants, among other benefits.

An assessment is especially worthwhile if manufacturing and distribution are under the same roof, he said.

Manufacturing industry update

UFCW Local 431 Tyson Fresh Meats workers ratify contract

On Nov. 20, 2,400 workers at the Tyson Fresh Meats pork processing plant in Waterloo, Iowa, ratified a new contract. The workers are members of UFCW Local 431.

The new five-year contract includes $2.60 in wage increases for the five-year term of the contract, with $1.10 per hour upon ratification; $.50 per hour wage increases in years two and three; and $.25 per hour wage increase in years four and five. The contract also includes an additional paid holiday and increases vacation leave to four weeks after 10 years of employment.

“This was a team effort between UFCW Local 431, our bargaining committee, our members and UFCW International to help close the wage gap in the pork industry,” said UFCW Local 431 President Jerry Messer. “I would like to thank everyone involved for helping to secure this contract. I am proud of each and every one of our members.”

UFCW Local 431 Tyson Fresh Meats workers ratify contract

Tyson workers in Iowa recently ratified a new contract.

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New UFCW members at Consulate Health Care in Pensacola, Fla.

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Members at Cape Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House, N.J., recently ratified a new three-year contract with Local 152. The contract covers roughly 550 members working several different types of jobs, including nursing and support services as well as dietary and pharmacy workers. The hospital has been a union facility since 1984. The new contract maintains affordable health care and competitive wages for members.

Happy retirement!

Jan Treloar, ShopRite
Started in 1974
Pictured with Shop Steward Tara Quinn Gobbo

Carol Ann Horvath, ShopRite
Started in 1975
Pictured with Union Representative Mike Thompson

Ed Reimers, ShopRite
Started in 1977
Pictured with Union Representative Mike Thompson

The Cape Regional Medical Center negotiating committee, from left: Amanda Molina; Fred Plenn; Local 152 Vice President/Director of Field Services Peggy Kelly; Chris Reitnauer and Kelley McNair. Not pictured: committee member MaryAnna Long.
Happy retirement!

Dorothy E. Shetler  
Rosemary Sileo  
Margaret B. Skahan  
Sheila M. Smith  
Thomas Smith  
Emelyn L. Stewart  
Teri E. Styer-Frederick  
Archibald Surplus III  
Gene H. Taylor  
Sandra G. Thomas  
Marlene Trice  
Metaxon Tsepouridis  
George J. Valdez  
Hubert A. Vighetji, Jr.  
Johnnie Walker  
Kathleen Walker  
Phyllis S. Waltman  
Toni J. Willigruber  
Forrest L. Williams  
Linda M. Williamson  
John J. Yerkes

Acme Markets  
Brown’s Super Stores, Inc.  
Holiday Markets-Pratt St. #10  
Pathmark Stores-Local 196  
Pathmark Stores-Local 196  
Pathmark Stores-Local 196  
Supermarkets General  
Acme Markets  
Acme Markets  
Acme Markets  
Village ShopRite - Landis  
Acme Markets

10/01/2016  
10/01/2016  
09/01/2016  
09/01/2016  
09/01/2016  
02/01/2017  
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10/01/2016  
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10/01/2016  
09/01/2016  
02/01/2017

In memoriam

Ralph Addonizio  
Vito Alacqua  
Vito Alcama  
Michael Alcott  
Donald L. Armpriester  
Albert Babin  
Laura Barry  
Betty Bloemer  
Barbara Borgla  
Robert Bowling  
Anna Boyle  
Arlene Brown  
Evangeline Brown  
Frederick Brown  
James Brown  
James Carner  
Samuel Carner  
John Coleman  
Charles Coniglio  
Dessalena Defoo  
Daniel Diceve  
Catherine Dodds  
Anna Dunning  
Leona Eastwood  
Joseph Eckert, Jr.  
Betty Filliben  
Charles L. Firestone  
Olive C. Flad  
Marie Ford  
Vincent Fynn, Sr.  
Joseph Galante  
Evelyn Grehawick  
Betty Haughey  
Joseph Hermann, Jr.  
Michael Hensenthaler  
Agnes Hillinski  
Thomas Holton  
Robert Jarrett  
Klaus Jelinski  
Margaret Kell  
William Keys  
Wilhelmina Killmer

ShopRite Of Manahawkin  
William Bryen  
Eatnor Market  
Acme Markets  
A&P Tea Company  
Acme Markets  
Pathmark Stores  
Acme Markets  
Super Fresh  
Medford, Inc.  
Super Fresh  
Acme Markets  
Brown’s Super Stores, Inc.  
Ball Park Brand  
Ball Park Brand  
George Wollman Wholesale  
Clover Beef Company  
George Wollman Wholesale  
Pathmark Store  
Super Fresh  
Super Fresh  
Super Fresh  
Somerdale Supermarket, Inc.  
Acme Markets  
Hamilton Thriftway  
Super Fresh  
A&P Tea Company  
Acme Markets  
Acme Markets  
Super Fresh  
Super Fresh  
Food Fair/Pantry Pride  
Acme Markets  
Westtown Shop n Bag  
Lawrence Shop n Bag  
Enterhoff Supermarkets  
Super Fresh  
Zallies Supermarkets  
B.S. Pincus Co. (Yankeo Maid)  
Village ShopRite  
Kanes Supermarket  
Village ShopRite  
Acme Markets
Unions hail defeat of anti-worker bill in New Hampshire

America’s unions applauded the defeat of “work for less” legislation in New Hampshire on Feb. 16.

Democrats and Republicans in the state’s House of Representatives voted 200-177 to defeat the bill, which had been part of a nationwide campaign to weaken the power of working people and strengthen the dominance of corporations.

“Work for less” laws force union members to pay the costs of non-union workers who benefit from union contracts. Wherever they are enacted, these laws undermine unions’ bargaining power and drive down wages, health care and pensions for working people.

“This is a great victory for the working men and women in New Hampshire,” UFCW Local 152 President Brian String observed. “We thank the broad coalition of pro-worker groups that lobbied to defeat this proposal.”

Walmart workers in Pennsylvania celebrate class-action lawsuit victory

On Jan. 24, Making Change at Walmart held a press conference in Harrisburg, PA, to draw attention to more than 187,000 current and former Walmart workers throughout Pennsylvania who won a $241.1 million class-action lawsuit against the retail giant.

The case originated in 2002, when former Philadelphia Walmart worker Michelle Braun filed a lawsuit against all Pennsylvania Walmart and Sam’s Club stores, alleging that the company failed to compensate workers for off-the-clock work hours and prevented employees from taking or completing their rest or meal breaks.

In 2004, Dolores Hummel, who was employed as a cake decorator at Walmart in Reading, Pa., filed a class action lawsuit presenting allegations similar to Braun’s 2002 complaint.

In 2005, the two lawsuits were combined and certification as a class action was granted by the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County. The “class” consisted of all current and former employees of Walmart and Sam’s Club stores in Pennsylvania from 1998 to 2006, totaling approximately 187,000 people.

Although a jury returned a decision in favor of the plaintiffs in 2006, Walmart appealed the case for years.

The current and former Walmart workers began receiving payments last December, and the award includes $88 million in interest.
Working people fight against “work for less”

As union members, we learned long ago we can’t rely on the government to solve the problems of working people.

The successes of the Labor Movement, from higher wages to workplace safety standards, are the result of working people joining together and taking matters in their own hands.

At times, when our voices are loud and strong enough, we can force government to act on behalf of all citizens. In the meantime, we continue to build better lives for our members, workplace by workplace.

Some administrations have been sympathetic to our cause, but this support is hardly consistent. Republican presidents tend to be hostile to unions, but some Democratic administrations can be apathetic about our needs or fearful about working with us.

The early days of the Donald Trump presidency have shown us how bad things can be. The nomination of anti-worker CEO Andrew Puzder as secretary of Labor ultimately failed, but it provides an idea of what to expect in the next four years.

The new climate in Washington has emboldened anti-Labor politicians and their corporate backers across the country, and these forces are doubling down on a push for deceptively named “right to work” laws — more accurately described as “work for less.”

A threat to all

“Work for less” laws threaten all workers, whether they are part of a union family or not. They provide no rights and only exist to weaken unions and drive the economy into a “race to the bottom” in order to please corporations.

When unions are weak or nonexistent, working people are forced to struggle alone, without support from each other, against giant multinational conglomerates.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, people in states where “work for less” laws are on the books earn much less than workers in states that allow for union security. They are also more sick and less educated. They live shorter lives.

Now, anti-worker members of Congress are expected to try to enact a national “work for less” law to force all states to lower their standards.

Unions and their allies in the halls of power aren’t sitting for this. Last month, Democrats and Republicans in New Hampshire’s legislature voted together to defeat a “work for less” bill (see details on page 11) and pro-worker forces are gearing up for an epic battle for workers’ rights on the federal and state levels.

We don’t need laws that make people poorer and good jobs fewer. Let’s stop “work for less” and focus on helping unions improve the lives of hard-working men and women.