



# Looking back at 50 years on the job

ast 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)



The negotiating committee at Bristol Glen, from left: Director of Organizing Chad Brooks; committee members Darren Canton, Clara Olivio and Peggy Albert; Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Danny Ross and committee member Jeri Desposito. Not pictured: committee member Mary Rose Faber.

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

mployees 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)

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### **UFCW** Local 152 Unity

Official Publication of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 152

#### **E**DITOR

Brian String

#### Union Headquarters

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**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.

# **FAYS TO BE UNION!**

### **Grievances filed or resolved:**

4th Quarter 2016

2016 total

100

263

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

4th Quarter 2016

**2016** total

\$84,952.93

\$280,929.25



### Applications are due by March 31, 2017

The Scholarship Fund will award \$1,000 cash grants to <u>eligible members</u> or <u>dependents of members</u> 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.

<u>Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by March 31, 2017.</u>

To apply, call (888) 564-6152.

### Local 152 Retirees' Club 2017

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.



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 cfscholarship@ufcw.org.

If you need the scholarship rules or an application in another language, please contact us at 1-800-551-4010 and we will obtain assistance for you. UFCW employed officers, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.



### **News from around the trade**

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

he 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.

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

### **Bristol Glen contract**

(Continued from page 1)

health benefits as well as life insurance and pre-paid legal benefits.

"We are proud to welcome everyone at United Methodist Communities in Bristol Glen to our union family," Local 152 President Brian String said. "We look forward to standing with them in the years to come."



Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Daniel Ross explains the contract at the ratification meeting.

### Gaining a voice

Workers at Bristol

Glen voted to have Local 152 represent them last September following a union organizing campaign.

"The workers felt they didn't have an effective voice to communicate their concerns to management," Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Daniel Ross said.

"Now, with union representation and a new contract, they no longer work 'at will' and won't have to pay high prices for good health insurance."

Ross said the negotiations went fairly smoothly and quickly due in part to the good working relationship the union has with United Methodist Communities. Local 152 represents members at two other locations.

The union is in the process of selecting stewards at Bristol Glen to help communicate and educate their fellow workers about the new contract.



### 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 \$500! For additional information, please contact Chad Brooks, Director of Organizing, at **(888) 564-6152**.

# Report: How millennials are changing the grocery store

### Old trends are now back in fashion

rocery 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,

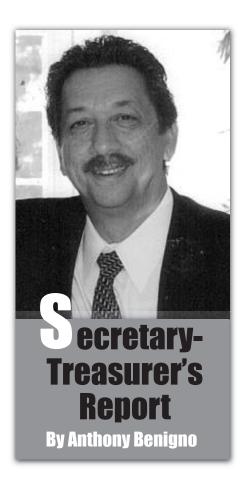
part-exotic grocer are all the rage," Sullivan writes.

### 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.

Despite all of these changes, price still reigns when it comes to where young shoppers will spend money on groceries.















**ShopRite** 

# **Members at Work**

Acme









# Looking back at 50 years on the job

(Continued from page 1)

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."





From left: Local 152 Union Representative Lisa Sanders, Retiree Deloris Hendricks and Chief Shop Steward John Candileri.

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.



### **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



Tyson workers in Iowa recently ratified a new contract.

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."

# 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.

### **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.



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

"We are so thankful for the difference it is going to make."



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.





## Members at Cape Regional Medical Center ratify new contract

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

## Happy retirement!

Dolores V. Anderson	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	09/01/2016
Doris M. Asmus	Acme Markets	09/01/2016
Thomas M. Baldini	Acme Markets	10/01/2016
Raymond M. Beidell	Acme Markets	12/01/2016
Amy S. Benigno	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Danny Beverly	Pathmark Stores-Local 196	10/01/2016
Lynn Bringhurst	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Steven Bulkin	Murphy's Of Atco	01/01/2017
Daniel Cappella William F. Cassidy	Ball Park Brand Pickwell SHS Enterprises, Inc.	11/01/2016
Jeanette Cifone	Acme Markets	01/01/2017 02/01/2017
Wanda D. Cohen	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Ronald J. Coleman	Acme Markets	09/01/2016
Estelle J. Colletti	R&R ShopRite, Inc.	02/01/2017
Carol L. Colucci	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Linda C. Compare	Holiday Markets-Welsh Road #30	09/01/2016
Florence A. Crowley	Zallie's Supermarkets-Laurel Hill	10/01/2016
Kathleen M. Denofa	R&R ShopRite, Inc.	10/01/2016
Anthony Disalvatore	Brown's Super Stores, Inc.	09/01/2016
Richard Evanick	Pathmark Stores-Local 196	02/01/2017
Evelyn M. Fagan	Feoli's Supermarkets	09/01/2016
Anthony Fidance	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	09/01/2016
Russell Fidler	Super Fresh	02/01/2017
Lynn Filbert	Village ShopRite - Landis	10/01/2016
Rosemary Franceschetti	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	11/01/2016
Denise M. Freas	Super Fresh	12/01/2016
Marilyn Garner	Stop & Shop Supermarket	10/01/2016
Katie F. Goodwin	Acme Markets	12/01/2016
Eliana R. Griffiths Jonathan W. Gullo	Acme Markets Pathmark Stores-Local 152	09/01/2016 11/01/2016
Phyllis Ann Haupe	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Carolyn P. Hyde	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Constance L. Kelly	Acme Markets	12/01/2016
Kathy A. Klawiter	Supermarkets Of C.HMarlton	01/01/2017
Joanne V. Lang	Acme Markets	09/01/2016
Donald R. Lankford	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Catherine Lavacca	Super Fresh	01/01/2017
Joseph Lavacca	Super Fresh	01/01/2017
Linda A. Leboutillier	Acme Markets	01/01/2017
Denise M. Lentz	Village ShopRite - Rio Grande	10/01/2016
Julie M. Lloyd	Acme Markets	10/01/2016
Panayiota Mallouris	Brown's Super Stores, Inc.	01/01/2017
Joseph W. Maloney	Ball Park Brand	01/01/2017
Kathryn A. Mcgovern	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	09/01/2016
James F. Metzinger, Jr. George Miller, Jr.	Super Fresh Ball Park Brand	10/01/2016 10/01/2016
Kenneth E. Mulholland	Super Fresh	09/01/2016
Sandra E. Naccarato	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Elizabeth Naylor	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Mary Ellen Neely	Acme Markets	01/01/2017
Jacqueline A. Nicoletti	Super Fresh	10/01/2016
Beatrice M. Odom	Acme Markets	01/01/2017
Robert J. Pavlin	Vineland Shop n Bag	10/01/2016
Patricia A. Pearl	Holiday Markets-Mayfair #24	01/01/2017
Betty J. Pierce-Nixon	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	02/01/2017
Joyce A. Post	Bottino's Supermarkets-ShopRite	12/01/2016
Roy Romano	Acme Markets	10/01/2016
Maryanne V. Roskos	Super Fresh	09/01/2016
Wendy A. Rutecki Joanne Seddon	Acme Markets	01/01/2017
Lenora Sexton	Super Fresh Acme Markets	02/01/2017 02/01/2017
MONITURE DOMINOIL	TOMO WOI NOOD	JW/ OI/ WOII

Doris E. Shetzler	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Rosemary Sileo	Brown's Super Stores, Inc.	01/01/2017
Margaret E. Skahan	Holiday Markets-Pratt St. #10	01/01/2017
Sheila M. Smith	Pathmark Stores-Local 196	09/01/2016
Thomas Smith	Acme Markets	09/01/2016
Emolyn L. Stewart	Acme Markets	10/01/2016
Teri E. Styer-Frederick	Supermarkets General	10/01/2016
Archibald Surplus III	Acme Markets	01/01/2017
Gene H. Taylor	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Sandra G. Thomas	Acme Markets	02/01/2017
Marlene Trice	Pathmark Stores-Local 152	09/01/2016
Metaxou Tsepouridis	Acme Markets	12/01/2016
George J. Valdez	Morrisville Shop n Bag	10/01/2016
Hubert A. Vighetti, Jr.	Shorday's	09/01/2016
Johnnie Walker	Acme Markets	12/01/2016
Kathleen Walker	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Phyllis S. Waltman	Acme Markets	11/01/2016
Toni J. Willgruber	Acme Markets	09/01/2016
Forrest L. Williams	Village ShopRite - Landis	12/01/2016
Linda M. Williamson	Acme Markets	10/01/2016
John J. Yerkes	Acme Markets	09/01/2016

### In memoriam

Ralph Addonizio	10/08/2016	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
Vito Alacqua	12/14/2016	William Bryen
Vito Alcamo	10/28/2016	Eatmor Market
Michael Alcott	01/21/2017	Acme Markets
Donald L. Armpriester	10/06/2016	A&P Tea Company
Albert Babilon	01/20/2017	Acme Markets
Laura Barry	01/14/2017	Pathmark Stores
Betty Bloemer	12/21/2016	Acme Markets
Barbara Borgia	09/17/2016	UFCW Local 152 staff
Robert Bowling	01/09/2017	Medford, Inc.
Anna Boyle	10/20/2016	Super Fresh
Arlene Brown	01/26/2017	Acme Markets
Evangeline Brown	10/23/2016	Brown's Super Stores, Inc.
Frederick Brown	09/01/2016	Ball Park Brand
James Brown	09/19/2016	Ball Park Brand
James Carner	12/20/2016	George Wollman Wholesale
Samuel Carner	01/24/2017	Clover Beef Company
John Coleman	10/02/2016	George Wollman Wholesale
Charles Coniglio	12/24/2016	Pathmark Store
Dessalena Defeo	01/18/2017	Super Fresh
Daniel Divece	10/07/2016	Super Fresh
Catherine Dodds	11/28/2016	Somerdale Supermarket, Inc.
Anna Dunning	10/01/2016	Acme Markets
Leona Eastwood	10/15/2016	Hamilton Thriftway
Joseph Eckert, Jr.	01/10/2017	Super Fresh
Betty Filliben	10/03/2016	A&P Tea Company
Charles L. Firestine	12/29/2016	Acme Markets
Olive C. Flad	10/21/2016	Acme Markets
Marie Ford	01/19/2017	Super Fresh
Vincent Fynan, Sr.	11/12/2016	Super Fresh
Joseph Galante	01/29/2017	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Evelyn Grehawick	01/07/2017	Acme Markets
Betty Haughey	11/06/2016	Westtown Shop n Bag
Joseph Hermann, Jr.	12/18/2016	Lawrence Shop n Bag
Michael Hessenthaler	10/02/2016	Eickhoff Supermarkets
Agnes Hilinski	11/26/2016	Super Fresh
Thomas Holton	12/29/2016	Zallies Supermarkets
Robert Jarrett	10/11/2016	B.S. Pincus Co. (Yankee Maid)
Klaus Jelinski	01/01/2017	Village ShopRite
Margaret Keil	11/03/2016	Kanes Supermarket
William Keys	01/13/2017	Village ShopRite
Wilhelmina Killmer	10/11/2016	Acme Markets

### **U**NION NEWS

# 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."

Saker ShopRites

Inc

### In memoriam (continued)

11/13/2016

Carol Krakowski

OUL OI ALL UILO II DILL	11/10/2010	banci bilopitiob
Mariam Ladislaw	12/03/2016	Riverdel Thriftway
Siegfrid Laskowski	12/07/2016	Medford, Inc.
Eugene Leahy	12/29/2016	Glenside Thriftway
Richard L. Leeper	01/06/2017	Colonial Beef Co.
Roy Lerch	10/18/2016	Supermarkets General
Chester Lubaczewski	10/15/2016	Brown's Super Stores,
Siegfried Maldener	12/30/2016	Bottino's Supermarkets
Robert Mccloskey	01/01/2017	Glen Food Mart
Thomas Murray	01/05/2017	M. Zucker & Son
William Naylor	12/08/2016	Acme Markets
John Parks	11/27/2016	Somerset Stores
Verano Pasquini	01/19/2017	Pathmark Stores
Victor Pospischil	01/14/2017	Acme Markets
Dorothy Preston	09/30/2016	Super Fresh
Mary Redstreak	02/01/2017	A & P Tea Company
Kathaleen Reid	12/28/2016	Medford, Inc.
Henry Rogers	01/30/2017	Bonoccurso & Sons
Mary Ryle	10/25/2016	
Dalton Shackleton, Sr.	12/11/2016	Super Fresh
Myrtle Snyder	11/27/2016	Pathmark Stores
Luella Stametz	10/16/2016	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Daniel Sulpizio	01/03/2017	Capital Hotel Supply
Ernestine Umile	12/27/2016	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Anthony Vannozzi	01/17/2017	Ewing Thriftway
Barbara Walter	09/25/2016	Collins Family Markets
Edward Wiegand	11/05/2016	Cherry Hill Shop n Bag
Joseph Williams	11/12/2016	Cross Bros. Meat Packet
Erwin Willis	10/02/2016	Super Fresh
Margaret Wright	12/10/2016	Grover Shop n Bag

Nine of the 10 states with the highest poverty rates are "work for less" states, President String noted.

"Workers in states with 'work for less' laws make about \$1,500 less per year than workers in union security states," he added. "They are also less likely to have employer-paid health care and pensions, and more likely to die in accidents on the job."

# 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.

### www.facebook.com/ufcwlocal152



UFCW Local 152 701 Route 50 Mays Landing, NJ 08330

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### **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 antiworker 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.

Brian Str