

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

a **VOICE** for working America Winter 2018



Local 152 leadership and staff alongside members of the ShopRite negotiating committee

SHOPRITE CONTRACT SUCCESS

Educating shoppers about Lidl

Protect our market share and shop your local union grocery store

Local 152 members and staff, alongside brothers and sisters from other UFCW locals and activists from across the labor movement, gathered in Vineland throughout (Please see page 4)



See page 3

Also inside: Mike McWilliams looks back on his career of union service

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and help save jobs!



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100% Union

Nomination of delegates to the UFCW International convention

Dear UFCW Local 152 Member:

UFCW Local 152 has received notice that the UFCW International will be conducting its Regular Convention (“Convention”) pursuant to the UFCW International Constitution (“Constitution”). The Convention is scheduled for April 23, 2018 through April 27, 2018 and will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Pursuant to Article 15 of the Constitution, UFCW Local 152 is authorized to send up to 21 delegates to the Convention. Article 15 of the Constitution also sets forth a procedure for the nomination and election of delegates to the Convention.

In accordance with Article 15(F) of the Constitution, please accept this as Notice of Nomination of Delegates to the Convention. In this regard, nominations for delegates to the Convention shall be held on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the VFW #2189, 500 Bethel Road, Somers Point, New Jersey 08244.

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

Any active member of the International Union, as defined in Article 4(B) of this Constitution, who has been an active member of the International Union, or who had been a member of another organization merged with or chartered by the International Union or merged into a Local Union

of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, for a continuous aggregate of at least 12 months preceding the month in which the Convention call is issued, shall be eligible to be a delegate to the Convention from the Local Union through which he or she holds his or her membership at the time of nominations, provided that said member maintains continuous active membership in said Local Union during the interval between his or her election and the commencement of the Convention.

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

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

Sincerely,

Anthony Benigno
Election Chairperson

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved:

2017 total

222

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

2017 total

\$234,239.33

ShopRite members ratify strong new contract

Nearly 2,700 Local 152 ShopRite members voted on Dec. 6 to ratify a new contract.

The agreement covers ShopRite members employed in the meat, seafood, deli and prepared foods divisions of stores in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The five-year contract, which was ratified by an overwhelming margin, includes wage and pension increases. The agreement also includes health insurance premium increases for the duration of the contract.

“We are pleased to secure a new five-year contract extension that runs through 2022,” Local 152 President Brian String said.

“The contract contains a guarantee of 40 percent increases in union-negotiated, employer-paid contributions, if needed, to fund the health and welfare benefits through that time. We also secured wage increases for every year of the contract, as well as increased company contributions into the pension plan every year.

String continued: “Language changes resolved outstanding issues regarding overtime and proper payment.

“No wonder the contract vote was nearly unanimous for this outstanding agreement.”



Apply for the Irv R. String Scholarship

Applications are due by March 30, 2018

The Scholarship Fund will award \$2,000 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 30, 2018.

To apply, call (888) 564-6152.

Lidl U.S. experiment 'troubling'

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

After reporting last month that many of the German discounter's future Mid-Atlantic store projects have either been canceled or delayed, there is more troubling Lidl news.

NJ.com reports a Lidl unit planned for Mantua Township in South Jersey has been delayed, even though the company received approvals from the town to begin construction.

According to Mantua's economic development coordinator, "budgetary constraints" have put the project on hold.

While there are still about a dozen of the 47 stores that Lidl has opened since its June debut that are performing well, most of the stores fall into a predictable pattern: very strong openings to be followed by large drop-offs no more than a month later. For every store winner such as Manassas, Va., where our estimates are in the \$275-300K weekly range, there are three other stores like Culpeper, Va., where volume is estimated at \$130K per week.

Clearly, Lidl is not a place where you can complete your full weekly shopping list and, based on our review of store conditions after several visits to many units, the decline in perishables is particularly noticeable. As has been stated here previously, the disproportionate amount of space given to general merchandise and apparel is frankly puzzling.

As I've also said before, beyond what I believe is a gigantic initial merchandising misread by the Europeans running the show at its U.S. headquarters, what's equally as worrisome is their inability to change course.

Certainly, that can happen when you don't have enough seasoned American retail decision makers at the point of attack to call an audible. And while Lidl's pricing and packaging remains an undeniable strength as do its bakery and wine/beer departments (which it can't offer with its upcoming new stores in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey), the "whole" seems to fall far short of the sum of its parts.

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

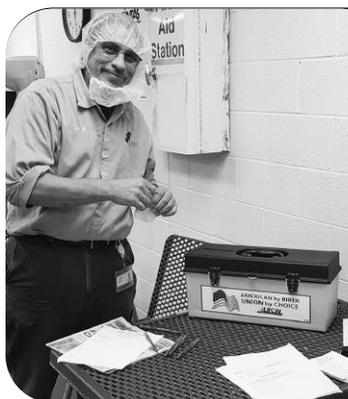
Educating shoppers at Lidl

(Continued from front page)

December to educate shoppers about Lidl's destructive business practices.

The German-owned Lidl grocery chain has a notorious record of labor abuse across the world and is now trying to bring its style of business to New Jersey. The retailer is determined to lower standards in the grocery industry and reduce union market share in the communities we serve.

The Local 152-led informational picket line in front of the Vineland location encouraged shoppers to support local union retailers such as ShopRite and Acme. These American-owned companies give back to their communities and employ union members who receive good wages and benefits, have workplace protections and have the ability to collectively bargain for a better future.



Help organize and strengthen your union!

Do you know someone who works at a non-union facility who gets low wages, no raises, no health care, no retirement plan (pension or 401(k)), no seniority and no way to fight back against wrongdoing on the job from management? We encourage our members to call or text Local 152 Director of Organizing Chad Brooks at (609) 670-8605.

Learning about the labor movement through media

In previous columns, I've discussed the need to educate young people about the real story of America's unions. We have a proud history of economic fairness and social justice worth passing on to future generations in the classroom, at the workplace or at the family dinner table.

But those aren't the only places children and young workers learn about the Labor Movement. A well-funded anti-union campaign has been spreading lies and permeating all forms of media for decades.

Fortunately, a counterpoint to this campaign exists in the many stories of the working class heroes of the Labor Movement that have been told in feature films, documentaries and books.

Here are some examples of stories we can still learn from and enjoy today.

Feature films

- **Norma Rae** is a 1979 drama telling the story of Norma Rae Webster, a textile worker in North Carolina who is determined to organize her factory to combat poor working conditions. Sally Field won the Oscar for Best Actress for her portrayal.

- **Matewan** is writer-director John Sayles' acclaimed 1987 drama about a revolt by coal miners in 1920s West Virginia.

- **Newsies** is a 1992 Disney musical about a 1899 strike by New York's newsboys. The film failed at the box office but developed a cult following on the strength of its rousing score by Alan Menken and J.C. Redford and acrobatic choreography by director Kenny Ortega. It later was adapted into a hit Broadway musical.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Anthony Benigno

Documentaries

- **Roger & Me** is a 1989 documentary by Michael Moore that examines the closure of a General Motors plant in Flint, Mich., resulting in the loss of 33,000 jobs in the filmmaker's hometown. The film also follows Moore's often humorous pursuit of an interview with GM CEO Roger Smith.

- **The Fight in the Fields** is a 1997 documentary chronicling Cesar Chavez's life and his work for the United Farm Workers Union.

Books

- **They're Bankrupting Us! And 20 Other Myths About Unions** by Bill Fletcher, Jr., debunks popular myths spread by anti-union forces.

- **The Union Member's Complete Guide: Everything You Want – and Need – to Know About Working Union** by Michael Mauer details how unions work on behalf of their members.

Local 152 gives back for the holidays

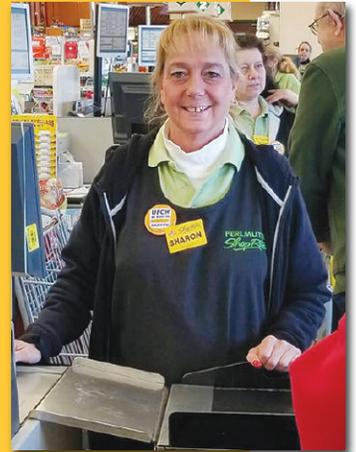


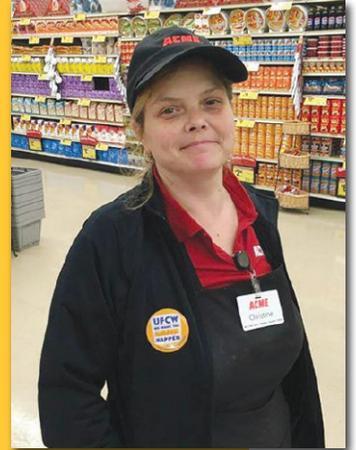
A **Teddy Bear Drive** hosted by the Local 152 Women's Network benefitted the ARC organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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



LOCAL 152 Members at Work





Manufacturing industry update

UFCW opposes AGA to protect American jobs

UFCW International President Marc Perrone called on lawmakers to protect U.S. jobs, as well as the safety of our food supply, by opposing the Agricultural Guestworker Act (AGA) of 2017 (H.R. 4092) in an op-ed for *The Washington Examiner*.

The following are excerpts from President Perrone's commentary:

The AGA is a direct threat to America's hard-working families, the incomes they depend on and the food we all eat. This is not hyperbole. If the AGA becomes law, it will allow 450,000 foreign visa holders to work in agricultural and meat processing jobs that are currently held by hard-working American men and women. The impacts of this bill, particularly upon the hundreds of thousands of people employed by the meat and



Food processing workers on the job.

poultry industry, would be devastating.

This bad bill does more than just hurt American jobs and workers — it also puts our food supply at risk.

While we may not see food processing workers do their jobs, the truth is that they are highly trained professionals who perform dangerous and highly skilled work. These professionals serve as a much needed layer of

protection for consumers when it comes to food safety because they know to quickly spot meat that is low quality or diseased.

Like any high skilled and vital profession, current salaries reflect the quality and importance of this work force, with wages as high as \$23 per hour. By allowing untrained workers or guestworkers to hold these important jobs for as little as \$10.88 per hour, the AGA will effectively drive down wages and destroy hundreds of thousands of good jobs in the process.

At a time when we need to strengthen American jobs and make our food safer, the AGA would also allow guestworkers to stay for up to three years. That isn't a guestworker — that's a long-term employee and further shows how this bill is designed to both exploit foreign workers and replace American workers at the same time.

Health care industry update

Medical workers ratify new contract

Members of UFCW 21 who are employed in the registered nurse and dietary services units at Harrison Medical Center in Bremerton, Wash., ratified new contracts by an overwhelming margin on Dec. 21.

Harrison Medical Center is an affiliate of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) Franciscan Health and UFCW Local 21 represents 2,200 members who are employed by CHI.

The 18-month contract for registered nurses and the three-year contract for dietary and service workers include wage increases and maintain health care costs this year and in 2019.

The new agreements also include staffing language and successorship rights that are critical due to the recent

announcement that CHI will be merging with Dignity Health.

Members of the professional technical unit recently reached a tentative agreement and are scheduled to vote on their contract this month.

UFCW Local 21 members at CHI St. Joseph Medical Center, Regional Hospital, Highline Hospital and Harrison Hospital stood together for months to win strong contracts across the Puget Sound. Their actions included leafletting, informational picketing, public hearings and community forums.

Ambulance workers improve wages and benefits

On Dec. 29, 24 members of UFCW Local 653 who work at Gold Cross Ambulance in Mankato, Minnesota,



A Local 653 member in Minnesota.

ratified a new contract. The Gold Cross Ambulance workers are employed as paramedics and emergency medical technicians in Greater Minnesota.

The three-year contract includes wage increases for all members, as well as language updates that improve on-call status and scheduling for members.



Mike McWilliams at the 2015 Papal Mass in Philadelphia

Building a connection

Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining Mike McWilliams retires

The first few months of retirement for Mike McWilliams weren't what you might expect from travel brochures or TV ads.

No floating around in a pool in Florida, no long days on the golf course.

More than two months after his official retirement on Oct. 1, 2017, the former Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining was still at the bargaining table, working on the final details of a new contract with ShopRite.

McWilliams said he couldn't help sticking around to get the best possible deal for members of UFCW Local 152. The final agreement was ratified by the members in December.

Since Local 152's beginnings in 2005, McWilliams served as the members' head representative in negotiations with employers. He performed his duties so well and with so much dedication that almost no one was surprised about his staying to finish the ShopRite agreement.

"I did take to the job," McWilliams said of his early days at Local 152.

"There was a learning curve, but I had the ability to talk to both sides and get to an agreement. I always felt I could get to the heart of the issue. I knew there was a pathway.

"I wasn't going to take any garbage — I wasn't afraid to go after the employer," he continued. "But I could be honest with the members as well and tell them when certain things weren't going to work. I helped them understand what was realistic."

Earning a reputation

McWilliams started in the grocery industry when he was 20 years old at Talk of the Town food markets in New Jersey. Later, as frozen food manager, he applied himself toward learning more about his union, UFCW Local 1360, by talking to union representatives.

Through these efforts, he learned

'I had the ability to talk to both sides and get to an agreement.

I always felt like

I could get to the

heart of the issue.'

about the value of his union membership, from health and pension benefits to regular pay raises to on-the-job protections.

He became a steward and earned a reputation as someone who understood the contract and who would fight for his coworkers.

"As a steward, I won a couple of arbitrations and got members back to work after suspensions or terminations," he recalled. "It doesn't sit well with me to see people mistreated."

He joined the staff of Local 1360 as a union representative in 1996. In addition to helping members in his stores, he participated in a union delegation to Washington, D.C. to advocate for workers' rights.

"We weren't having much success at first, but I realized I was in a good position to approach one of the congressmen to state our case," he said.

"Everyone said don't bother, it's not worth it, he's a Republican," McWilliams continued. "But I said, 'I'm a Republican, too! I can talk his language!' And the congressman ended up changing his mind on the issue."

Greatest achievement

McWilliams agreed to join Local 152 in 2005 because he was already friendly with President Brian String and respected String's leadership skills and integrity.

He remembers the difficult early days of the newly-merged union and how the leadership team visited employers who mistrusted unions because of previous experiences.

(Please see page 11)

Happy retirement!

Linda Alessandroni	10/01/2017	Broomall ShopRite	Michael McGuinness	10/01/2017	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
Gaetano Amoroso	12/01/2017	Ewing Shop N Bag	Michael McWilliams	10/01/2017	UFCW Local 152 Staff
Suzanen Anderson	12/01/2017	Eickhoff Supermarket	Nina Mercantini	11/01/2017	Acme Markets
Merry Bailey	10/01/2017	Village ShopRite	Laura Mertz	12/01/2017	Brown's Superstores
Ricky Barr	10/01/2017	Top Shelf Fine Foodery	Richard Milligan	12/01/2017	Acme Markets
Darlene Bauer	10/01/2017	Acme Markets	Steven Mitchell	12/01/2017	Acme Markets
Glenda Becker	10/01/2017	Acme Markets	John Morton	11/01/2017	Kanes Shop n Bag
Donna Lynn Beckett	11/01/2017	Incollingo's Iga	William Perez Cruz	10/01/2017	George Wells Meat Co.
Helen Bender	12/01/2017	Acme Markets	William Perretti	11/01/2017	Acme Markets
Linda Binkley	11/01/2017	Acme Markets	Michele Prusinowski	12/01/2017	Pickwell-SHS Enterprises, Inc.
John Chalkan	10/01/2017	Acme Markets	Steven Rosenberg	11/01/2017	Holiday Markets
Raymond Ciabattoni	10/01/2017	Stop & Shop Supermarket	Mary Sager	12/01/2017	Acme Markets
Beverly Connelly	10/01/2017	Eickhoff Supermarket	Paula Schell	10/01/2017	Acme Markets
Elizabeth Cresswell	12/01/2017	Newark ShopRite	Janice Sherwood	10/01/2017	Holiday Markets
Peter Dardovitch	11/01/2017	Acme Markets	Suzanne Shields	10/01/2017	Holiday Markets
Connie Deannuntis	12/01/2017	Super Fresh	Regina Smith	12/01/2017	Acme Markets
Marjory Dell	10/01/2017	Holiday Markets	Robert Spencer	11/01/2017	Acme Markets
Trueman Feaster	10/01/2017	Food Fair Inc	Sandra Tiernan-Read	10/01/2017	Acme Markets
Lynne Feder	11/01/2017	Brown's Superstores	Deborah Truselo	10/01/2017	Penn Mart Thriftway
Cheryl Flores	12/01/2017	Acme Markets	Isaac Van Culin	12/01/2017	Incollingo's Iga
Annette Forgett	10/01/2017	Acme Markets	Lois Wahl	12/01/2017	Holiday Markets
Mary Giordano	10/01/2017	Acme Markets	Nancy Weidamoyer	11/01/2017	Acme Markets
Jerrold Goldman	12/01/2017	Village Shoprite			
Robert Graber	10/01/2017	Acme Markets			
Donald Holland	11/01/2017	Philly Pride			
Louise Hughes	11/01/2017	George's Market Dreshertown			
Martha Hughes-Kimball	11/01/2017	Acme Markets			
Pan Soon Jo	12/01/2017	Old Fashioned Kitchen			
Donna Jones	10/01/2017	Supermarkets General			
Ossama Kash	12/01/2017	Acme Markets			
Theresa Kochmer	11/01/2017	Super Fresh			
Donna Lund	12/01/2017	Pathmark Stores			
Michael Luyando	10/01/2017	Stop & Shop Supermarket			
Rose Mailahn	10/01/2017	Zallie's Supermarket			
Mark Mason	12/01/2017	Brown's Superstores			
James McCullough	10/01/2017	Acme Markets			
Michael McGuigan	12/01/2017	Acme Markets			

In memoriam

Kathy Adams	10/04/2017	Acme Markets
Carol Amato	12/30/2017	Acme Markets
Christy Amato	12/05/2017	Acme Markets
Catherine Barger	10/28/2017	Acme Markets
Anne Beddall	11/06/2017	Acme Markets
Melvin Berk	12/09/2017	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Aubrey Bordeaux	11/16/2017	Super Fresh
Walter Bowen	10/01/2017	Acme Markets
Marie Candidi	10/09/2017	Acme Markets
Elizabeth Cantando	10/18/2017	Pathmark Stores



The UFCW's new "how to" video features UFCW Local 75 member Chardonnay, a prep cook, who shows you how to create a party tray.

This video is part of a series of "how to" tips from UFCW members who are experts in their fields. You can watch UFCW's "how to" videos at ufcw.org/howto.

In memoriam (continued)

Joseph Chiarello	10/17/2017	Progressive Supermarkets
James Conwell	12/21/2017	Super Fresh
Frances Currie	12/03/2017	Super Fresh
Martin Ellis	11/20/2017	Acme Markets
Claire Fitzpatrick	11/13/2017	Super Fresh
Edward Fletcher	10/14/2017	Philadelphia Dressed Beef Co.
Bernice Gittens	11/02/2017	Ball Park Brand
Elsie Jenkins	10/10/2017	Acme Markets
Diane Kenniston	11/17/2017	Acme Markets
Helen Kile	10/24/2017	Freda Corp
Mai May	12/10/2017	Kunzler Packing Company
James McCann	10/03/2017	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Charles McCarty	12/01/2017	Acme Markets
Arthur McCullough	11/22/2017	Roberts Packing Company
Carol McDonald	12/14/2017	Middletown Supermarket
Muriel McNeill	11/29/2017	Colonial Beef Company
Saverio Minniti	10/24/2017	Freda Corp
George Motsko	10/20/2017	Pathmark Stores
Henry Nast	12/21/2017	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Esther Page	11/12/2017	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Joan Shirley Porter	10/12/2017	Millville Supermarket, Inc.
Ruth Rainey	12/08/2017	Acme Markets
Charles Rice	12/06/2017	Butler Foods/Penn Packing
Ernest Rickenbach	10/13/2017	Acme Markets
Sandra Robinson	12/01/2017	Incollingo's Iga - Salem
Vincent Rossi	11/14/2017	Super Fresh
Margaret Scannapieco	12/20/2017	A&P Tea Company
Barbara Scheeper	10/10/2017	Acme Markets
Arthur Schulman	11/17/2017	Pathmark Stores
William Shaw	11/11/2017	Pickwell - SHS Enterprises Inc.
Raymond Simpkins	10/28/2017	George Wells Meat Co.
Carl Spangler	10/20/2017	Medford, Inc.
Charles Talley	11/21/2017	I K Layman & Co.
Calvin Thompson	12/02/2017	Formost Kosher Meat Packers
John Thompson	12/16/2017	Acme Markets
Charles Torre	10/09/2017	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
Carmella Turner	10/28/2017	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
Valerie Watkins	12/04/2017	Acme Markets
Louis Weisbecker	11/09/2017	Acme Markets
John Weyand	12/24/2017	A&P Tea Company
Florence Wildermuth	12/27/2017	Supermarkets General
Diane Willey	12/05/2017	Acme Markets
Helen Wood	10/14/2017	Food Fair Inc
Constance Wright	12/12/2017	ShopRite Of West Chester

STAY UP TO DATE! Text **local152** to **698329** to subscribe to Local 152's text message system. Local 152 does not charge for text messages but your cell phone provider's message and data rates may apply.

Building a connection

(Continued from page 9)

“Many of our employers were paying less into the health and welfare fund than what it actually took to pay for the benefits,” he said.

“We had to get more money, but it was difficult. Some didn’t want to pony up. We had to work hard to bargain enough money to fix that fund.”

Largely as a result of their efforts, the nearly bankrupt fund quickly grew in strength. Today, McWilliams considers the fund’s “best in class” health care benefits as the union’s greatest achievement.

“Our health care benefits are as good as what anyone else has, in the public or private sector,” he said.

“We bargain hard to keep it that way,” he continued. “I’ve seen people cave in at the bargaining table elsewhere, but for us it’s the priority.

“It’s the same for retirement security and the pension fund,” he added. “We’re not willing to give up on that.

“For the majority of members, the employers are paying tens of thousands toward their benefits and the members are paying nothing.”

Strength through belief

Now retired — for real — McWilliams is dedicated to teaching young parishioners at Holy Child Parish Church in Runnemede, NJ.

He uses his own life as an example to teach new generations that the idea of God or religion isn’t hateful or discriminatory.

“When my mother passed away and I was grieving, I thought, ‘How do people without faith do this?’” he said. “That belief gave me strength, so I want to share it.”

Leaving his role at Local 152 is bittersweet because he misses interacting with the union representatives and the office staff.

Looking back on his years with the union, he said he appreciates the confidence President String and Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Benigno had in him.

“They provide such great leadership,” he said. “Their willingness to let me do the job was invaluable and it helped me succeed.”

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Changing face of the labor movement

On Jan. 20, more than a million women — and men who support them — marched in cities across America and around the world to demand fairness and justice for women and others who endure discrimination and abuse.

Held on the anniversary of mass protests immediately following the inauguration of Donald Trump, the 2018 Women’s Marches focused on channeling the participants’ energies into political action in this important election year. The unifying theme was “Hear Our Vote!”

The United Food and Commercial Workers is proud to march in the vanguard of all who advocate a just, fair and equitable future rooted in human and civil rights.

These values have driven the American Labor Movement since its beginning, but the focus on women’s rights and safety on the job has sharpened in recent months with the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements.

With every revelation of workplace harassment, discrimination and violence, we Americans have strengthened our resolve to end the culture of silence that has allowed such things to occur without consequences for the perpetrators.

New realities

As women take an increasingly prominent role in America’s work force, unions have been challenged to reflect the new realities.

In 2015, a national magazine proclaimed that women may be the new face of labor unions. Three years later, this transformation

has become more evident than ever.

Even though organized labor has had a tough decade, the number of working women who are union members is holding relatively steady, giving women a rising share of representation within the Labor Movement.

In 2015, more than 45 percent of all union members were women. This is a big jump from just one-third in 1984, according to a recent report by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

The face of the Labor Movement changed slowly over the past few decades, propelled by transformations in previously male-dominated sectors and a push in some traditionally female occupations to unionize.

For instance, some industries such as manufacturing, where males have heavily dominated, have been shedding jobs.

As a result of these changes, some experts say women could represent a majority of unionized workers by 2025.

Even though women’s leadership roles in unions are lagging behind the proportions of women members, the UFCW is making strides to change that.

For example, in 2016, Esther Lopez became the UFCW’s International Secretary-Treasurer — the first woman to hold the UFCW’s Number 2 leadership position.

We haven’t reached true equality yet, but with the help of unions, we’re on our way.

In the meantime, it is important for women to be active in their union so we can



President's Report

By Brian String

make further progress toward gender fairness, such as closing the pay gap and addressing child care, and to promote other workplace changes that will help women balance the requirements of earning a living and raising a family.

These are more than women’s issues. They are human issues. They are justice issues.

To get where we need to go, we need to march together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian String". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.