



Walking for a cure

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Local 152 Director John Robbins, far left, and Union Representative Daniel Ross, far right, stand with the Dietz & Watson Negotiating Committee, from left: Kariem Smith, Annette Ruiz, Kevin Neibauer, Donna Johnson and Brenda Martinez.



UFCW President Marc Perrone talks strategy at Local 152

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Contract success all around

Several contracts ratified, securing many improvements

UFCW Local 152 recently negotiated many collective bargaining agreements covering hundreds of members. The agreements were ratified by large majorities of the voting union members in each bargaining unit.

"In all of these contracts, our union's negotiating teams were able to protect and expand our members' rights to good wages and health benefits," UFCW Local 152 President Brian String said.

Here are the highlights of some of the contracts:

Bevco Service, Inc.

Members at Bevco Service, Inc. ratified a three-year agreement that guarantees a wage increase that extends retroactively to members. Member contributions for their dental benefits were eliminated and the employer now contributes 80 percent to their health care. Vacation time was increased for employees with 20 years of experience. The contract covers eight members.

(Please see page 6)

Also inside: Scholarship winners • Member walks for cancer research

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Congratulations to new retirees!



Ruheng Zhao, Johanna Foods
(pictured with Shop Steward
Ernie Crouse, right)



Ralph Young, Acme



Congratulations also to **Pat Ireland**, center,
of Super Fresh, who is celebrating 30 years
of service. Also pictured: Shop Stewards
Ed Taylor, left, and Tom Smith.



Ralph George, Taylor Pork Roll

Retirees' Club 2015 meetings

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 remaining meeting dates for 2015 are:

Oct. 5 (Meeting)

Dec. 7 (Luncheon)

Meetings are at the United Methodist Church, 3541 Pennsylvania Ave.,
Pennsauken, N.J. **Luncheons** are at the Coastline Restaurant,
1240 Brace Road, Cherry Hill, N.J.

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

Walking for a cure: Member Angela Edwards helps organize cancer walk

On Mother's Day, May 10, thousands of supporters participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure to honor breast cancer patients and raise money for cancer research.

Angela Edwards, a 25-year union veteran who works at ShopRite 643 in Rio Grande, gathered 24 people to join her in the events.

Edwards was inspired to join Race for the Cure when her mother passed away in 2011 after fighting breast cancer. She has participated in the race since 2012.

"Many of us in our store have been affected personally by breast cancer and we walk to remember those who have died because of this terrible disease," Edwards said.

To raise money, Edwards and store management raffled off a 50-inch flat-screen television set and organized a "beef and beer" event at a local restaurant. They were able to raise more than \$8,000 through both events.

"The first time I walked, we filled up a small van of walkers," Edwards recalled.

"This year, we had to rent a 53-passenger bus.

"I hope more people participate next year so we can finally find a cure for cancer."

Strength and support

In addition to Edwards, members of the ShopRite walking team included breast cancer survivors Lisa Westog, Linda Rainey, and two-time survivor Diana DiGuglielmo, as well as Hannah Avery, Patty Davis, Carrie Dickinson, Melissa Hoskins, Robin Hetherington, Melissa Irwin, Chaeiln Janchuk, Donna Keene, Kathleen Kemble, Pat Lazicki, Denise Lentz, Virginia McDonnell, Linda McMasten, Theresa Mitchell,



Joleen Quinn, William Rainey, Kathlyn Reidenbach, Kim Rubio, Cindy Tenaglia and Isabella Tenaglia.

The team thanks the Sumas family, Judy Lord and ShopRite manager Al Schiavo for their support.



Fighting for all workers

In June, new UFCW International President Marc Perrone (left, pictured with UFCW Local 152 President Brian String) visited a meeting of the Local 152 Executive Board to discuss new worker-focused initiatives, hear about the issues facing Local 152 members and plan strategies for the future.

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved:

1st Quarter 2015

99

2015 total

99

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

1st Quarter 2015

\$39,644.77

2015 total

\$39,644.77

Acme looks to the future

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

Acme held its annual vendor meeting earlier this year at its corporate offices in Malvern, Penn., and the message was similar to those of the past two years, after parent firm Albertsons acquired the retailer from Supervalu in March 2013.

This time, however, there was a new cast of executives to supervise the meeting. Dan Croce, who replaced Jim Perkins as president (Perkins was promoted to executive VP of parent firm New Albertsons, Inc., in March), supervised the meeting along with cohorts Kim Gray, VP of merchandising and marketing, and Sherry Caldwell, director of marketing.

Croce said his team is driven by Acme's goal of becoming the "favorite local supermarket" in its trading area, which includes the Delaware Valley, the Jersey Shore and northern Maryland.

In fact, the importance of "local" has become a key component in Acme's resurgence, including an emphasis on local products (e.g., Lancaster brand beef) and the utilization of local buying decisions and the expansion of regional items.

Within that framework, the youthful division president continued Acme's mantra of offering lower prices, cleaner stores, superior service, better sale prices and quality products, and enhancing community and vendor partnerships. And he outlined the 107 store regional chain's biggest priority: "Sales, sales, sales."

The New Jersey native outlined Acme's MyMixx online platform, which now features personalized offers, digital coupons, online weekly ads, individualized shopping lists and electronic receipts.

Croce also pointed out Acme's increased social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.

Gray briefed the vendors on parent company Albertsons' national programs and local partnership opportunities (Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Union and Dover International Speedway).

Caldwell reviewed the importance of Acme's commitment to local trade associations and educational endeavors.

In all, it was another open, accessible and informative meeting, which has become the recent standard at the "new" Acme Markets.

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



Local 152 President Brian String and Scholarship Chairperson Nelson Albano stand with four of this year's five winners. From left: Albano, Danielle Cardona, Arianna Bowles, President String, Lena Haaf and Bryce Kolbe.

2015 scholarship winners

On May 14, Local 152 staff, members, friends and family gathered at the Third Annual Irv R. String Scholarship Fund Banquet and Awards Night to honor the group of 2015 scholarship recipients.

The five honorees each received a \$1,000 cash grant to continue their educations.

This year's recipients were:

Arianna Bowles, who attends Stockton University in New Jersey, where she majors in psychology and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology;

Danielle Cardona, who attends Widener University in Pennsylvania, where she is studying communications with a focus on broadcasting;

Lena Haaf, who will attend Loyola University, where she will major in biology and minor in Spanish;

Bryce Kolbe, who will attend Temple University in Pennsylvania, where he will study actuarial science and plans to pursue a career at ESPN;

Mary Verrycken, who will attend Ramapo College in New Jersey, where she will major in music management and plans to pursue a career in the music industry.



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Teaching future generations the truth about unions

As union members, we are part of a storied American tradition of working people leading the charge for democracy, economic fairness and social justice.

The five-day work week, overtime pay, safety and health standards, lunch breaks, health benefits, pensions — all these and much more sprang from the struggles of past generations of union activists.

This is a proud legacy worth passing on to future generations.

It's important to teach young workers about the Labor Movement in the classroom, at the workplace or at the family dinner table. This is especially true today, when much of what we have achieved is under attack.

Some extremely wealthy and influential people are behind a well-funded campaign to undermine and destroy the Labor Movement. They hide their motives behind audience-tested catch phrases like “right to work” and “freedom from excessive regulation,” but they're really aiming for a frightened and compliant work force that will do what their bosses say and accept whatever is given to them without complaint.

Too many workers who aren't educated about the Labor Movement buy into the lies that this campaign

We need to get ahead of the game, to teach young people the real story of America's unions.

spreads. As long as people misunderstand and mistrust unions, the great American middle class — which is the product of the post-World War II generation of trade unionists — will continue its decline.

What's our role?

This is why we need to get ahead of the game, to teach young people the real story of America's unions so they can recognize the anti-union propaganda as the garbage it really is.

Young or old, you can do your part. If you're a young worker, ask the veterans at your workplace about what they have learned about union activism. If you're an experienced member, pass along some of your proudest moments from your decades of service. You



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Anthony Benigno

might be surprised at how interested your younger co-workers are to hear your stories.

On the political level, support legislation that mandates labor history classes in school. These bills have been introduced across the country, and if the idea hasn't yet shown up in your area, ask your elected officials why.

A new generation of students should have the opportunity to learn about the Labor Movement's role in shaping our world for the better.



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**.

Black Bear Distribution



E.G. Emil and Son



Contract success all around

(Continued from front page)

Contract improvements include wage increases, additional sick days and paid time off, maintenance and improvement of health benefits, and higher pension contributions.

Black Bear Distribution

Members at Black Bear Distribution ratified a four-year agreement that adds a new overtime rate and a new job classification with a premium per hour and a wage increase over the course of the contract. Members also gained an extra day with paid time off. The contract covers 95 members.

Borough of Highlands

Members in the Borough of Highlands ratified a four-year agreement that increases wages over the life of the contract. It includes a retroactive wage increase. Language was added that allows Local 152 and the employer to negotiate additional wage increases and medical contributions like the “Cadillac tax” in the last year of the contract. The contract covers five members.

City of Long Branch

Members at the City of Long Branch ratified a two-year contract that increases wages over the life of the agreement. Members’ health benefits were transferred from the City of Long Branch to the State of New Jersey, which is an improvement. The contract covers 33 members.

Dietz & Watson

Members at Dietz & Watson ratified a four-year contract that increases wages over the life of the agreement. It includes a retroactive increase. A new classification was added with a premium. Local 152 maintained health care contributions for employees with single coverage, but an increase applies to employees with dependents. An additional paid day off is earned for members at a certain level of experience.



E.G. Emils and Son, Inc.

Members at E.G. Emils and Son, Inc. ratified a five-year agreement that guarantees employer health care contributions of 7 percent each year, with no employee contributions. Members also won an extra paid sick day and a raise over the course of the contract. The contract covers 23 members.

Environmental Service Concepts, LLC.

Members at Environmental Service Concepts, LLC., ratified a three-year agreement that maintains health care coverage and increases employer contributions by 18 percent, without employee contributions. The members won two extra paid sick days and a wage increase, plus a signing bonus. The contract covers 15 members.

Hanover Foods Corporation (Ridgely Plant)

Members at Hanover Foods' Ridgely Plant ratified a three-year agreement that guarantees a wage increase over the course of the contract. Local 152 succeeded in reducing employees' contributions to their health care from 10 percent to 5 percent and reducing the company's removal policy from six months to three. Independence Day is now a paid holiday for the 75 members covered by the contract.

Holiday Markets

Members at Holiday Markets ratified a five-year contract that guarantees a wage increase over the life of the agreement. Local 152 restored paid time off to three weeks and increased employer health care contributions to 80 percent. The employer also agreed to higher pension contributions. The contract covers 89 members.

Incollingo's Meat

Members at Incollingo's Meat ratified a three-year agreement that protects the members' quality health care plan. Local 152 also secured a wage increase and raised employer contributions to the pension plan. The contract covers 75 members.

Incollingo's Egg Harbor

Members at Incollingo's Egg Harbor ratified a four-year contract that increases wages over the life of the agreement. The employer agreed to increase health care contributions by 6.5 percent each year. The contract covers 32 members.

Liberty Bell Steak Company

Members at Liberty Bell Steak Company ratified a five-year contract that guarantees a wage increase over the life of the agreement. The members also won a ratification bonus. Vacation is capped at four weeks for current

employees and three weeks for new employees. The contract covers 20 members.

Taylor Provisions

Members at Taylor Provisions ratified a three-year contract that increases wages over the life of the agreement. The members also won a ratification bonus and increased shift differentials for second and third shifts. The contract covers 38 members.

Kunzler & Company, Inc.

Members at Kunzler & Company, Inc. ratified a three-year agreement that increases wages over the course of the contract. The members also received a retroactive wage increase to March and a signing bonus. The "wash out" period for write-ups was reduced from four years to two and language pertaining to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was improved to clarify requirements for approved leaves.

Also, changes were made to the company health care plan. Members with single coverage received a reduction in their health care contributions. Members with dependents will receive a higher employer contribution rate the first year and up to 25 percent over the course of the contract. The agreement covers 153 members.

Health care industry update

Southern home care workers fighting for \$15 minimum wage

Fast-food workers around the country have popularized the “Fight for \$15” campaign, but they aren’t the only ones fighting for a livable wage.

Home care workers in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and other states are calling attention to the low wages they receive. Many of them do not have health insurance or retirement benefits.

Determined to improve their circumstances, home care workers are joining forces with fast-food workers at rallies attended by thousands of supporters.

But because many of these workers can’t afford to take time off from work to join a rally, some are showing their support through Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

In Florida, the state with the highest percentage of elderly residents, home care workers who work with hospice patients don’t walk off the job because such an action could literally end someone’s life.

Fast-food workers earned a victory in April of this year, when McDonald’s made the announcement that some locations would raise wages. In the meantime, home care workers still await their first victory.

NLRB streamlines union representation elections for health care workers

In May, the National Labor Relations Board streamlined procedures for union representation elections, making it easier for labor unions to organize health care workers around the country.

The health care industry has been a focus of labor unions for many years. It is one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.

Union leaders hope their current 77-percent organizing success rate for health care workers will grow with the new NLRB ruling.

Manufacturing industry update

Trends in food processing

The food processing plant of the 21st century is more energy efficient, produces healthier and natural foods and costs less to operate than its 20th century counterpart.

Innovations in technology, coupled with consumer’s tastes shifting to natural foods, have revolutionized the food processing industry.

A decade ago, production of healthier foods seemed costly because it required investments in new machines and re-training work forces. Today, the change is easier because of growing consumer demand and new technologies making it cheaper to use a new machine rather than an aging one.

The biggest trend of the past few years has been the popularity of gluten-free products. Manufacturing these foods requires expensive new plants dedicated exclusively to gluten-free products. Nevertheless, improvements in energy efficiency and manufacturing strategies have made it possible for some major brands to make the switch and remain profitable.

Cloud technologies improving productivity in food processing plants

The same technologies that make it possible to synchronize your email and document-sharing across smartphones,

tablets and computers is coming to food processing plants — and the impact is immediate.

Food processing plants use cloud technologies to boost their supply-tracking capabilities and improve shop safety and product quality. Many companies use tablets and cameras to monitor efficiency and identify errors in real time.

These technologies also have made it easier to train new workers in an efficient manner and improve their productivity.

FDA finalizes ban on trans fats

The Food and Drug Administration announced in June it will ban the practice of adding partially hydrogenated oils, commonly known as trans fats, to processed foods sold in grocery stores.

There is no timetable for enforcement, but the FDA expects the ruling to be carried out within the next few years.

Trans fats are commonly found in foods like store-bought baked goods, frozen entrees, crackers and microwavable popcorn. The fats are linked to serious health conditions like obesity, heart attacks, strokes and type 2 diabetes.

In 2006, the FDA required food manufacturers to disclose trans fats on their food packaging. The next step for the FDA is to ban trans fats in the restaurant industry, but that will be more difficult because restaurants are not required to disclose whether they use partially hydrogenated oils.



National Guard praises generosity

The New Jersey Army National Guard presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Super Fresh of Manahawkin for its "outstanding generosity in support of our memorial ceremony for Sgt. Nicole Wilson." The certificate noted that "the tremendous amount of deli meats, cheeses, bread and other food items were key to making the reception afterward very warm and welcoming to our family and friends."

Members at Work

Acme • Fresh Grocer
Ginsburg Bakery • ShopRite



10th Annual Local 152 Charity Golf Tournament

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015

Avalon Golf Club
1510 Route 9 North
Swainton, New Jersey 08210
www.avalongolfclub.net



Registration at 7:30 a.m.
Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the Leukemia Society of America, the Bryan D. Ross Foundation and other charities.

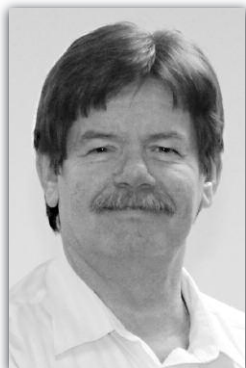
Golfer's fees are \$100 per golfer or a foursome discounted rate of \$385, which includes green fees, cart rental, luncheon buffet, gifts and prizes.

If you are interested in golfing, please visit www.ufclocal152.org, see your Shop Steward or contact Crystal Yankasky at (888) 564-6152, ext. 3909, to obtain a participation form. All participation forms must be submitted with payment no later than July 27, 2015.

Note: We are limiting the number of foursomes (for faster play) and suggest you forward your registration immediately. Registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

D irector's Report

UFCW Retail Conference focuses on organizing and bargaining



By Larry Lucente

□ In this column, Local 152 Director Larry Lucente shares his thoughts on the 2015 UFCW International Retail Conference.

President Brian String and I were among hundreds of UFCW leaders and staff from around the United States and Canada who gathered in Chicago recently for the International Union's first Retail Conference in 15 years.

Marc Perrone announced the conference almost immediately after he was elected as the new president of the UFCW International Union. The event signals his administration's interest in strengthening our union's effectiveness in the retail sector.

In Chicago, we focused on organizing and bargaining. Participants met in breakout groups organized by company and by region to create company-wide and region-wide strategies.

We also attended workshops on contract language, "right to work" laws, providing services for union members in their stores, communications, health funds and pension funds.

The UFCW is a big family with 1.3 million members, making us the largest private-sector union in North America. This conference provided an outstanding opportunity to meet with our union sisters and brothers and share ideas for growth and building a better future for our members.

Bringing everyone together so we can rebuild our strength in retail is a great idea. Reestablishing the UFCW International's Retail Conference was long overdue and well worth the effort.

I have already reported on my experiences and what I have learned to my colleagues in the leadership of UFCW Local 152. In the future, we will build on the relationships and friendships we have established with other UFCW leaders in North America.

The beneficiaries will be our members as we strengthen our union's numbers and the contracts we negotiate with employers in all of the industries we serve.



'Bringing everyone together so we can rebuild our strength in retail is a great idea.'

Retirements

Janet S. Bott	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Carol A. Burgoon	Carson Packing Company	03/01/15
Carol Ann Cannon	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Catherine Chadwick	Super Fresh	05/01/15
Sherry L. Cheeseman	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Rita H. Dougherty	Pathmark Stores	01/01/15
Mary Lou Eckert	Incollingo's IGA	01/01/15
Herman A. Garner	Acme Markets	04/01/15
Sylvia Griffin	Acme Markets	01/01/15
Patricia J. Haskins	Delaware Supermarkets	01/01/15
Patricia Henry	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Charlzina Hudgins	Acme Markets	01/01/15
Mary L. Hunter	Acme Markets	01/01/15
Mary Iovanisci	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Donna Koelle	Acme Markets	03/01/15
Herman G. Menth	Village Supermarkets	01/01/15
Maryann Miller	Acme Markets	01/01/15
Janet L. Mullen	Super Fresh	01/01/15
Patricia A. Peirce	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Katherine T. Rihlmann	Super Fresh	04/01/15
Virginia Sharp	Medford, Inc.	04/01/15

(Continued from previous page)

John T. Traum	Acme Markets	02/01/15
Susan J. Wallace	Acme Markets	04/01/15
Joseph C. Watkins	Medford, Inc.	12/01/14
Deborah M. Werner	Super Fresh	02/01/15
David E. Winch	Laneco, Inc. Food Lane Stores	01/01/15

Obituaries

Madeline M. Adair	01/11/15
James Ajhar	03/10/15
Christine Albertini	01/13/15
Charles T. Andalor	01/22/15
John Auzer	01/30/15
Marie A. Baumer	03/06/15
Martha Maria Belson	04/07/15
Linda Borgia	04/08/15
Annie Brant	02/26/15
Katherine E. Brown	03/13/15
Richard Brown	03/10/15
Jules Budinetz	01/27/15
Edward T. Burgoon	02/23/15
Danny L. Burkhardt	04/11/15
Florence J. Buzas	12/19/14
Marie Campagna	01/10/15
Anne M. Campbell	02/03/15
Charles Carmen	01/21/15
Genevieve Carnivale	01/29/15
Thomas J. Casey	12/22/14
Johnnie W. Champion	04/11/15
Henry Coffee	04/15/15
Jacqueline G. Coghlan	03/06/15
Avio S. Croce	02/25/15
Chhotabhai Dalwadi	01/02/15
Charles J. Digiugno	02/04/15
Joan A. Dinunno	01/24/15
Kenneth Dorsett	03/21/15
Mary P. Drozda	01/31/15
Bernice Eckstein	12/08/14
Peggy Endy	03/31/15
Ann L. Farrellcomiskey	03/12/15
Arleen Favinger	04/15/15
Anthony Ferrara	12/13/14
Salvatore B. Ferrario	12/08/14
Richard P. Forcey	02/01/15
Martha Franzreb	02/18/15
Linda F. Gausline	12/26/14
Edward J. Geiger	02/15/15
Joan E. Giberson	02/01/15
Joseph D. Gironde, Jr.	03/07/15
Jeanne F. Greco	12/12/14
Kathleen Greene	04/23/15
Norma L. Haines	03/20/15
Tyrone Hamilton	03/08/15

Franklin Hanna	01/10/15
John Hanna	03/17/15
James F. Harley	04/05/15
Dennis Harnish	02/01/15
Helen Howe	03/22/15
Florence Huebner	04/23/15
Barbara Jacobs	01/12/15
Stella P. Jobe	01/14/15
Anna L. Kiceluk	12/22/14
William Kriger	03/03/15
William Kurzenberger	12/18/14
Rachel D. Lamarca	02/12/15
Richard J. Leary	04/17/15
Catherine C. Lippincott	03/27/15
Mary C. Marino	01/16/15
Henry Markis	12/25/14
Daniel McQuaid	03/26/15
Richard C. Menzak	12/25/14
Frederick Messerschmitt	01/05/15
Gary F. Miller	12/16/14
Mary N. Mitzen	03/24/15
Ann T. Moore	02/20/15
Mary A. Mosca	03/15/15
Donald H. Moyer	02/24/15
Willie C. Murphy	12/31/14
Ethel Naprawa	02/16/15
Irene E. Nowosielski	01/19/15
Hazel Palese	03/30/15
Wallace Pancoast	12/28/14
Rose Picerno	02/04/15
Mary Pintye	01/28/15
Floyd Presnell	12/22/14
Gordon C. Quigley	12/04/14
Margaret Roccia	03/04/15
Rosario T. Romano	04/08/15
Marvin Rosenberg	12/28/14
Mary Schiappa	02/01/15
Carol Dawn Schnetzler	02/20/15
Stephen J. Schulingkamp	02/28/15
Rita Sciole	03/23/15
Dennis Shank	02/01/15
Earl Sharp	03/21/15
Marie Stadler	03/15/15
Frank Stein	02/01/15
Sammie Thompson	01/12/15
William A. Trimarco	02/01/15
Barbara H. Tudor	01/08/15
Elsie Tyler	12/06/14
Jennie Vanafra	12/22/14
Linda D. Vrotney	01/25/14
Naomi C. Willingmyre	03/04/15
Helen Wilson	03/04/15
Edward Witherspoon	03/01/15
Edward Yankuskie	04/16/15
Charles D. Zirilli	01/02/15

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Rolling back the 'right to work' tide

The phrase "right to work," used to describe laws designed to weaken unions, is frequently heard these days in governor's mansions and state legislatures across the land.

Its supporters try to market the idea as a matter of "choice," but it isn't about choice and it isn't about rights. It's a power play by corporations to keep their workers weak, divided and compliant.

In a nutshell, "right to work" allows workers to enjoy the benefits of a unionized workplace, including better wages and benefits achieved through collective bargaining, without contributing even a modest fee to help the union pay its costs.

Without adequate revenue, a union is hampered in its efforts to build its strength through organizing or provide other services such as workplace representation and grievances.

Perhaps the worst effect of "right to work" laws is a divided workplace where some workers stand together for their rights while others behave as freeloaders. Under such circumstances, worker solidarity is undermined and contracts inevitably suffer.

It's no accident that wages and benefits in the 25 so-called "right to work" states are inferior to others that don't have such laws.

Fortunately, we don't have "right to work" in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware or Maryland. But corporate-funded politicians and other hired advocates of the far-right agenda are trying relentlessly to impose this legislation onto

more workers in more states.

Wisconsin, a historically pro-Labor state, recently adopted "right to work" when Gov. Scott Walker, now a Republican candidate for the United States presidency, signed it into law with the complicity of the state's anti-worker legislature.

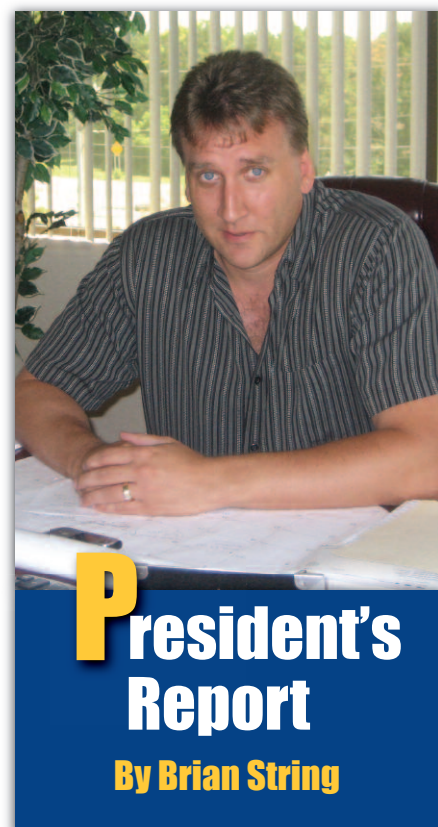
Even Michigan succumbed to "right to work" after Republicans rammed the law through both houses of the state legislature in a single day, without committee votes or public hearings, and it was signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The battle continues, and the news from the front isn't always grim. We are heartened by the fact that "right to work" legislation has been blocked, for now, in West Virginia, New Mexico and Missouri, thanks in part to the thousands of UFCW members who spoke loudly against it.

One of those UFCW members — Lori Giannini — shared with a Senate committee in Missouri her fear that proliferation of "right to work" laws would prevent her children and grandchildren from earning a middle-class wage.

Inspiring, personal stories like Lori's give me hope that we will continue to push back against "right to work" and educate the public about the true motivations behind the law.

We are also inspired by the many states and localities acting to improve standards for workers by raising the minimum wage and protecting workers from erratic



scheduling practices that make it hard to balance work and care for a family.

Together, people of good will can roll back the tide of "right to work" laws and other efforts to silence the voices of working people.

Brian String