



Dispensary members in Hammonton ratify first contract

Nearly 20 budtenders and delivery drivers at Hello High Dispensary ratified their first union contract with Local 152 earlier this year.

This two-year agreement, which will set the groundwork for future negotiations, established many fundamental worker protections, including:

- members are no longer “at-will” employees, meaning the employer must have a legitimate reason to terminate;
- a three-step grievance process, which is a formal procedure for employees to raise concerns or complaints about their employer or working conditions;
- clear job posting for new and open positions;

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New Jersey health care workers choose Local 152 as their voice on the job

Health care workers at Aspen Hills Healthcare Center and Buttonwood Behavioral Health Hospital in Pemberton, New Jersey, have chosen Local 152 to be their voice on the job.

The unit of nearly 200 members consists of licensed practical nurses (LPNs), certified nursing assistants (CNAs), psychiatric aides, activity aides, recreation, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, unit clerks, receptionists and dining service workers at the rehabilitation center and psychiatric hospital.

Workers first expressed interest in organizing at the facilities with Local 152 in March. The organizing department

“Workers deserve fairness, respect, dignity and better benefits.”

— **Jean**, Aspen Hills Healthcare

visited the employees, listened to their concerns and helped guide these essential workers through the process of organizing their union.

“I wanted to become a union member because I want a voice in my workplace, annual raises, and a contract,” said Desiree, an activities aide at Aspen Hills Healthcare.

“Workers deserve fairness, respect,

Please see page 11

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a VOICE for working America

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UFCW Local 152 updates!



UFCW Local 152 Unity
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United Food and Commercial
Workers Local 152

EDITOR

Daniel Ross, Jr.

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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BCI 100% Union



Improvements across the board for members at Liberty Bell Steak Co.

A new five-year contract for members at Liberty Bell Steak Co. in Philadelphia brings many positive changes.


All members received an immediate wage increase in addition to yearly wage increases when the contract was ratified in February. Furthermore, employees who operate specific equipment will receive further compensation to reflect their skill set.

Members' affordable health care costs for both single and family coverage was

maintained and members who opt out of the offered health insurance will receive increased bonus payments.

The maximum contribution to the Local 152 Savings Fund was increased and funeral leave was extended to include more family members.

The negotiating committee included Executive Vice President Lisa Sanders, Union Representative Ernest Dunmore, Shop Steward Vincent Freeman, and members Fredrick Drayton and Zuleica Rosado.



IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances resolved
2025 Year to date: **89**

Back pay and benefits restored to members
2025 Year to date:
\$136,767.83

Borough of Bradley Beach members ratify new contract

Local 152 members at Borough of Bradley Beach have overwhelmingly ratified a new union contract.

The ratification took place on March 3. The long-overdue contract comes after the former administration purposely stalled negotiations in an attempt to gut benefits previously enjoyed by our members. This prompted a public awareness campaign that started with city council meetings attended by rank-and-file members, Local 152 President Daniel Ross, Jr., and other union staff.

Fortunately, once Mayor Al Gubitosi was elected and took office in January 2025, negotiations swiftly moved forward.

The new contract increases the salary step program and senior members at the top of the wage progression will receive increases based on their length of service. Members will receive up to two years of back-paid wage increases, changes were made to overtime work, new positions were added to the unit and members will now receive another paid holiday.

Local 152 proudly represents 25 workers at the Borough of Bradley Beach who keep the borough running by dispatching public safety personnel to respond to emergencies, cleaning trash, repairing critical infrastructure and caring for our community's day-to-day needs.



Improved new contract for City of Long Branch members

On April 14, more than 30 workers at the City of Long Branch in Monmouth County, N.J., ratified a new union contract.

The three-year contract includes several improvements.

First, all members will receive annual wage increases for the contract's duration, including a retroactive increase from January 2025. The on-call pay for all snow, storm, and tree-related after-hours emergencies was doubled. Additionally, the committee negotiated a brand new yearly boot allowance and Juneteenth was added as a paid holiday.

The negotiating committee included Collective Bargaining Representative Chad Brooks, Director of Organizing Mike Thompson, Shop Stewards Shannon Bruno and George Hussey, and committee person Vinny Todaro.

General Membership Meetings 2025

Sept. 9 & Dec. 9
10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Southern New Jersey

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

Pennsylvania Area

Radisson Hotel Philadelphia NE
2400 Old Lincoln Highway
Trevose, PA 19053

Shore Area

VFW #2189
500 Bethel Rd.
Somers Point, N.J. 08244

Delaware Area

Embassy Suites
654 S. College Ave.
Newark, DE 19713

Tariffs lead to retail uncertainty

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

In an informal poll of 14 retailers in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, none seemed very optimistic about the near-term future of their businesses, and some said they are already feeling the squeeze both from price increases and concerned consumer reaction.

When the universal tariffs began, their impact was felt almost immediately — and not in a good way for the U.S. After nearly two years of dealing with flat sales once inflation mitigated, things will only become more challenging for retailers who are caught in the middle between tariff-driven price hikes and economically challenged consumers — many of whom simply can't afford to spend more for groceries.

How much will it ultimately cost to buy a bunch of bananas? A bouquet of flowers? Three avocados? A pound of coffee?

For traditional supermarkets, the tariffs will drive more consumers to shop at discount retailers. But even those value merchants are going to face most of the same issues that other food merchants encounter.

We all know that the average food bill increased about 30 percent since COVID first began in early 2020. What's that number going to be next week or over the summer?

"We took a hit after inflation levels normalized in 2023 and 2024; how much worse will it get if consumers are forced to deal with significantly higher prices? This isn't a political issue, it's simple economics. People can't spend what they don't have," said one Mid-Atlantic regional chain senior VP.

There are other policy-related economic issues that will almost certainly impact food retailers. Of particular note is a current bill that seeks to reduce SNAP benefits by as much as \$230 billion over the next decade, with much of the responsibility of offering food-assistance programs shifted to individual states. The potential of that much of a financial hit would be a death notice to certain retailers.

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

REGIONAL DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

By **Fallon Ager**
UFCW Region 1 Director,
International Vice President



Defend workers' rights

President Trump recently issued an executive order aimed at ending collective bargaining for a number of federal unions — a move that directly undermines the rights of hundreds of thousands of federal workers who have dedicated their careers to serving the American people.

As members of Local 152 know, collective bargaining is a fundamental right that ensures workers have safe workplaces, a voice on the job, and the ability to provide for their families. This executive order does more than harm federal employees — it sets a dangerous precedent for all workers — and that's why it's critical that we stand in solidarity to protect workers' rights.

I encourage all of you to continue the important work of educating friends, neighbors and community members about the benefits of having a union contract — including better wages, affordable health care, paid sick leave and vacation time, fair scheduling, overtime protection and retirement security.

Community allies have always played a key role in the UFCW's ability to organize and win better contracts. To that end, I urge you to let us know about the organizations you work with and if you believe they could be potential allies for our union as we continue to stand up for the right to organize and negotiate the strong union contracts our members have earned and deserve.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make Local 152 and our entire union better and stronger. By standing together, we can protect organizing and collective bargaining rights and build a better future for all workers.

Keep your union up to date!



To continue to receive important news and updates from Local 152, visit ufcwlocal152.org and complete the "Change of Address" form if you move.

From the Local 152 website, you can also update your address with the Health and Welfare Office and renew your voter registration.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to update your information right now:



Unions allow workers to retire with dignity

In the last issue of *Unity*, I wrote about ways we can look out for each other during tough economic times. In this issue, I'll highlight how your union looks out for you even after you have stopped working.

Whether your last day on the job is days or decades away, the life you will live in retirement is something you will need to plan for at some point. Thanks to your union, you have a retirement ahead of you!

Through your membership in Local 152, your employer pays into your pension fund for every hour you work, giving you access to monthly pension payments during retirement.

This valuable union-negotiated benefit respects the hard work you performed during your career and enables you to retire with dignity, beginning a new chapter of your life. Along with your retiree health benefits, it provides much needed peace of mind for you and your family.

Unfortunately, this dignified retirement is not afforded to all workers in this country, leaving many in a place of financial uncertainty at a time when their bodies are no longer equipped for a full-time job.

Retirement security is an important issue for both veteran members and those new to our union. During negotiations, it's just as important as any pay raise because it speaks to simple respect between fellow human beings. When this dignity is taken away, it leaves an empty space where anger and resentment can creep in.

Dignity is something everyone deserves to have in retirement, just as they did during their working life. It means you are respected and valued. It means your contributions are recognized.

'Retirement security is an important issue for both veteran members and those new to our union'

When the funding of pensions and retiree health benefits come under fire from employers, we need to stand together as a union to show that a dignified retirement is something that is non-negotiable.

To ensure that our workers in the stores today can someday reap the same benefits that we fought to ensure for our current retirees, it is important that we all volunteer some of our free time to participate in union events that help maintain our market share. Contact your union rep to know what the next union activity is and get involved.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Dan Konczyk

Strengthen your union!



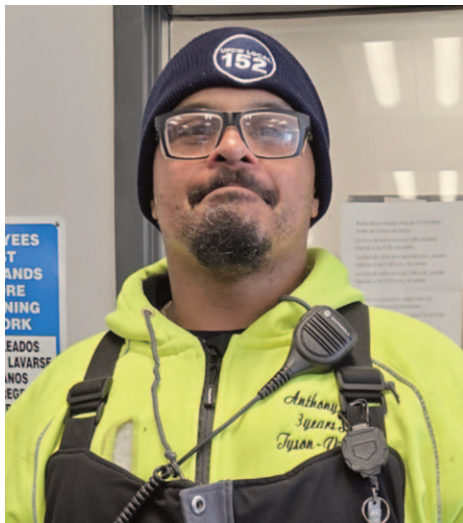
Would you like to earn some extra cash? Provide an organizing lead to Local 152 that results in a union election. Some involvement will be required.

By getting involved, you are helping to make your union stronger and you have an opportunity to earn \$1,000!

For additional information, contact Local 152 Director of Organizing Mike Thompson at (888) 564-6152 or via email at organizing@ufcwlocal152.org.



LOCAL 152
MEMBERS AT WORK



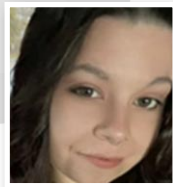


2025

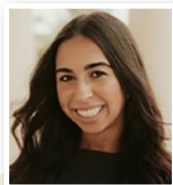
Irv R. String Local 152
Scholarship Fund
recipients



Ashlyn Baker will be attending the University of Delaware. She plans to study astronomy and obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Astrobiology. Ashlyn also plans to work for NASA in the Astrobiology Department and advance in the field.



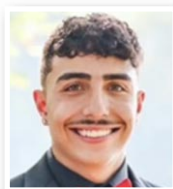
Lexi Bower will be attending Atlantic Cape Community College. She is planning a career in nursing, and then possibly getting her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and becoming a Nurse Practitioner.



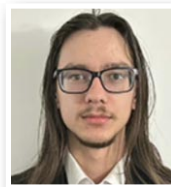
Sarah Brunt is currently attending A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health, where she is pursuing a Doctor of Dental Medicine.



Brianna Comiskey will be attending Kean University and is majoring in Business Administration. She plans to run her own business in the future.



Christian DeLeon will be attending Rowan University and major in Biological Sciences. He also plans to attend medical school to become a Doctor of Medicine.



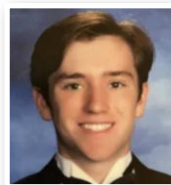
Jeremiah Feathers is currently attending the University of Delaware for Electrical Engineering and plans to minor in Computer Engineering and Math.



Brinsley Granatella plans on attending Pierce College to obtain a degree in Human Services. Brinsley wants to pursue a career raising the voices of marginalized people and work for nonprofit organizations.



Aydan Howell plans on attending Widener University, where he plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Business.



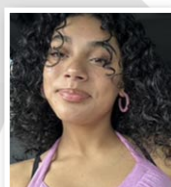
Lucas Knappenberger is currently attending Carnegie Mellon University, studying Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering to pursue a career as a Biomedical Engineer.



Madison Lemon will be attending Stockton University, where she will do a double major in Social Work and Dance with a concentration on physical therapy or performance.



Lily Robert plans on attending Rutgers – New Brunswick, where she intends to major in Art History and minor in the Fine Arts and Business Management. She plans on becoming an art curator.



Angie Ruiz-Tavares plans on attending Rowan University, where she will major in Marketing and minor in International Affairs. She plans to pursue a career in marketing and eventually have her own marketing firm.



Dispensary members in Hammonton ratify first contract

Continued from front page

- seniority provisions to recognize senior workers with more time and experience;
- successorship language in the event of a sale/merger to protect the workers.

Hello High workers also now have affordable health benefits through the UFCW Local 152 Health & Welfare Fund, mileage for drivers, more holidays, an employee discount and yearly wage increases, all in a legal document.

The negotiating committee consisted of Collective Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Bryan String, Special Project Union Representative (SPUR) Tony Melendez-Mott, and workers Angel Santiago and Brendan Reilly.

These members, who work at the cannabis dispensary in Hammonton, N.J., first reached out to the union for representation in late 2023. Thanks to New Jersey's Labor Peace Agreement (LPA) requirements, cannabis workers have a unique opportunity to organize without employer interference.

Excluding micro-license holders, New Jersey mandates all cannabis employers sign an LPA, ensuring they remain neutral while workers decide their future. This protection gives cannabis workers a chance to come together and advocate for fair wages, improved working conditions, and a voice on the job — without the fear and intimidation often seen in other industries.



In other cannabis division news, the union hosted an informational seminar for shop stewards in March.

Contract success!

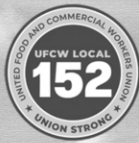
Autumn Lake Healthcare at Oceanview



The UFCW Mobile Health Unit is BACK!

And it's coming to a location near YOU!

ufcwlocal152.org



MEMBER DAY

2025

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

MOREY'S PIERS AND WATER PARKS

Details at ufcwlocal152.org/memberday



Enhanced health benefits for Local 152 members

The Fertility and Family Building benefit is available now

Members who participate in the Local 152 Health and Welfare Fund, Tri-State Health & Welfare Fund as well as the UFCW Health & Welfare Fund have access to a fertility and family building solution leveraging the latest technologies. This comprehensive coverage covers all the individual services, tests, and treatments you may need. Members can connect with top fertility specialists across the U.S., and lean on their dedicated Patient Care Advocate for unlimited support.



Call Progyny at
(833) 233-0953
or scan the
QR code to
get started!

Exclusive discounts for Local 152 members!

UFCW Lifemart

- Auto
- Child care
- Electronics

TicketsAtWork

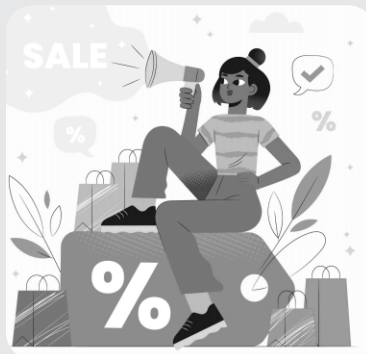
- Hotels
- Movies
- Theme Parks

Union Plus

- Personal loans
- Supplemental Insurance
- Theme Parks

Jersey Shore

- Morey's Pier
- Fantasy Island



Entertainment

- Big Kahuna's
- Clementon Park & Splash World
- Philadelphia Zoo

...and more!

Visit ufcwlocal152.org for details



UFCW Discount College Program

Affordable college options for UFCW Local 152 members and family!



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Happy retirement!

Debra Almeda	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Thomas Amenhauser	05/01/25	Super Fresh
John D'Anzieri	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Marcia Batchelor	04/01/25	Zallie's Supermarkets
Richard L. Bernier	02/01/25	Cherry Hill Supermarkets
Diane M. Bertucci	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Madelyn J. Biglin	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Linda S. Brinsfield	04/01/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Tammy S. Chapman	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Janet Clark	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Theresa M. Cuffari	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Mary A. Curcio	03/01/25	Super Fresh
Barry Faust	04/01/25	Donzies Iga
Grace Feliciano	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Thomas M. Frick	03/01/25	Acme Markets
William S. Gresko	04/01/25	ShopRite Manahawkin
Dorothy L. Hall	03/01/25	Stop & Shop
David Hartman	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Joslyn A. Hill	02/01/25	Brown's Superstores
Francis Hines	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Lori Hufsey	05/01/25	Acme Markets
John Ingersoll	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Paige Ireland	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Janice M. Keenan	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Anna M. Kice	03/01/25	Zallie's Supermarkets
Ernest W. Kretzinger	02/01/25	Dietz & Watson
Sandra Leboeuf	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Charles B. Lex, Jr.	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Annette Y. Litman	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Lisa M. Mackenzie	03/01/25	Super Fresh
Paul S. Malvestuto	03/01/25	George L. Wells Meat Co.
P. Susan Muriella	03/01/25	Cherry Hill Supermarkets
Matthew Ordille	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Burnu A. Parker	03/01/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
David Pedicone	02/01/25	General Supermarkets
Michael A. Protasi	03/01/25	Zallie's Supermarkets
Brenda J. Quinn	03/01/25	Super Fresh
Kevin M. Regan	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Marvin J. Reichard, Jr.	04/01/25	Laneco Inc. Food Lane
Lynda E. Ricigliani	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Marie Ricketts-Smith	04/01/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 196
Ann S. Righter	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Carolyn J. Saul	02/01/25	Bottino's Supermarkets
Carol Lee Schick	03/01/25	General Supermarkets



Mark W. Singer	04/01/25	Suburbia Village
Wayne M. Snyder	03/01/25	Brown's Superstores
Lorraine Suleiman	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Amelito P. Sunga	03/01/25	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.
Mark A. Tarzwell	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Helen Thomas	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Marianne Tommassello	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Colette Turner	04/01/25	GMS Zallie Holdings, Inc.
Walter E. Vizthum	04/01/25	Acme Markets
Francis M. Wagner	04/01/25	Village ShopRite
William J. Walker IV	02/01/25	Berks Packing Co.
Robert W. Weiss	04/01/25	Village ShopRite
Robert E. Williams	03/01/25	Acme Markets
Gary P. Williams	04/01/25	Shop-N-Bag
John E. Young	02/01/25	Acme Markets
Bill Zatkos	04/01/25	Acme Markets

In memoriam

Rita Abba	03/03/25	Super Fresh
Edward P. Bailey	03/31/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Darlene Bauer	04/26/25	Acme Markets
Bernadine N. Braun	02/15/25	Laneco Inc. Food Lane Stores
Wilbert C. Brown	02/07/25	Foodtown Lumberton
Phyllis E. Cardoso	03/09/25	Super Fresh
Edward Casella	03/06/25	Super Fresh
Jane Chen	02/16/25	Davidson Supermarket
Ming M. Chou	03/15/25	Eickhoff Supermarkets
Louis T. D'Alessandro	02/20/25	Upper Darby Shop-N-Bag
Florine Danzieri	03/10/25	Acme Markets

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Happy retirement!

Michael Grey
Kraft-Heinz

Lois Rivera
(center)
ShopRite



New Jersey health care workers choose Local 152 as their voice on the job

Continued from front page

dignity, and better benefits,” said Jean, a cook at Aspen Hills Healthcare.

Employees quickly signed the petition declaring their interest in union representation and Local 152 President Daniel Ross, Jr., alerted the company to the petition and demanded recognition of the union in the two facilities.

After the petition was confidentially reviewed and confirmed by an independent third-party mediator, Aspen Hills Healthcare and Buttonwood Behavioral Health Hospital agreed to voluntarily recognize the union. While most employers choose to force workers to undergo a lengthy election process, these employers chose a path that puts their workers first.

Local 152 will meet with the workers of Aspen Hills and Buttonwood in the coming weeks to establish a negotiations committee, formulate contract proposal surveys and make other preparations for negotiations.

Continued from page 10

Charles W. Davidson	02/24/25	Pickwell-SHS Enterprises	Donald A. Morrison	02/08/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Deborah Devaney	02/13/25	Super Fresh	Florence A. O'Donnell	02/02/25	Great Scot - Spruce
Joseph A. Felicetti	02/12/25	Super Fresh	Oma G. Osborne	03/20/25	Acme Markets
John C. Fink, Jr.	02/13/25	Kunzler Packing Co.	Lorraine Petitt	03/28/25	Super Fresh
Mildred E. Fisher	03/30/25	North Cape May Shop n Bag	Arlene M. Robertson	02/01/25	Super Fresh
Harold J. Fisher	02/15/25	B S Pincus Co. (Yankee Maid)	Boonsuan Romano	03/20/25	Acme Markets
Maria Forti	04/05/25	Acme Markets	Joseph Rowe	03/21/25	Super Fresh
Nicholas A. Fugolino	03/19/25	Delaware Supermarkets	Ida K. Rueckemann	03/08/25	Acme Markets
Michael J. Gambogi	03/03/25	Zallie's Supermarkets	Frances Schreiner	01/16/25	Super Fresh
Elizabeth Goldman	03/04/25	Super Fresh	Lawrence Singleton	03/06/25	Colonial Beef Co.
Jane M. Hahn	03/05/25	Acme Markets	Janet Thompson	03/08/25	Pabers Shop n Bag
Joseph Hawn	05/03/25	Food Fair	Mark D. Todd	03/04/25	Acme Markets
Patricia Henry	03/17/25	Acme Markets	Jeanette M. Torpey	03/11/25	Acme Markets
Paul Kalish	02/01/25	J Katz & Son Inc.	Patricia A. Tynes	03/07/25	Acme Markets
Emma L. Knight	03/25/25	Brown's Superstores	Karen E. Vance	03/18/25	Acme Markets
Max R. Kokorsky	02/13/25	Acme Markets	Gaetano Versace	03/29/25	Girard Provision
Mary T. Laird	02/02/25	Acme Markets	Doris Wallace	02/19/25	Donzies Iga
Karl H. Link	03/26/25	Acme Markets	Ethel D. Woollens	02/07/25	Shop Rite/Consol'd
Stephen W. Meyer	03/26/25	Holiday Markets-Mayfair			

UFCW Local 152
3120 Fire Rd., Suite 201
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

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Share your union experience

It's not completely uncommon that new members of our union arrive with uninformed notions of the Labor Movement as a whole.

These preconceived notions — often brought upon by a lifetime of biased media reports — may not be the result of actual first-hand experiences but rather due to an overall lack of union education and awareness.

The public opinion of unions has evolved in a positive direction over the past decade, and at an especially fast pace since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. The result has been a good thing — young members in 2025 often seek out their jobs because they were unionized and arrive to Local 152 energized about the Labor Movement and working under a union contract.

But just because public opinion is headed in the right direction doesn't mean we can't do better. We don't have to wait for the public opinion of unions to ebb and flow in our favor.

We can shape the narrative on unions by sharing our own union experiences, our story.

Young workers today have an open mind and they are ready to receive the message about unions from actual union

members. Young people have watched the surge in unionization that has taken place in the past five years and wondered why so many workers are interested in joining unions — and why certain companies are so opposed to this.

Our veteran members and retirees have a lifetime of union experiences to share with young members, and the simple act of sharing them can make a lasting impression. When you share a story about how the union helped you or a fellow member out of an unfair or unsafe situation on the job, new workers start to see the union as the tangible asset that it is.

Sharing your union experience with a new member might seem like an insignificant event in the grand scheme of things. But when that simple conversation is multiplied by all our workplaces across four states, that creates the reputation that defines Local 152.

And when you think about it, sharing knowledge with someone is hardly insignificant. Each of us can remember a few times in our lives when someone told us something that we still remember years and decades later. Someone inspired us to do something. It may have even changed the course of our lives.



It is up to us to educate our young members and make them aware of the value of being a union member. If we share our union experiences with each other there's no limit to what we can achieve together. Knowledge is power!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Ross, Jr.".