

## In it for the long ride

Dennis Clifford retires after more than half a century of service

**L**ocal 152 member and ShopRite meat manager Dennis Clifford retired on June 5, wrapping up an impressive 56-year career in the industry.

He worked all 56 years at the same ShopRite in Vineland, N.J., starting shortly after he finished serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965.

“It happened by accident,” he remembers. “My father was talking to the family that owned the stores and told them I was looking for a job. They said, ‘Send him over here, we’ll find something for him to do.’”

The then-21-year-old Clifford started on the night crew for a brief period before switching over to the meat department.

“Some of the guys back there were making more than five dollars an hour,” he said, laughing. “I said, ‘Lemme get in there and make some of that big money.’”

Each day he would cut chickens, wrap meats, grind hamburger, make sausages and do whatever else he was tasked to do.

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Members of the Negotiating Committee at St. Mary's Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare.

## Local 152 members ratify new contracts across industries

**L**ocal 152 members at St. Mary's Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare and St. Mary's Villa for Independent & Retirement Living ratified a new contract on June 9.

UFCW Local 152 represents more than 150 workers at both St. Mary's locations in Cherry Hill, N.J. The members work in dietary, maintenance, housekeeping, grounds and more.

The three-year agreement guarantees pay raises each year, in addition to a ratification bonus. Long-term members with at least 10 years of seniority also will receive a longevity bonus to

reward them for their advanced skills and dedication.

In addition, the newly ratified contract introduces the Preceptor Program, a training plan available to all union departments. Finally, the agreement outlines an attendance incentive bonus and a pandemic bonus for union members.

The Negotiating Committee included Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Union Representative Pete White, and Shop Stewards Irma Greenhow, Ailyn Deguzman and Dennis Hudson.

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## STAY CONNECTED!



### UFCW Local 152 Unity

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**100% Union**

# Local 152 members ratify new contracts across industries

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## ShopRite meat clerks

ShopRite meat clerks in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware voted on June 2 to extend their current agreement until 2026.

The group includes all workers in the meat department, as well as the deli/appetizer and seafood departments. UFCW Local 152 represents approximately 1,500 of these clerks at ShopRite stores across the three states.

The contract extension guarantees across-the-board raises for all classifications. In response to the New Jersey minimum wage escalation, the extension addressed wage compression by guaranteeing that senior members will maintain higher wages than new hires. Furthermore, additional contributions will be added to the retirement savings for eligible members.

Through the course of negotiations, the Negotiating Committee emphasized the importance of health benefits. The committee was able to achieve appropriate employer-paid maintenance

of benefits while guaranteeing zero cost sharing by employees during the life of the agreement.

“As the cost of health benefits continues to skyrocket, this is a massive win for our members,” President Brian String said.

The Negotiating Committee consisted of President String, Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Union Representative Tom Hartle, S.P.U.R. Nelson Albano, Union Representative Edna Inge, S.P.U.R. Kelli Wehman, Union Representative Carmine DelVicario and Director of Communications/Union Representative Mike Thompson.

The committee also included 23 shop stewards and members: Jauzell Dozier, Dennis Clifford, Pete Evangelidis, Paul Vasapollo, Gerald Murphy, Tom Grady, Curt Hickey, Brian Pearson, Bubba Hill, Debbie Dodds, Tim Welsh, Jacqueline Solomon, Dennis Lewinski, Elizabeth Disbrow-Smith, Eric Richmond, Patricia Wagner, Michael Sheridan, Gregory Carbonaro, Tom Worrell, Michael Protasi, Janice Blake, Patricia Hardison and Michelle Scott.

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IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

## Grievances filed or resolved:

2021 total

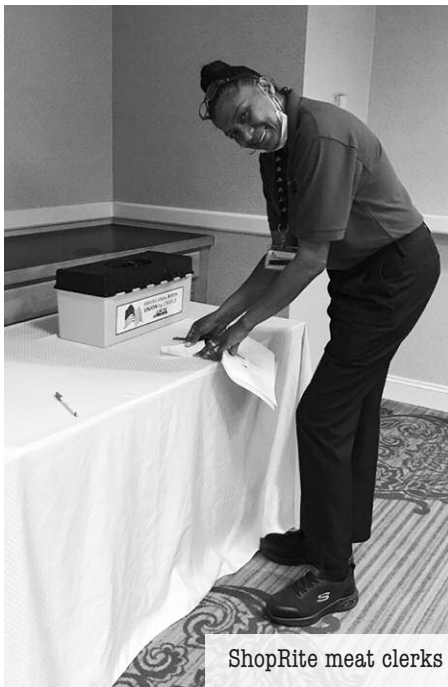
**99**

## Back pay and benefits restored to members:

2021 total

**\$592,259.13**

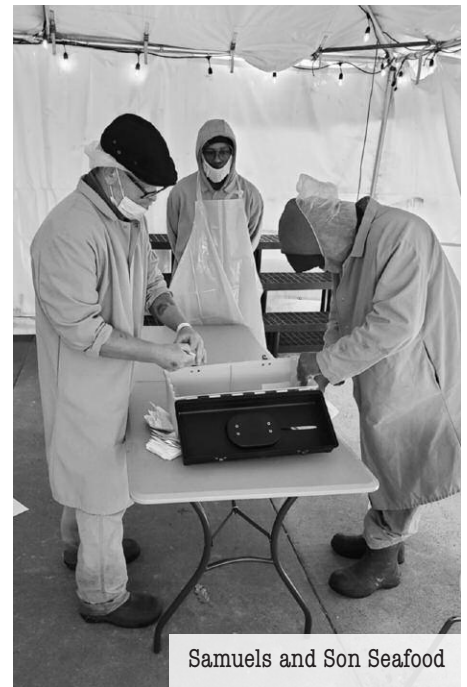




ShopRite meat clerks



ShopRite meat clerks



Samuels and Son Seafood

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## Samuels and Son Seafood

Local 152 members from Samuels and Son Seafood in Philadelphia ratified a short-term agreement earlier this year.

In light of the challenges facing wholesale food service businesses, members at Samuels and Son banded together to support a one-year agreement with minimal changes. The agreement assures their employer would absorb 100 percent of any medical cost increases for the duration of the agreement, protecting the members from any cost-share increase.

The agreement also includes a significant retention bonus for all employees based on their length of service.

The goal of this short-term deal is to preserve the integrity of the contract while giving the employer an opportunity to rebound after a significant business loss due to the pandemic.

The Negotiating Committee consisted of Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Union Representative Matte Kane, Shop Stewards Ernest Dunmore and Matt Miller and Committeepersons Chad Harper and Greg Zinn.



B&B Poultry

## B&B Poultry

Earlier this year, Local 152 members at B & B Poultry in Norma, N.J. ratified a strong new union contract.

UFCW Local 152 represents more than 100 members at B & B Poultry, a company that has been in the poultry processing business in South Jersey for more than seven decades.

The two-year agreement brings many improvements, including annual wage increases and a base differential increase for certain positions.

In addition, union representatives and shop stewards are able to meet new hires at orientation. This is an important opportunity to help them

understand the benefits of their contract and what union representation means.

Language was included to comply with New Jersey's Earned Sick Leave policies; additionally, unused PTO/sick time can be cashed out at the end of the year. Members also can voluntarily purchase supplemental benefits, such as disability or life insurance.

The Negotiating Committee included Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Union Representative Jose Echevarria, Shop Stewards Robert Vistulli and Mayoli Aguilar and Committeepersons Diane Burrus and Norberto Rodriguez.

## Grocery sales still strong

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

I'll bet if I'd polled 50 retailers a year ago when the huge sales spikes created by pandemic-related fears had already abated a bit, almost all would have said that store revenue would decline to significant negative levels when looking 12 months forward.

However, that clearly hasn't been the case with almost all merchants. Certainly, store sales have continued to decrease each month since the panic-buying/hoarding peak of March and April 2020, but retailers in the supermarket, mass and club channels have all continued to post same store sales gains for the first five months of this year that were better than 2019 levels (the last year of normalcy).

A clearer view will become more visible over the next six months when children return to actual classrooms and restaurants continue to build on recent sales and traffic momentum. Those two factors will surely create a dip in retail food revenue both with in-store visits and online ordering from the levels we've seen over the past year.

### Rising costs on the horizon

It's not just meat that's seen soaring prices over the past two months. Commodity costs for corn, wheat and soybeans are also escalating. And it's even worse with packaging — corrugated and plastics in particular — and suppliers tell us that by early Q4 consumers will see prices that they haven't experienced before.

One senior VP-sales for a large CPG supplier said, "When all these price increases are woven into the system and ultimately passed along, it's going to have a profound effect on a lot of Americans. You can start at the farm, move to the manufacturing plants and ultimately to the stores' shelves — everything is going to cost more. A lot more. Even basic supply chain issues from finding enough labor to work in plants and warehouses to the shrinking number of truck drivers will play a role in driving up prices."

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

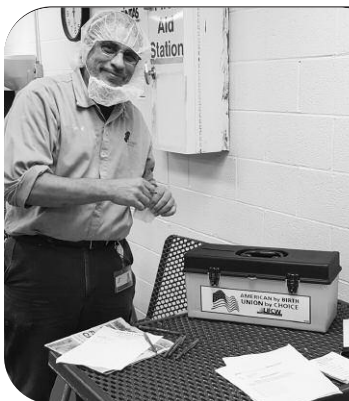
## Happy retirement!



**Patricia Carter, Acme Markets**  
(center; pictured with, from left: Shop Steward Bob Amalfitano and Union Representative Ed Fuller)



**Johnny Norman, Hanover Foods**  
(right, pictured with Union Representative Greg Torian)



## Union Organizing Incentive Program

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, call or text Local 152 Director of Organizing Chad Brooks at (609) 670-8605.



# Why a union job is worth keeping

**Y**our union-negotiated contract provides more than great wages and benefits.

It guarantees your holiday pay and vacations. It provides guaranteed hours and scheduling practices that recognize your needs in planning your non-work commitments.

And it comes with strong language to ensure fair treatment on the job, with a grievance process that guards against improper discipline, favoritism or discrimination. Your employer cannot fire you on a whim like he or she could at a non-union store.

Your union job provides still more, including workplace safety and health standards above and beyond those required by law. Local 152 has been especially active in this sphere throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, working to ensure your access to protective masks, sanitizers, plexiglass barriers and more.

We encouraged employers to be more vigorous in requiring customers to respect social distancing guidelines to protect themselves and you. And we worked with employers and local governments to get extra pay in recognition of your service on the pandemic's front lines.

## What is the union difference?

Those of us who are tempted to move on to a slightly higher-paying job in another industry may not be fully aware of what they're leaving behind.

Your health and pension benefits add up to many extra dollars paid by your employer for every hour you work, and such benefits tend to be far superior to those at non-union companies — if they're available at all.

All this is great for workers who are

fortunate enough to be covered under a union-negotiated contract. Recent studies also show how union wages and benefits help society at large.

According to University of Minnesota researchers, union members contribute more tax revenue to their communities and are less reliant on social assistance programs. Public finances are strengthened by the contributions of union workers with good, stable jobs, which enables robust public services used by everyone.

A union job adds up to a genuinely great deal for both union members and their communities. It opens up possibility of a lifelong career for anyone who is willing to work, and that's good news for everyone.



## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Anthony Benigno

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From left: Dennis Clifford, President Brian String and William Brennan.

## In it for the long ride

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“I was young, strong and enthusiastic,” he said. “I liked the work. It didn’t bother me that it was bloody and cold.”

He never looked back. He moved up the ranks to meat manager, a title he held for 45 years up until his retirement.

### The union way

Clifford was familiar with the union way of life growing up because his father was a member of the Teamsters.

“He would always say that the wages and benefits he earned would not be what they were if there wasn’t a union representing him.”

It was natural for him to take on more responsibilities as a union member, which he did by serving as a shop steward and as a member of the Local 152 Executive Board.

“As a shop steward, the contract is your Bible,” he said. “Read it, study it and make sure you know what you’re talking about.”

He found it rewarding to tell new hires about what they are entitled to as union members, from wages and benefits to vacations and seniority.

While serving on several negotiating committees over the years, he also learned about the hard work that goes into bargaining for every contract, which is why he was disappointed to see a low turnout of voters for the recently ratified new ShopRite agreement.

“This is your livelihood, this is what is going to take care of you, and you don’t have time to vote?” he said.

### Wrapping it up

As for retirement, it turns out the third time’s a charm.

Clifford originally told his supervisors in 2018 that he was planning on retiring on his anniversary date in June, but he decided instead to keep on working. He did the same thing in 2019 and 2020, so he said there was good-natured skepticism from his co-workers when he made the announcement again this year.

There was good reason for his hesitancy to leave: He loved what he did.

“I really miss it already, and it’s only been a month,” he said.

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## Serving the members

William Brennan retires after decades of looking out for his fellow union members

**L**ocal 152 retiree William Brennan looks back on his more than four decades of union membership with a deep sense of pride.

Brennan retired in June from his employment at Acme Markets in Ocean City, N.J., where he worked as grocery manager. He also served on Local 152’s Executive Board, helping resolve grievances and oversee the union’s finances.

“The way Local 152 runs is the way a union should be run,” he said. “It’s there for the members. That’s something that President Brian String has instilled in all of us — as Executive Board members, as shop stewards and as union members.”

Brennan was aware of the union difference from an early age. His father worked a union job on a machine press in Philadelphia, helping build cars for Ford and Chevrolet.

“I saw that there was definitely a benefit to having representation and health and welfare benefits,” he said.

He was already working a union job as a mailer for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* newspaper when he started as a grocery clerk at Acme Markets in 1981. He was in the process of moving from Philadelphia to Southern New Jersey and was looking for steady work with good benefits.

Over the years, he moved up the ranks to grocery manager, where his responsibilities included working with vendors, ordering food, managing inventory, reviewing invoices and more. His personality and attention to detail prompted his union representative

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Some members of the Scholarship Committee, from left: Nelson Albano, Michael Thompson, Local 152 President Brian String, John Puesi, Carmine DelVicario, and Danette Montes-Palmore.

# 2021 Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship Winners

Each year, Local 152 members and their dependents can apply for a college scholarship from the 2021 Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship Fund. After careful deliberation by the Scholarship Committee, eight award winners were selected from this year's applicants. Congratulations to the winners: Travis Anane, Nicole Barsocchi, Zachary Brown, Courtney Burns, Julianne Chan, Kattleya Leigh T. Go, Theodore Gorski and Cianna Rosado. Best wishes for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year and beyond!



## Health care industry update

### Incentives and bonuses at Bishop McCarthy

**L**ocal 152 members at Bishop McCarthy Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare in Vineland, N.J., ratified a new contract earlier this year.

The contract includes an updated wage progression scale and a ratification bonus for members based on their years of service. It also preserves affordable health and welfare and there will be no increase in the employee cost share percentage for the life of the agreement.

The Negotiating Committee successfully fought to introduce both an attendance incentive bonus and a pandemic bonus for all employees. The pandemic bonus will be available to members who work 10 shifts in a pay period during “crisis situations.” Any member who picks up a shift during these crisis situations will re-



Voting at Bishop McCarthy Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare.

ceive an extra \$50 per shift on top of any overtime pay. Additionally, if a member works on a “positive” unit during this time, they will receive an additional \$3 per hour on top of their hourly rate.

The newly ratified contract also introduces the creation of the Preceptor Program, a training program available to

all union departments.

The Negotiating Committee included Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Union Representative Pete White, Shop Stewards Sonia Ribot and Ramonita Figueroa and Committee members Catherine Kalipets and Sean Allen.

## Manufacturing industry update

### Contract extended at George Wells Meat Co.

**L**ocal 152 members at George Wells Meat Company in Philadelphia, Penn., unanimously voted to extend their union contract in May.

Members will continue to have their entire health and welfare costs paid in full by their employer for the length of the contract.

The Negotiating Committee included Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Lisa Sanders, Union Representative Greg Torian, Shop Steward Anthony Ditheodore and Committee Member David Pecunia.



Members vote at George Wells Meat Company in Philadelphia.

### Contract improvements at Taylor Provisions

Earlier this year, Local 152 members at Taylor Provisions in Trenton, N.J., ratified a new union contract.

Under the new contract, members will receive an immediate ratification bonus in addition to yearly wage increases and a second bonus in 2024. The company will also continue to pay the full cost of members’ current health and welfare plan.

The new, four-year agreement will give members the option to purchase supplemental

benefits (such as disability insurance and life insurance) and language was established to comply with New Jersey Sick Leave policies.

The Negotiating Committee included Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Lisa Sanders, Union Representative Greg Torian, Shop Steward Sheila Brown, and Committeeperson Christopher Cruz.





# 16th Annual Local 152 Charity Golf Tournament

**DATE:**

Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021

**TIME:**

Registration at 7:30 a.m.

Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

**PLACE:**

*\*\*New location\*\**

Linwood Country Club

500 Shore Rd.

Linwood, N.J. 08221

To register, visit [ufewlocal152.org](http://ufewlocal152.org)  
to download the application form.

## Serving the members

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to recommend him as a Shop Steward, a role he subsequently held for 25 years.

"Between myself and my union rep, we saved a lot of jobs over the years," Brennan said.

As a steward, he enjoyed explaining to young members about the many benefits of union membership and helping represent them when there was a problem.

"You can tell right away if they're going to stay in the job or not," he said. "If they're staying, you have to guide them along the right path."

In retirement, he looks forward to spending summer vacations in North Carolina with his wife, Mary Ann, who is still employed as a teacher. When he's not fishing or kayaking, he's spending time with his children, who visit often, and his grandchildren.

He's proud of what he has been able to do for his fellow union members in his many roles, from the bargaining table to the workplace.

"We represented the workers," he said. "I have always tried to look out for them. That's my greatest feeling of accomplishment."

## In it for the long ride

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While he still feels physically capable of working ("My wheels are still good."), he's looking forward to making plans on nights and weekends with his wife, Janet, who is also retired.

"We're planning vacations, like a visit to Roanoke, Va., to visit my granddaughter," he said.

He's also an avid SCUBA diver and is eager to return to the clear ocean and

abundant aquatic animals off the coast of Cozumel, Mexico.

"You can just drift in the water there," he said. "It's so beautiful and peaceful."

He'll also no longer have to miss rides with members of his 95-member motorcycle league. Consisting mostly of Marines, the group's members ride mainly on the New Jersey shore. This time, Clifford will be among them on his Harley-Davidson.

## Why did YOU get the vaccine?

Union members from around the country recently shared some of the reasons they chose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine:

**"It's going to protect me  
and my family."**

.....

**"I don't have to worry as  
much when I go to work."**

.....

**"It's important because I  
have many different  
generations living in my  
house. Family is everything."**

.....

**"It's another layer of protection  
with masking, sanitizing  
and social distancing."**

# Happy retirement!

<b>Paul J. Arbuckle</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Dorothy E. Bowman</b>	04/01/21	Super Fresh
<b>William P. Brennan, Jr.</b>	07/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Joseph T. Burton</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Edie Campbell</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Rita L. Capodanno</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Patricia A. Carter</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Patricia A. Connors</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>John Copeland</b>	06/01/21	Ball Park Brands
<b>Freida L. Davis</b>	04/01/21	Thriftway-Penn Mart
<b>Theresa L. Day</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Marvin L. Dreibelbis</b>	05/01/21	Berks Packing Co.
<b>Sally A. Fiore</b>	05/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Philip Fitzpatrick</b>	05/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Janet M. Flynn</b>	04/01/21	Bottinos ShopRite
<b>Steven L. Freymoyer</b>	05/01/21	Berks Packing Co.
<b>Dolores Gain</b>	04/07/21	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Robert J. Gallagher</b>	05/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Bruce W. Gansert</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Sandra L. Gartner</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Margaret Glaser</b>	07/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Ronald A. Godwin</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Pamela J. Gondak</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Donald J. Gras</b>	05/01/21	Village ShopRite
<b>Janice E. Hines</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Mary Hopp</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Mary C. Hricko</b>	04/01/21	GMS Zallie Holdings, Inc.
<b>Cynthia A. Huewitt</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Larry L. Hurd</b>	04/01/21	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
<b>Kathryn M. Jacob</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Mary J. James</b>	04/01/21	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
<b>Dianne R. Jones</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Lucille Keating</b>	03/06/21	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Kim Marie Keenan</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Joseph P. Kilgore</b>	04/01/21	Ball Park Brands
<b>Jeffrey A. Knoll</b>	05/01/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Timothy J. Kostick</b>	06/01/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Grazyna S. Kraft</b>	06/01/21	Saker ShopRite
<b>Mary Labar</b>	02/19/21	Cape Regional Medical Center

<b>Kay M. Loftus</b>	07/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Kathleen A. Maloney</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Joseph P. Marigliano</b>	04/01/21	Super Fresh
<b>Candice Marshall</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>LeAnn May</b>	07/02/21	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Stella McMichael</b>	07/01/21	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Gregory K. Meehan</b>	04/01/21	Eickhoff Supermarkets
<b>Kathleen Mills</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Laura L. Monzo</b>	05/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Dennis J. Murray</b>	04/01/21	R&R ShopRite, Inc.
<b>Deborah S. Oleszewski</b>	05/01/21	Village ShopRite
<b>Rose M. Przygodzinski</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Christine Rocco</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Linda Rosenzweig</b>	03/06/21	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Keith B. Sass</b>	04/01/21	Fleming Co.-Winslow SnB
<b>Karen M. Stanley</b>	05/01/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Alice Steck</b>	04/01/21	Local 152 H&W Benefits
<b>Carole A. Tolson</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Anne Marie Torellargenzia</b>	05/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Thomas G. Tubertini</b>	04/01/21	Cherry Hill ShopRite
<b>Sharon R. Vignola</b>	05/01/21	Somerset Stores, LLC.
<b>Janette Volkman</b>	04/01/21	Super Fresh
<b>Margaret E. Walton</b>	05/01/21	Ball Park Brands
<b>Nancy Watson</b>	11/08/20	Cape Regional Medical Center
<b>Cheryl L. Wegelin</b>	06/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Joan W. Woll</b>	04/01/21	Super Fresh

## In memoriam

<b>Walter P. Ashe</b>	05/31/21	Super Fresh
<b>Robert J. Babich</b>	05/14/21	General Supermarkets
<b>Fred Barbagello</b>	05/24/21	Acme Markets
<b>Edward N. Brown</b>	05/05/21	Acme Markets
<b>James R. Burns</b>	06/03/21	Acme Markets
<b>Thomas E. Butler</b>	04/01/21	Acme Markets
<b>Charles H. Cordery, III</b>	04/14/21	Village ShopRite
<b>Dawnes Gulp</b>	05/05/21	Super Fresh
<b>Frank Del Corio</b>	03/04/21	Super Fresh
<b>Kathleen M. Denofa</b>	06/29/21	R&R ShopRite, Inc.
<b>Barbara Dickman</b>	05/02/21	Dietz & Watson
<b>Tina A. Dill</b>	05/09/21	Pathmark Stores

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## In memoriam

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<b>Anthony Diniglio</b>	04/22/21	Mt. Airy Shop 'n' Bag
<b>Jacqueline L. Edmonds</b>	06/23/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Ruth Elliott</b>	05/23/21	Acme Markets
<b>Donald H. Fellenbaum</b>	04/20/21	Acme Markets
<b>Joseph J. Foglietta</b>	05/19/21	Somerset Stores, LLC.
<b>Margaret Gallagher</b>	03/30/21	Acme Markets
<b>German A. Gonzalez</b>	06/11/21	A. Golin
<b>Frances E. Hager</b>	04/29/21	Acme Markets
<b>Richard C. Keen</b>	05/23/21	Laneco Inc. Food Lane Stores
<b>Nancy Keller</b>	06/05/21	Laneco Inc. Food Lane Stores
<b>Lois L. Kemmerer</b>	04/12/21	Kanes Shop 'n' Bag
<b>Irvin Ketzes</b>	04/02/21	Heritage Meats
<b>Helen M. Kulish</b>	05/07/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Stanley Levy</b>	03/12/21	Shop N Save
<b>Joseph Lipomi</b>	05/03/21	Cherry Hill ShopRite
<b>John J. Loudon</b>	05/01/21	Super Fresh
<b>Andrew J. Lusch</b>	04/17/21	Medford Inc.
<b>Teresa Maisenhelder</b>	06/26/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Joseph W. Maloney</b>	03/17/21	Ball Park Brands
<b>Wayne Matthews</b>	05/12/21	Acme Markets
<b>Carol B. Mitten</b>	04/14/21	Incollingo's Iga- Pennsgrove
<b>Gloria H. Nastasee</b>	04/05/21	Super Fresh
<b>Vivian Ordner</b>	06/24/21	Acme Markets
<b>Manuel E. Pacheco</b>	03/20/21	Ball Park Brands
<b>Nora J. Riley</b>	05/08/21	Acme Markets
<b>Peggy Segal</b>	06/09/21	Acme Markets
<b>Louella M. Seruga</b>	06/27/21	Laneco Inc. Food Lane Stores
<b>Rosemary Sileo</b>	04/19/21	Browns ShopRite
<b>Lantet Sinclair</b>	04/19/21	General Supermarkets
<b>Raymond W. Steward</b>	04/11/21	Acme Markets
<b>John Steward</b>	03/27/21	Kunzler Packing Co.
<b>Leroy Swisher</b>	05/13/21	Acme Markets
<b>James C. Thompson, Jr.</b>	05/27/21	Super Fresh
<b>Michael R. Van Trieste</b>	03/08/21	Super Fresh
<b>Marianne Ventre</b>	05/18/21	General Supermarkets
<b>Nicholas V. Ventura</b>	06/16/21	Acme Markets
<b>Ralph Wehner</b>	06/23/21	Super Fresh
<b>Diane M. Whitby</b>	03/09/21	Pathmark Stores
<b>Robert Williams</b>	02/20/21	Medford Inc.

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## COVID isn't over

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is not over.

This may seem like a common-sense statement, especially in light of the extremely contagious delta variant that is going around, but many Americans are behaving as though the opposite is true.

Despite the fact that in the United States we are among the most fortunate in the world in our access to vaccine supply, the vaccination rate among Americans is not high enough to return to life as it was before the pandemic and put the disease in the rearview mirror.

COVID-19 is very much front and center, especially for Local 152 members.

All of the progress we have made in our fight for safer workplaces for members in grocery stores, health care facilities and manufacturing plants cannot be taken for granted. Safety for these workers is not something to be “fixed” and forgotten about — it’s an everyday process.

It means our union representatives must keep ensuring that workplaces maintain the most current safety protocols. It means we must keep applying pressure on state and federal officials to enact rules to protect essential workers. It

means listening to members when they tell us what more we can do to keep them safe on the job.

To be successful, we have to be flexible. With infections and hospitalizations rising across the country, we need to rethink what safety means now versus what it meant just a few months ago.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced in May that fully-vaccinated people no longer needed to wear a mask indoors or outdoors (with a handful of exceptions including public transportation, hospitals and air travel), that wasn’t the end of the story.

### **Urgent action**

The updated CDC guidance in late July, which called for all Americans to again wear masks indoors in high-transmission areas, was a necessary step forward, but it’s not enough to stop this new explosion in COVID infections. We need urgent action from our employers and elected officials to prioritize the safety of essential workers, up to and including a national mask mandate.



Most of all, we need everyone to be vaccinated if we want to stop COVID in its tracks and finally return to normal.

If you haven’t done so already, please get vaccinated. It’s the best step we can take to ensure we don’t have to confront another variant in six months, or another, or another.

*Brian String*