



Goya Foods - Jersey City

**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

Benny Smith looks back on 25 years of union pride

Local 152 member Ben “Benny” Smith celebrates his 25th anniversary at J&J Snack Foods this year and looks back with fondness on a career of perseverance and union solidarity.

He remembers walking into the Bellmawr, N.J. facility in the summer of 2000 and applying for a job after hearing from a friend that it had good union benefits. He realized he didn’t

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Rank and File stand together for strong new contracts

Members across several industries ratified strong contracts with Local 152 in recent months that raise wages, secure benefits and bring improvements to work/life balance.

Goya Foods - Jersey City

Approximately 200 workers at Goya Foods in Jersey City, N.J., overwhelmingly voted to ratify their new contract on June 4.

Local 152 members at the facility work as warehouse employees, hi-lo operators, order pickers, receivers and more.

The five-year contract improves lives

through substantial, immediate wage increases for all members and significant annual increases for the contract’s term. Shift differentials and position premiums were also increased.

In addition, the committee negotiated higher contributions to the employer-sponsored UFCW Local 152 Savings Plan while maintaining members’ affordable union-negotiated health care.

The Negotiating Committee included President Daniel Ross, Jr., Executive Assistant to the President Danette Montes-Palmore, Shop Stewards Abner Rosario and Lepido

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Mental health resources for Local 152 members

If you are experiencing mental health issues, know that you are not alone. Help is available. Contact the Local 152 Benefit Funds at **(800) 555-4959** to find out what services are available.



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EDITOR

Daniel Ross, Jr.

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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100% Union



Stop! Know your rights

What to do if you are part of an investigation

Local 152 is always looking out for your interests on the job. That includes ways we can push for improvements at your workplace and ways you can help yourself stay out of difficult situations.

Members have recently reported incidents involving conversations and impromptu meetings with company representatives at several job sites. The representatives have been from the loss prevention department, human resources and other parts of the company. These meetings, which took place without union representation present, often led to disciplinary action against the member.

Examples of recent incidents include:

- Members made to feel like they “won’t get in trouble” if they just write a statement about an incident involving themselves and/or other union members

- Pressure to write a statement about an incident in a rushed manner, such as before the end of a shift
- Members being told they don’t need union representation at a meeting since it won’t lead to disciplinary action
- Cashiers made to feel like they can pay back a shortage at the register, leading to termination

The first thing to remember if you are approached for an investigatory interview is your right to union representation. This federally protected tool of worker empowerment, called Weingarten Rights, enables you to request a representative of your union be present for any meeting with your employer that could lead to disciplinary action.

Making this request is not “being difficult.” It is not admitting any

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IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances resolved
2025 Year to date: **86**

Back pay and benefits restored to members
2025 Year to date:
\$71,962.75

Contract ratifications

Continued from front page

Gonzalez and committee members Dave Chavez and Kendall Edwards.

Kraft-Heinz

On June 27, more than 400 workers at Kraft Heinz in Dover, Del., ratified a new union contract that creates many positive changes.

All members immediately received significant wage increases. These wage increases were the highest negotiated increases in the history of the Dover plant, and the contract guarantees wage increases annually for the four-year contract.

Members will continue to participate in Local 152's Health and Welfare Fund for affordable union-negotiated health care benefits. This accomplishment sets them apart from other Kraft Heinz bargaining units throughout the country.

Members now have the opportunity to participate in valuable supplemental benefits offered by Local 152. Bereavement leave was expanded to include additional family members. The safety shoe allowance was also increased.

This contract introduces a company-wide Paid Parental Leave program. Beginning in 2026, the program will provide members with paid leave for the birth or adoption of their child. Additionally, an Adoption Reimbursement Policy will provide financial reimbursement when a member adopts a child.

The company also agreed to comply with the Delaware Paid Leave law or any other state leave law enacted during the term of the contract.

The new agreement addresses the work/life balance of workers at the facility, introducing changes to vacation time and changes to overtime scheduling. Some members now have the option to take vacation time in single days instead of straight weeks.

Additionally, some vacation time can now be used as "emergency" days, covering unscheduled, impromptu life emergencies at no penalty. Some overtime parameters were also changed to provide workers with more advanced notice of mandatory overtime, such as overtime after a scheduled shift and weekend overtime.

The Negotiating Committee included Executive Vice President Lisa Sanders, Executive Assistant to the President Danette Montes-Palmore, Chief Shop Steward Frank Watson and Shop Stewards Doug Carlino, William "Gene" Bontrager, Jason Moore, Jim Remondi, Julisse Allen, Mahalon Gassaway, Rodney Doughty, and Aneisha Griffin.

Members at the plant work in production, maintenance and



other departments helping to create food staples such as JELL-O, Kool-Aid, Shake 'N Bake and many more.

Coastal Pools & Spas

In May, the workers at Coastal Pools & Spas in Linwood, N.J., stood united and unanimously ratified a new union contract.

The new three-year contract guarantees yearly wage increases for the duration of the contract, maintains members' affordable union-negotiated health care and provides workers with a higher

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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



Defend our communities from devastating cuts to important services

Congress recently passed the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” which includes devastating cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid. These cuts go far beyond harming vulnerable families — they threaten jobs, local economies, and the backbone of essential industries across the country.

In addition to helping families make ends meet, SNAP supports union jobs in grocery stores, meatpacking plants, and food processing facilities across the country. In fact, 80 percent of SNAP dollars are spent at traditional grocery stores where our members work and feed their communities. When families lose access to food assistance, grocery sales drop. That means fewer hours, fewer jobs, and more strain on workers all along the food supply chain, including meatpacking and food processing workers.

The impact doesn’t stop there. UFCW members work in hospitals, nursing homes, and health care

Community allies have always been essential to the UFCW’s organizing power.

facilities that depend on Medicaid funding to care for patients and keep their doors open. Cutting Medicaid means layoffs, burnout, and dangerously low staffing levels — jeopardizing both jobs and patient care.

This legislation delivers real harm to working people, all while extending tax breaks for the wealthy. That’s why it’s critical that we stand in solidarity and protect the rights of workers, families and the communities we call home.

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.



REGIONAL DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

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

Community allies have always been essential to the UFCW’s organizing power. If you’re connected with organizations that share our values, please reach out. Let us know who they are and how they might stand with us in this fight for fairness and dignity.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to make Local 152 and our entire union better and stronger.

Provide an organizing lead and 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 mthompson@ufcwlocal152.org.



Staying connected: Ways to communicate with us

As Local 152 grows, we bring the value of union membership to more and more workers and increase our strength at the bargaining table.

But growing the membership is only part of the equation for a successful union — it's just as important to provide an excellent experience to members whether they have just joined or been with us for decades.

There is an incredible list of benefits that come with Local 152 membership — ways to improve your health, plan for retirement, save money, get legal support and much more. But how will you learn about all of these incredible opportunities if you're not connected?

Communication is a two-way street: We want to tell you what is going on with your union and we want to hear from you about any questions, comments or concerns. Here are some ways to keep the lines of communication open:

Follow Local 152 online

At ufcwlocal152.org we have up-to-date news articles, contact forms, FAQs, members-only resources and much more. On social media, you can follow Local 152 on Facebook, X and Instagram for up-to-the-minute information, meet your fellow members, get reminders about union events and more.

Read official print communications from your union

Be sure to read any print communications from the union, including official documents from the union office, the *Unity* newsletter and important information from the health & welfare and pension departments.

Attend union meetings

The quarterly union membership meetings are the perfect opportunity to

hear directly from union leadership about what is going on at Local 152. With meetings held at two different times of day in four separate locations across the jurisdiction, it's also a good chance to ask any questions you may have.

Stay in contact with your Union Rep and Shop Steward

Your Union Representative is available to hear any concerns you have on the job or answer questions about your contract, benefits and more. The Shop Steward at your workplace is also available to answer questions about the contract or your specific responsibilities.

If you have any questions, reach out to your Union Representative or Shop Steward today — we want to hear from you!

Text blasts

We communicate with members via text blasts with reminders for meetings, health van appearances and much more. You can also text us back and receive a response. It is our goal to be in constant communication to foster an active membership. Scan the QR code on this page to update your personal information with Local 152 to ensure you receive these important texts.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Dan Konczyk



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:



Member Benny Smith marks 25 years at J&J Snack Foods

Continued from front page

want to pursue a career in screen printing, which he studied at school.

Instead, he started in the packing room at J&J, a snack food production facility that supplies baked goods and other snack products to movie theaters, restaurant chains and more. (Smith's facility currently focuses on soft pretzels.)

"After six months in the packing room I moved to the cookie line and then spent time in the scaling department," he said. "I also became a dough cutter and worked on the pretzel line."

After 13 years of working third shift in the frozen department, working the forklift to transfer materials stacked on large pallets, he transferred to the daytime shift on the production line where he has worked since 2017.

Union beginnings

His strong work ethic developed at a young age. He grew up in a union family with a father who led a dockworkers union in Camden and a mother who was a Teamsters-represented truck driver delivering the Philadelphia Daily News newspaper.

"I had a good supportive family growing up," he said. "I took all their advice to heart and remembered to work smart — be careful at work and never do anything off the clock."

In addition to his responsibilities at work, Smith also takes time to be involved in his union as a shop steward. He's participated in a handful of collective bargaining sessions over the years, handed out surveys and spoke up about what his fellow members wanted to see in a new contract.

"Setting an example is what I find most rewarding about being a steward," he said. "It builds a sense of pride when you get to know the members a little bit more: 'How are you?' 'How's your day?' Showing them that the union is on their side."

He's grateful for the union's help in resolving a grievance situation that he experienced.

"The company once wrongly accused

me of something and I got suspended," he said. "The union really fought for me and got my record expunged."

He felt satisfaction when he was able to help do the same thing for a fellow member years later, restoring his job with back pay.

Winning the battle

Smith is especially thankful for his union-negotiated benefits ("benefits are money!") because they help cover the costs of medications he takes to manage a neurological disability. When he experienced trouble learning at school growing up, doctors expected he would only be able to work odd jobs.

"I wanted to work a full-time job like everyone else so I empowered myself," he said. "Good days, bad days, you're always there — sometimes the battle is just showing up."

"I've had to show resilience at times when my anxiety is spiking," he continued. "You've got to be at your job, that's what I was taught. I've impressed a lot of people — friends are like 'wow, you've had a whole career!' I've earned my place."



Smith lives in Bellmawr with his dogs Zuzu and Jersey. When he's not at work he enjoys taking them out for walks, going to the gym and performing karaoke.

Looking ahead, he keeps a positive attitude and takes pride in being a part of his union.

"I go into work with an open mind every morning, always on time and saying 'Hi' to everyone — it goes a long way," he said. "It's been a challenging ride for me, but in a good way. It builds character."

"The union's help along the way has really touched me. It's made the ride a lot easier and more fulfilling."

What to do if you are part of an investigation

Continued from front page

wrongdoing. It is simply taking the necessary step to protect your job and ensuring a fair meeting takes place — the same step you can be sure the company would take if it was to enter into an investigation.

Also keep in mind that the first priority of the loss prevention department or human resources is to protect the company. It may seem like a friendly or casual conversation, but you should assume anything you say during a talk can and will be shared with your employer.

In some cases, if a member refused to write a statement about an incident, these conversations are documented by the company as if they were a statement, even if they are inaccurate. Members should be diligent to protect themselves.

Know your rights: Always ask for union representation when your employer wants a meeting that could lead to disciplinary action. Do not write or sign any statement without the union present. If you do sign, write "do not agree" next to your signature and contact your union representative as soon as possible.



Cannabis workers at Columbia Care stay determined, ratify first contract with Local 152

UFCW Local 152 members at the Columbia Care cannabis cultivation facility in Vineland, N.J. ratified their first union contract, capping off a years-long journey of determination and persistence.

Members in the cultivation department voted overwhelmingly to accept their contract, which delivers on many of the priorities workers had when they first sought union representation back in November of 2022.

“These workers never gave up despite an atrociously long road to their first contract,” Local 152 President Daniel Ross, Jr. said. “Through all the delays brought on by the employer, Local 152 stood with these workers to ensure they had their seat at the table and they won their first contract.”

Columbia Care workers finally organized with Local 152 in 2023 after first expressing interest in union representation the year prior. Local 152 was forced to engage in a protracted legal process for recognition as the employer opposed Local 152’s effort to have the New Jersey State Board of Mediation certify the bargaining unit. Columbia Care argued that the employees may or may have not been “agricultural workers” under federal labor law. Local 152 was forced to seek a determination from the National Labor Relations Board in an unnecessary and lengthy process.

“This was a classic anti-union stall tactic meant to stifle workers’ momentum to organize,” President Ross said. The National Labor Relations Board eventually found that the employees were not under its jurisdiction. New Jersey law and regulations in the cannabis industry permits all cannabis

workers to organize regardless of whether federal labor laws apply. The New Jersey Board of Mediation eventually certified the unit, finally allowing these workers the opportunity to negotiate with their employer.

This unnecessary delay in negotiations spurred Local 152 to pursue NJ Bill A4182, which received bipartisan sponsorship. If approved, A4182 will simply close this loophole and clearly afford cultivation workers in New Jersey the same rights to the organizing process as all other workers who are not protected by federal labor law regardless of whether a Labor Peace Agreement is in effect. A4182 passed the final stage of approval by the New Jersey Assembly on June 30 with bipartisan support. Its Senate counterpart, S3139, is now awaiting a vote from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The first contract accepted on June 23, 2025, provides for substantial retroactive wage increases for all members. This wage increase now brings their wages to industry-leading levels above their non-union counterparts. The agreement also provides for 100% employer-paid ancillary benefits through the union’s Health & Welfare Fund. Valuable benefits such as prepaid legal services, life insurance and vision care were negotiated at no cost to the workers, in addition to all the protections and guarantees found in the four corners of a bona fide labor agreement.

“We are proud to have helped these workers overcome numerous setbacks. These folks ultimately ratified a first contract that protects their interests, charts a path for future gains and rewards their hard work in a meaningful way,” President Ross said.

Contract success!

Samuels Seafood



Meadow
Lakes



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
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QR code to
get started!

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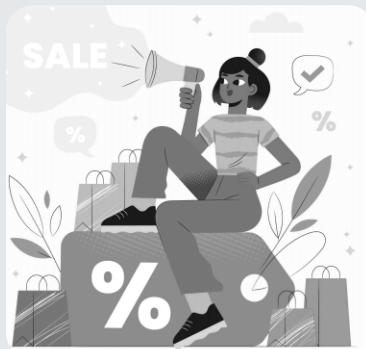
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- Fantasy Island



Entertainment

- Big Kahuna's
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- 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!

Stephanie P. Aydelotte	07/01/25	Super Fresh
Nancy Bell	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Melody L. Bergey	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Maryann H. Burgess	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Denise M. Byzek	06/01/25	Shop N Save
Robert J. Clark	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Alexander Cruz	05/01/25	George L. Wells Meat Co.
Michael J. Cusato, Sr.	07/01/25	Ball Park Brands
Robert C. Dailey	06/01/25	Laneco Inc.
Adalberto Dejesus, Sr.	05/01/25	Wilson Beef Co.
John J. Dimartino	06/01/25	Brown's Superstores
Emily M. Donato	07/01/25	Bottino's Supermarkets
Christopher Egan	07/01/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Rudy Fehrle	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Lisa A. Foster	05/01/25	Delaware & N.J. markets
Daryl L. Fussell	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Terry R. Gentry	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Denise A. Giallombardo	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Carol M. Harkins	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Diane R. Harris	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Catherine R. Haug	05/01/25	R&R ShopRite, Inc.
Steven R. Henretty	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Constance M. Henry	05/01/25	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Janet R. Hudson	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Annmarie Hulmes	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Jane Prodoeh Kent	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Joyce E. Krauss	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Leslie J. Kulp	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Teresa A. Matthews	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Colleen A. Mctigue	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Robert S. Mitchell, III	06/01/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 198
Ellermae C. Mitchell	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Bridget A. Palmer	06/01/25	Bottino's Supermarkets
Patricia A. Renz	06/01/25	Super Fresh
Antonio P. Salvado	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Ronald J. Scartocci	06/01/25	Acme Markets



Sharon A. Scheller	05/01/25	Super Fresh
Sherry A. Scoz	06/01/25	Ewing Shop N Bag
Stephen Will Shaw	05/01/25	Acme Markets
Kathleen M. Smith	06/01/25	Acme Markets
Kevin B. Stewart	07/01/25	Acme Markets
Cathy Vakulchik Luongo	07/01/25	Super Fresh
Delilah Warner	06/01/25	Autumn Lake
Tammy L. Washington	05/01/25	Incollingo's
Lee White	06/07/25	Crothall
David Wick	08/01/25	Murphy's Market
Mark S. Yocum	07/01/25	Berks Packing Co.
Maryann Zearfoss	07/01/25	Zallie's Supermarkets

In memoriam

Judy Banning	05/05/25	Acme Markets
Carol Barrus	08/03/25	Acme Markets
Bonnie Lee Barry	06/06/25	Acme Markets
Julia Rose Bobb	07/12/25	GMS Zallie Holdings, Inc
Ruth G. Brown	06/06/25	Super Fresh
Donald A. Burk	05/31/25	Acme Markets
Emilie A. Burns	06/26/25	Shore Mall Shop N Bag
Howard P. Burton	05/17/25	ShopRite/Foodarama
Anthony Caltagirone	06/02/25	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Barbara W. Clarey	07/27/25	Acme Markets

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Anna Cubler	05/07/25	Acme Markets
Jerome C. Deacon	06/14/25	Acme Markets
Nevart Eblighatian-Werz	07/26/25	Super Fresh
Edward Emigholz	07/16/25	Acme Markets
Otto R. Hepp	06/14/25	Roberts Packing Co.
Marjorie A. Hofmann	07/28/25	Acme Markets
Jacqueline E. Horn	06/10/25	Zallie's Supermarkets
Dianne R. Jones	05/14/25	Acme Markets
Ruth Jones	06/18/25	Acme Markets
Carol A. Larson	07/25/25	Acme Markets
Robert A. Lynn	07/24/25	Trevose Shop N Bag
Anna M. Martinka	06/23/25	M&E #2381
Harvey Mazer	06/25/25	Welsh Road Shop N Bag
Beatrice R. McGrath	06/13/25	Acme Markets
Thomas J. Meyer	06/28/25	Foodlane Store #25
Theresa Miller	05/07/25	Acme Markets
James C. Miller	07/29/25	Ball Park Brands
Robert J. Morris	05/17/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Willie Mosley	05/18/25	Butler Foods/Penn Packing
Maurice L. Olgers	05/11/25	Acme Markets
Saverio N. Papucci	07/07/25	Freda Corp
Maria Pompili	05/22/25	R&R ShopRite, Inc.
Sharon Popper	07/16/25	Acme Markets
Raymond W. Rathbone	07/31/25	Ball Park Brands
Ronald J. Rodzan	06/06/25	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Patricia A. Roy	05/02/25	Super Fresh
Andres Ruiz Soto	06/11/25	Stein Henry Co.
Larry L. Schrader	06/23/25	Acme Markets
Gladys Scott	06/04/25	Wynnewood Food
Frederick C. Shappell	06/05/25	Acme Markets
Victor Shevtchuk	07/07/25	Liberty Food Stores, Inc.
Patricia Sikorski	05/27/25	Super Fresh
Lyle J. Stevenson	05/30/25	Brown's Superstores
Barbara Tabibian	05/26/25	Acme Markets
Patricia Techtmann	05/04/25	Kane Supermarket
Mary Trush	07/29/25	Pickwell-SHS Enterprises, Inc.
Ronald Wright	05/13/25	Kansas Beef Industries
Thornton Yancy	05/17/25	M&E #2384

Contract ratifications

Continued from front page

tool and rain gear allowance based on length of service.

The Negotiating Committee included Union Representatives Tom Hartle and Greg Torian and Shop Steward Brian Damm.

Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

A bargaining unit of clerical workers at the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office in Cape May Court House, N.J., ratified their first union contract on June 11, officially giving them a voice on the job.

In October 2024, all workers in this office stood together to demonstrate "sufficient interest" in Local 152 — as required by the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) — and went straight to negotiating their first contract.

With the ratification of this new three-year agreement, these workers are no longer "at-will" employees and have secured provisions like holidays, paid time off, the grievance and arbitration procedure, and seniority in a legally protected document.

These new members will also receive guaranteed annual wage increases, including retro pay back to the beginning of the year. Premiums were also added on top of their base pay for certifications, abilities and educational experience, and sick leave parameters and pay were defined, including a sick leave incentive program and buyback program.

The Negotiating Committee included Director of Organizing Mike Thompson, Communications Representative Alley Snow, workers Linda McGann and Kate Schuhl, and legal counsel Kevin Jarvis and Tom Karpousis of O'Brien, Belland, and Bushinsky, LLC.

Meadow Lakes

More than 140 workers at Meadow Lakes, a senior living facility in East Windsor, N.J., ratified a new contract in May.

Members at Meadow Lakes work in dietary, housekeeping, maintenance and as CNAs, CHHAs, CMAs and more.

The agreement guarantees all workers receive an immediate, across-the-board wage increase as well as increases annually for the life of the three-year contract. Workers will also receive a one-time ratification bonus.

The bargaining team was also able to preserve the affordable union-negotiated health care for these members.

The Negotiating Committee included Bargaining Representatives Chad Brooks and Peter White, Director of Field Services Peggy Kelly, and Shop Stewards Irma Lamadrid, Richard Bell, Thomas Opoku and Trenea West.

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Why we march: Celebrating Labor Day

When I lace up my sneakers, grab a banner and hit the pavement for Philadelphia's Labor Day parade every September, it's one of my favorite traditions. Not just because I get to spend some time with my union brothers and sisters, but because of what it stands for.

It's the day we all recognize we have the power to come together and define a better future. No worker should have to struggle alone and change is possible when we are united.

We celebrate the power of working people on Labor Day, and we keep in mind those workers who don't have the protection of a union contract. I personally think about the many people that lost their lives to fight for our right to organize and bargain collectively. Still today in 2025, many workers are too afraid to stand up for the promise of a better life. They may have faced threats from irresponsible employers or they have been led to believe they don't deserve something more.

On this day, we show the world that we will not be swayed by dangerous rhetoric that is designed to drive us

apart. We've come a long way since the first Labor Day was celebrated more than 140 years ago, but the fight is far from over.

That's why we take time on this day to look back on the accomplishments of the labor movement and reaffirm our commitment to action.

Keep the dream alive

We must continue to build a better society, one that prioritizes fairness and dignity. We stand together on Labor Day to keep the union dream alive for workers of future generations, because they are the ones who will lead the way.

I've had the honor to march alongside my daughters in the parade. Seeing them witness that we are a part of something much bigger than ourselves inspires me every year. I truly love seeing young people in the Labor Day parade, because the union affects them as much as anyone. As members with decades in the union, we can tell them about what the union means to us and what it has meant for our families in terms of financial security and union benefits that have been negotiated through hard work and dedication.

But they already feel it — parents



have a little less stress at home because they have support at work, and more pride in what they do for a living because they're respected a little more on the job. It's all on display when we get together for the parade without saying a word.

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