



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

New Jersey leads the nation with ban on predatory surveillance pricing

In July, UFCW International, UFCW local unions across New Jersey and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) celebrated the passage of the Fair Price Protection Act (A4085/S3612) through the New Jersey State Legislature, which will ban surveillance pricing and impose a moratorium on electronic shelf labels (ESLs) in grocery stores across New Jersey.

The legislation was then signed into law by Governor Mikie Sherrill.

“With costs continuing to rise, the last thing consumers need is price gouging at the grocery store,” Local 152 President Daniel Ross, Jr. said, alongside the presidents of UFCW Locals 312, 360, 464A, 1262, the RWDSU and RWDSU Local 108.

“This legislation will protect families across New Jersey from having their personal data used against them to squeeze every cent they have. Our state has taken a stand and made history with this legislation,” Ross continued.

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Member victories at ShopRite, Tyson, Cape Regional and more!

Local 152 members across industries proved in recent months that standing together pays off with strong, newly-ratified union contracts which improve their quality of life and respect the hard work they perform each day on the job.

ShopRite

On Aug. 4, more than 2,000 meat, seafood, and deli workers at more than 60 ShopRite supermarket locations across southern New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware overwhelmingly voted to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement.

After months of negotiations, the

union negotiating committee was able to secure historic contract improvements, including the largest wage package ever achieved for this bargaining unit with no concessions made.

The agreement includes substantial increases to department manager and classified position starting rates, along with annual wage increases which reward seniority and help address wage compression. Just as importantly, employer-funded union health benefits were protected for the term of the agreement.

In terms of quality-of-life improvements, members can now carry over a portion of unused vacation into

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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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Workers Local 152

EDITOR

Daniel Ross, Jr.

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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100% Union



Tyson Foods

Member victories across Local 152

Continued from front page

the following year, eliminating the need to use vacation time simply because the calendar year is ending. Eligible employees will also have the flexibility to use a week of vacation in individual days, which will provide members with greater flexibility to achieve better work-life balance.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2027, part-time employees who move into full-time positions will receive one-for-one credit toward their vacation benefit level. For years, members lost a portion of their vacation credit when bidding into full-time jobs. This long-overdue improvement increases vacation accruals for many current members while creating a stronger incentive for experienced part-time employees to pursue full-time opportunities.

The agreement also adds new leave of absence protections for college students, protections related to pandemics and dangerous emergencies, as well as expanded bereavement leave for immediate family members.

A team effort

The determination of members participating in solidarity days and standing together on the shop floor made the difference in this round of negotiations, as did a coordinated effort to build upon the gains Local 152 previously achieved in the South Jersey clerks contract.

The negotiating committee was led by

After months of negotiations, the union committee was able to secure historic contract improvements

President Daniel Ross, Jr., and rank-and-file Shop Stewards Barbara Stokley (West Chester, PA), Beth Martin (Upper Deerfield, N.J.), Bubba Hill (Wilmington, DE), Christopher Bair (Rio Grande, N.J.), Curt Hickey (Newark, DE), Dan Pomes (Glenolden, PA), Debbie Dodds (Local 27), Donyale Martin (Knorr Street, PA), Gregory Carbonaro (Somers Point), James Solly (Roosevelt Blvd, PA), Job Adams (Galloway, NJ), Joe Celia (Glassboro, NJ), Pam Elliott (Marlton, N.J.), Patricia Wagner (Marmora), Paul Vasapollo (Brooklawn, PA), Pete Evangelidis (Roxborough, PA), Shawn Still (Lawnside, N.J.), Tim Welsh (Burlington, N.J.), and Wendy Santiago (Ewing, N.J.).

Secretary-Treasurer Dan Konczyk, Executive Vice President Lisa Sanders, Executive Assistant to the President Danette Montes-Palmore, Union Representatives Kelli Wehmann, Ed Fuller, Cary Lawson, and S.P.U.R. Steve Rinaldi also played key roles on this committee.

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LEADERSHIP RE-ELECTED



**"Serving as your
President is the
greatest honor of my
professional life."**

**DANIEL ROSS, JR.
PRESIDENT**

UFCW Local 152 is proud to announce that President Daniel Ross, Jr. and the entire leadership slate have been re-elected by acclamation for the term commencing January 1, 2027!

"Serving as your President is the greatest honor of my professional life," President Ross said. "I am humbled and deeply grateful for your trust. This re-election reflects the strength of the team I am proud to serve alongside—our officers, staff, stewards, and rank-and-file members. Together, we will continue the fight for working families."

Congratulations to the entire Slate of Officers and thank you to every Local 152 member for your trust and support.

General Membership Meetings 2026

Sept. 15 • Dec. 8

**Meetings held on Tuesdays
10 a.m. and 7 p.m.**

Southern New Jersey*

Holiday Inn Philadelphia-Cherry Hill
2175 Marlton Pike West
Cherry Hill, N.J. 08002

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*

Hilton Wilmington/Christiana
100 Continental Dr.
Newark, DE 19731

***NEW LOCATION**

New Jersey leads nation with ban on surveillance pricing

Continued from front page

"We applaud the Senate and Assembly for their work on this issue, and we thank Senate President Scutari, Speaker Coughlin, Senator Cryan, and Assemblyman Onyema, who championed this bill to protect consumers and grocery workers. We look forward to Governor Sherrill signing this bill into law."

This is set to become the first law to effectively ban surveillance pricing and restrict ESLs. New Jersey is among 12 states to have joined the UFCW's "Affordable Groceries and Good Jobs Campaign" to ban the predatory practice of surveillance pricing, target the encroachment of AI-driven technology in grocery stores, and deliver fair prices for families while preserving good, union grocery jobs.

ESLs enable retailers to change prices instantaneously, and corporations are racing to deploy them. These systems could replace the skilled work of grocery clerks or, at the very least, leave them to explain a company's actions to rightfully angry shoppers.

Polling found that 61 percent of New Jersey voters think ESLs and 67 percent think surveillance pricing will cause grocery prices to increase. Support for proposed legislation in the state cut across party lines, with 65 percent in favor of banning this technology in grocery stores. More than 73 percent worried about the cost of groceries for their households.

Key UFCW priorities adopted at 2026 AFL-CIO convention

The AFL-CIO adopted two resolutions introduced by the UFCW at its 30th Constitutional Convention in Minneapolis on June 7–10. These resolutions address key priorities for members of Local 152 and include Resolution 25, which urges federal and state agencies to oppose harmful megamergers that diminish worker power, and Resolution 26, which urges lawmakers to ban surveillance pricing and electronic shelf labeling as part of the UFCW’s “Affordable Groceries and Good Jobs Campaign.”

I spoke at the convention in support of Resolution 25: “When corporate giants don’t have to compete with each other for labor, they have the power to suppress workers in every industry. We need strong corporate cops on the beat, standing up for working people, because who enforces the law matters. We urge all delegates to support this resolution, join the fight against corporate power, and take back our economy.”

UFCW International Vice President Regina Lambert spoke in support of Resolution 26: “[Electronic shelf labels] only threaten to worsen the affordability crisis and are simply a tool for price gouging. Our champions in Congress have already introduced legislation to ban these practices and we have introduced bills in a dozen state legislatures. People should shop and be able to know that they’re paying the same price as everyone else for the same product.”

UFCW convention delegates also spoke in support of other resolutions

‘Join the fight against corporate power, and take back our economy’

that impact UFCW members, including Resolution 2: We Are the Organized Power of Working People | AFL-CIO; Resolution 4: We Refuse to be Divided | AFL-CIO; and Resolution 8: We Want Healthy Lives and Safe Workplaces | AFL-CIO.

“This convention demonstrated the unity and strength of the Labor Movement at this pivotal moment for our country,” said UFCW International President Milton Jones, who served as co-chair of the AFL-CIO’s convention credentials committee. “We are thankful for the solidarity of the entire labor movement in advancing UFCW resolutions on AI, affordability, and corporate megamergers. Our union leaves this convention committed to continuing to invest in new organizing,



REGIONAL DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

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

stand up for immigrant workers, and fight for the safety of all working people on the job.”

You can learn more about the convention and resolutions by scanning the QR code below.





IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances resolved
2nd Quarter 2026: **105**

Back pay and benefits restored to members
2nd Quarter 2026:
\$102,400.00

New technology needs to prioritize workers, not profits

In the industries Local 152 serves, new technologies are always being introduced. Whether it's self-checkout in grocery stores, updates to machinery in processing plants or advanced software in health care worksites, these new technologies usually arrive with the promise of greater efficiency or convenience.

The reality is often much different. Workers and customers soon realize that these so-called advancements prioritize one thing above all: saving the company money or helping them make more of it.

Innovation with ethics

The concept of companies increasing profits is not a bad thing: when our companies do well it means more hours and opportunities for Local 152 members. Profits, however, should never have priority over workers.

In a perfect world, new technology on the job would make life better for workers and customers, and as a result of this improved experience, profits would rise. Instead, technological advancements usually lead to a reduction in staff, and leave the remaining workers overloaded and stretched too thin. An employer's top priority in these instances is saving money for the company.

For instance, the new electronic shelf

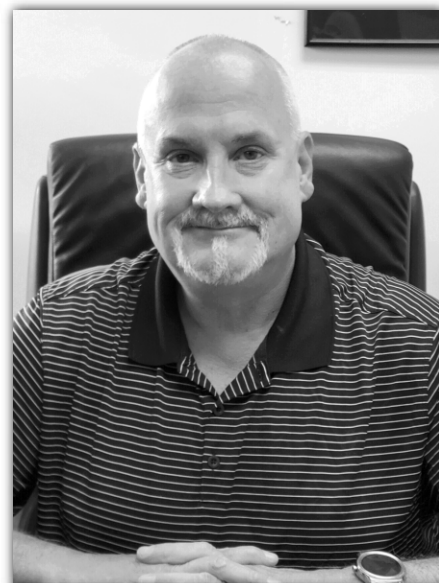
labels (ESLs) being introduced in grocery stores across our region and the country enable retailers to change prices on goods instantly based on surveillance data such as race, gender and income. This practice has thankfully been banned in New Jersey after new legislation was drafted following pressure from a labor coalition including Local 152 (see the front page article for more information).

Putting workers first

Before it was banned, however, this new technology sought to squeeze extra cash out of consumers without any consideration for what Local 152 members and other grocery workers would have to deal with on the floor. Customers would rightfully be angry when they realized their fellow shoppers were sometimes paying more or less for the same items based on company tracking.

Where would that anger be directed? Not at the company, but at our members who would have no control over the pricing changes, nor would they have insight into why the company charged one person more than another.

Your union is solely focused on ways to help and protect you, the member, not the bottom line. When new technology is introduced, we consider what it means for people rather than profits.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Dan Konczyk



**Fertility and Family Building
Benefit for members of
Local 152. Scan the
QR code to get started!**

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:





2026

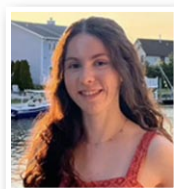
**Irv R. String Local 152
Scholarship Fund
recipients**



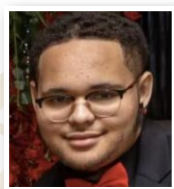
Ashlyn Baker is currently attending the University of Delaware and wants to obtain a bachelor's degree in Astronomy. Her father, Anthony Baker, is a UFCW Local 152 member at Kraft Heinz in Delaware.



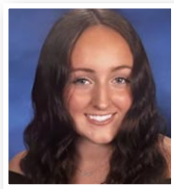
Tyler Brooks will be attending Duquesne University and is planning to study Jazz Performance. His father, Shon Brooks, is a UFCW Local 152 member and a Shop Steward at Acme Markets in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.



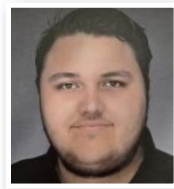
Brianna Comiskey is currently attending Kean University and is majoring in Business Administration. She is currently a member of UFCW Local 152 at Saker ShopRite in Waretown, New Jersey.



Japhet Delvalle will be attending Rowan University and is majoring in Computer Engineering. His father, Joshua Rogers, is currently a Local 152 member at Hello High Dispensary in Hammonton, N.J.



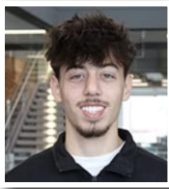
Emily Evans is currently attending The College of New Jersey and plans on becoming a licensed physical therapist. Her mother, Theresa Evans, is a Local 152 member at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional in Cape May Court House, N.J.



Tyler Fox will be attending Rowan University and plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Tyler and his mother, Andrea Fox, are both Local 152 members at Acme Markets in Seaville, N.J.



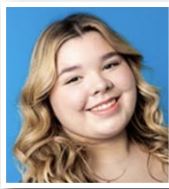
Richie Gonzales will be attending Rutgers University, where he plans to obtain a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering. His mother, Alena Gonzales, is a Local 152 member at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional.



Daniel Jones, III, is currently attending Moravian University and plans to become a physician in sports medicine or a dermatologist. His father, Daniel Jones, Jr., is a Local 152 member and Shop Steward at Johanna Foods in Flemington, N.J.



Lucas Knappenberger is currently attending Carnegie Mellon University and hopes to pursue a career as a Biomedical Engineer. His mother, Victoria Knappenberger, is a Local 152 member at Acme Markets in Horsham, PA.



Madison Lemon is currently attending Stockton University, where she is pursuing a career in Dance with a concentration in Movement Science. Madison is a UFCW Local 152 member at Acme Markets in Cape May Court House, N.J.



Alexander McCormick plans on attending Coastal Carolina University, where he will study Math and Psychology. Alexander is a UFCW Local 152 member at Acme Markets in Ocean City, N.J.



Sarah Neville is currently attending A.T. Still University Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health. Her father, William Brunt, Jr., is a Local 152 member and Shop Steward at the Borough of Highlands in N.J.



Lily Robert currently attends Rutgers – New Brunswick, where she pursues a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Her mother, Katherine Robert, is a Local 152 member at Acme Markets in Seaville, N.J.



Lisa Thomas is currently attending Penn State University in Harrisburg, PA, and is part of the Master of Arts Clinical Psychology program. Lisa's mother, Hong Hua, is a UFCW Local 152 member at Dietz and Watson in Philadelphia, PA.

Member victories across 152

Continued from page 2

Local 152 proudly represents more than 2,000 workers covered by the ShopRite Meat Agreement, including employees in the meat, seafood, and deli departments in ShopRite stores in southern New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Tyson Foods

On June 13, Local 152 members at Tyson Foods in Vineland, N.J., ratified a new three-year agreement.

In the new contract, all members have guaranteed wage increases annually for the life of the contract, in addition to a ratification bonus. The second shift's differential rate was increased, and those who work a shift that goes into another block will now earn that shift's differential. Funeral leave was also expanded.

The negotiating committee included Director of Bargaining Louis Faiola, Bargaining Representative Chad Brooks, Union Representative Carilisse Lopez, and Shop Stewards Aneudy Negrón and Juan Ortiz.

Local 152 proudly represents roughly 100 workers at Tyson Foods. Members work in production, sanitation, and in the warehouse of the Vineland plant.

Cape Regional Physicians Associates

In April, more than 100 workers at Cape Regional Physicians Associates ratified a new three-year union contract with health care savings and more.

All members will receive an immediate, across-the-board wage increase as well as annual increases for the life of the contract. They will also move into a different health care plan, creating significant cost savings for most employees without



sacrificing quality care.

Paid time off accruals for senior members is increased, and language was added to clearly define the use and scheduling of PTO, rewarding seniority when necessary.

The negotiating committee included President Daniel Ross, Jr., Bargaining Representative Chad Brooks, Director of Field Services Peggy Kelly, and committee members Kerry Owens and Teresa Parker.

Local 152 proudly represents the nurses, medical assistants, receptionists, and clerical workers at more than a dozen offices throughout Cape May County, New Jersey, offering health care services ranging from family medicine to specialized care.

Taylor Provisions

On June 15, members at Taylor Provisions voted unanimously to ratify a new union contract.

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.



Member victories

Continued from previous page

After more than a year of negotiations, the new three-year agreement guarantees annual wage increases for the life of the contract, in addition to a sizeable ratification bonus.

New with this contract, the Working Forman, Boiler Operator and Forklift Operator positions will now receive an hourly premium.

Members' top-tier union-negotiated health care benefits were also preserved.

The negotiating committee included Executive Vice President Lisa Sanders, Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Ernest Dunmore, Shop Stewards Christopher Cruz and Gladys Soto, and committee member Young So Kim.

Local 152 proudly represents 40 workers at Taylor Provisions in Trenton, N.J., working in production and operating at the plant best known for the Taylor Pork Roll.



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

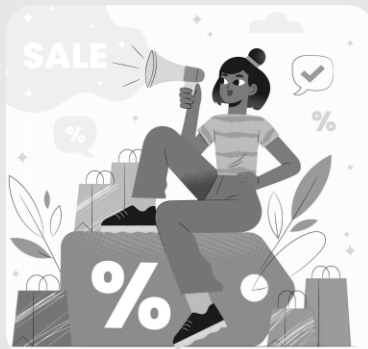
Jersey Shore

- 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!



FOLLOW LOCAL 152 ONLINE

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x.com/ufcwlocal152

instagram.com/ufcwlocal152/

Happy retirement!

Geneva A. Addison	5/01/26	Colonial Beef Co.
Annmarie Affrunti	5/01/26	Acme Markets
Cynthia A. Alloway	6/01/26	Super Fresh
Sarah M. Arcarese	6/01/26	Big V Supermarkets
Dale A. Auman	7/01/26	Berks Packing Co.
Bonnie D. Bailey	5/01/26	Acme Markets
June F. Ball	7/01/26	Acme Markets
Joan Breslin	6/01/26	Shoprite Of Mullica Hill
Laurie A. Canfield	7/01/26	Edwards Super Food Stores
Mischelle M. Ceulers	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Betty J. Gandler	7/01/26	Colonial Beef Co.
Daniel Chirieleison	7/01/26	Acme Markets
Roberta D. Crosson	6/01/26	Brown's Superstores
Mary Ann Cummings	6/01/26	Supermarkets General
Nancy E. Faretty	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Lisa L. Fecera Gifford	6/01/26	Supermarkets General
Edward W. Frazier	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Monica P. Frucelli	8/01/26	Acme Markets
Patricia A. Hogan	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Donna A. Iamiceli	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Dawn M. Johnson	6/01/26	Acme Markets
David Jones	5/01/26	General Supermarkets
Thomas J. Joyce	6/01/26	Creative Supermarkets
Carol A. Karpinski	5/01/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Michael P. Kelly	6/01/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 198
Jane P. Lawrence	6/01/26	Saker ShopRite
Carmen C. Lerro	5/01/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Pasquale J. Lerro, Jr.	6/01/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Thomas Lorman	5/01/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Edwina J. Macneal	5/01/26	Ball Park Brands
Nancy McDowell	8/01/26	Acme Markets
Shaun K. McGovern	7/01/26	Acme Markets
Joanne Milsop	7/01/26	Eickhoff Supermarkets
June Mongiello	7/01/26	Acme Markets
Maximino Morales, Jr.	7/01/26	Berks Packing Co.
George M. Myers	7/01/26	Rhawnhurst
John P. O'Malley	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Michael P. Perri	6/01/26	Starn's ShopRite
Troy Redmond	6/01/26	
Barbara A. Rein	7/01/26	Village ShopRite
Jeanmarie Rhoades	5/01/26	Acme Markets
Virginia Riccardelli	8/01/26	Acme Markets
Gloria J. Scull	5/01/26	Acme Markets
Michael J. Silvestera	7/01/26	Holiday Markets
Pamela K. Slusarczyk	7/01/26	Bottino's Supermarkets
Deborah Smith	7/01/26	Acme Markets



William G. Stokley	7/01/26	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
John Sturm	6/01/26	Super Fresh
Susan J. Terifay	5/01/26	Acme Markets
Mark E. Valenti	7/01/26	Supermarkets General
Paula M. Vandergrift	5/01/26	Super Fresh
Barbara Weland	7/01/26	Acme Markets
Mark West	6/01/26	Colligas Family Market
Mary Ann Williams	5/01/26	General Supermarkets
Charles S. Willis, Jr.	5/01/26	Berks Packing Co.
Belinda S. Zweigle	7/01/26	Super Fresh

In memoriam

Deborah Adams	5/28/26	Acme Markets
Michael J. Amalfitano, Jr.	7/11/26	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Peter Arch, Jr.	5/24/26	ShopRite Manahawkin
John E. Berry	6/12/26	Acme Markets
Catherine Bowman	5/01/26	Acme Markets
Lolly Boyd	6/01/26	Acme Markets
Calvin Burke	5/09/26	Incollingo's IGA
Renee Carbin	7/16/26	Acme Markets
Gerry Carbonara	7/07/26	SNB Beall's
Gerry M. Carbonara	7/27/26	Talk Of The Town 510
Roberta A. Cavanaugh	7/11/26	Acme Markets
Patricia C. Chance	5/03/26	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Earl Chandler	6/10/26	Colonial Beef Co.
William Chapman	6/09/26	Newark ShopRite
Jay A. Coleman	6/20/26	Acme Markets
Thomas P. Coleman	7/19/26	Acme Markets
John N. Conner	5/08/26	Natpac, Inc.
Dorothy J. Conover	6/26/26	Village ShopRite
Darlene Day	6/08/26	Acme Markets
Gerald J. DeJoseph	6/29/26	Acme Markets
Myrna E. Dilks	6/27/26	Stop & Shop
Elizabeth Downey	7/07/26	Zallie's Supermarket

Dan Hendrickson

Acme Markets

(pictured with
Union Representative
Steve Rinaldi)

Happy retirement!

Donald B. Evans
Margaret Fasano
Peter French
Donna M. Gaug
Vincent J. Giamporcaro
Evelyn James
Wilma E. Jamison
Richard Krueger
Rita Kuper
Emily Lavecchia
Allen M. Miller
Mary E. Mitchell
Owen J. Morris
Raymond Morrissey
Beverly Mull
Mary E. Nuskey
Debra A. Schulke
Theresa M. Segin
John A. Sheekey
Leslie Simmons
Carlyn Slivar
Daniel F. Soufer
Roberta A. Spilis
Joseph M. Strocen
David W. Taberer
Patrica Tallio
Gale S. Tarpine
Barbara M. Taylor
Paul Leo Troutner
Diane Trubiano-Schmitz
Claire Vanartsdalen
Charles H. Weller
Theresa L. Whalen
Warren K. Yeager Sr

6/26/26
6/06/26
7/24/26
6/04/26
5/28/26
7/11/26
5/21/26
7/19/26
7/17/26
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6/10/26
6/10/26
5/12/26
5/07/26

George Wollman
Acme Markets
Supermarkets General
Acme Markets
Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Old Fashioned Kitchen
Pathmark Stores/Local 198
Laneco Inc. Food Lane
R&R ShopRite, Inc.
Pathmark Stores/Local 196
West End Food Center
Super Fresh
Acme Markets
Super Fresh
General Supermarkets
Acme Markets
Brown's Superstores
Acme Markets
Colligas Family Market
Center City Food Rite
Holiday Markets
Acme Markets
Acme Markets
Pathmark Stores/Local 196
Pathmark Stores/Local 152
General Supermarkets
Vineland Shop N Bag
Acme Markets
Acme Markets
Bottino's Supermarkets
Acme Markets
M&E #2384
Super Fresh
Eickhoff Supermarkets



**The UFCW Mobile
Health Unit is BACK!**

**And it's
coming to
a location
near YOU!**



ufcwlocal152.org

CHILDCARE CREDIT AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL 152 MEMBERS

Applications are due Sept. 30, 2026.

Please submit your application via email
to communications@ufcwlocal152.org
and they will be forwarded to the
UFCW Women's Network.

What to do if you are part of an investigation

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.

Know your rights: Always ask for union representation when your employer wants a meeting that could lead to disciplinary action.

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

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Building what comes next

As we look ahead, it is important to recognize where we are today and, more importantly, where we need to go as a local union.

I am proud of the work we are doing. We have established a strong reputation for bargaining aggressively and standing up for our members when employers mistreat them. At the same time, we have demonstrated a willingness to be a reliable partner when opportunities arise that benefit our members and the industries in which they work.

There will always be room to improve, new challenges to confront, and new opportunities to pursue. Our responsibility is to continue building a stronger, more effective, and more forward-looking union.

Building the workforce of tomorrow

Workplaces are evolving quickly. Technology, e-commerce, and artificial intelligence are reshaping how our work is performed. As these changes continue, we must make sure that skilled workers remain essential to the future of our industries.

We are currently exploring the development of a stronger meatcutter apprenticeship program. With many of our journeymen butchers approaching retirement, we need a pipeline of skilled workers ready to step into these critical roles. If we can successfully bring labor, employers, and workforce development organizations together around a common goal, we can create career opportunities for our members while preserving and passing on a trade near and dear to our union.

Preparing for the future also means

ensuring technology is used responsibly. The UFCW recently led efforts that resulted in New Jersey becoming the first state in the nation to ban surveillance pricing and establish a moratorium on new electronic shelf labels in grocery stores (see front page article).

We can no longer wait for technology to change our workplaces and then react. We need to be at the table, shaping the future and making sure technology only makes work safer and more efficient—not a tool that simply eliminates jobs and reduces the labor hours of working people.

Growing our voice

Our voice cannot stop in the workplace. Decisions made in Trenton and Washington directly affect our members' wages, health care, retirement security, and rights on the job. That is why political engagement and member participation are important. We do not need to agree on every issue to agree on one fundamental principle: Working people deserve the opportunity to earn a good living, support their families, and build a secure future.

Political engagement is not about telling our members how to vote. It is about making sure working people have a say in the decisions that affect their lives, their families, and their workplaces. Our union must make sure elected officials understand that we are paying attention and that the collective voice of our members matters.

Building a stronger Local 152

I am very optimistic about what we can achieve in the years ahead. Our goal should



never be simply to preserve what we have. Our goal should always be to build on it. The responsibility we have is bigger than any one contract campaign, organizing drive or legislative victory.

Our responsibility is to make sure Local 152 remains strong and prepared for whatever challenges arise. That is how we honor the members who built this great union and that is how we'll be prepared for what comes next!