



New contract at Lassonde Pappas

Members at Lassonde Pappas & Co. in Bridgeton, N.J., ratified a new contract with improvements across the board.

The three-year agreement includes a substantial retro pay provision, yearly wage increases, increased premiums for higher-skilled positions, increased sick days, paid steward days and enhanced bereavement leave.

(Please see page 2)



Why should I take the COVID-19 vaccine?

For your safety and the safety of those around you, it is important to get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as it is available.

Local 152 members in grocery stores, processing plants and health care facilities are at a higher risk for COVID-19 because of the work they perform, and those members should receive the vaccination as soon as possible to lower their chances of not only contracting the virus, but also bringing it home to their families

and communities.

The vaccine is well-researched and safe to receive. It works by introducing genetic material that trains the immune system to neutralize the virus if it enters the body. Side effects from receiving the vaccine are usually resolved within two days and include minor reactions such as fatigue, headache and muscle pain. A very small number of people may react allergically to the vaccine, so it is a

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UFCW Local 152 Unity

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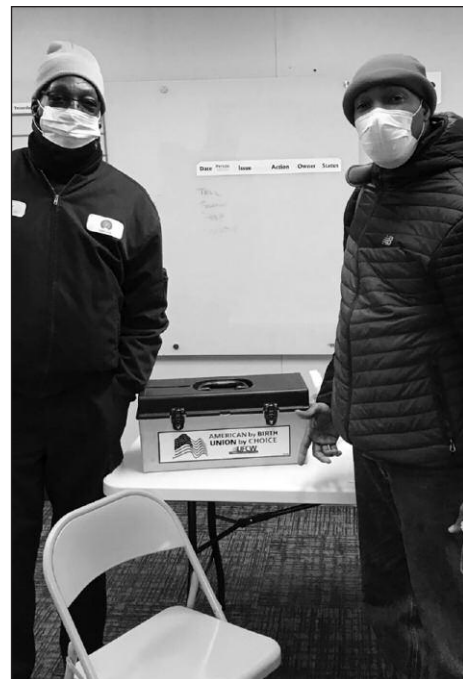
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100% Union



New contract at Lassonde Pappas

(Continued from front page)

The negotiating committee was able to maintain zero employee cost share for Tier 1 employees. Members in Tier 2 either received a substantial reduction in their cost share or their current contribution frozen for the length of the agreement.

Members will also now have the ability to elect voluntary supplemental benefits through payroll deduction and

contract language was updated for clarity.

The negotiating committee included Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining Daniel Ross, Vice President Carmine DelVicario, Director of Organizing Chad Brooks, Chief Steward Lance Winchester; Stewards Ronald Wolfe, Walt Allison, Francisco Rivera and Christopher McDowell; and committee members Carol Kasson, Harry Shields and Sean McDaniels.

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved:

2020 total

198

Back pay and benefits restored to members:

2020 total

\$121,072.57

Local 152 Members at Work



Apply for the Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship!

Applications are due by March 26, 2021.

The Scholarship Fund will award \$2,000 cash grants to eligible members or dependents of members who will be attending college full time this fall.

Determination of winners will be made based on school records, SAT scores, personal activities and need.

Selection will be made on the recommendation of an outside independent committee. Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by Friday, March 26, 2021.

To apply, call (888) 564-6152 or visit ufewlocal152.org.



Changes at ShopRite

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

ShopRite of Hunterdon County has opened its first micro-fulfillment center adjacent to the retailer's high-volume unit in Flemington, N.J. The new facility is expected to increase capacity for "ShopRite from Home" orders and enhance the online shopping experience for customers.

The new micro-fulfillment center will assemble a portion of each online order before the order is completed at the store. The technology is expected to ease pressure on in-store teams by increasing online shopping capacity and allowing store associates to focus on personally shopping fresh foods such as meat and produce for online orders.

Customers can pick up their ShopRite from Home orders curbside and in-store or have them home delivered. This is the third micro-fulfillment center developed by Takeoff Technologies for Wakefern in the ShopRite system. The other two opened earlier this year in Egg Harbor, N.J. and Clifton, N.J.

Location closing in Maryland

Village ShopRite will be closing its Silver Spring, Md., unit on Feb. 28, leaving Wakefern with only one store in Maryland (Timonium) and I'm wondering if the Sumas family is considering pulling out of a marketing area where its next closest store is more than 100 miles away. Both the Silver Spring and Lutherville stores were originally Super Fresh (A&P) units which were acquired at auction in 2011. Neither store performed poorly (Timonium's volume was slightly higher) but sales in no way resembled many of Village's other stores that are primarily located in New Jersey.

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



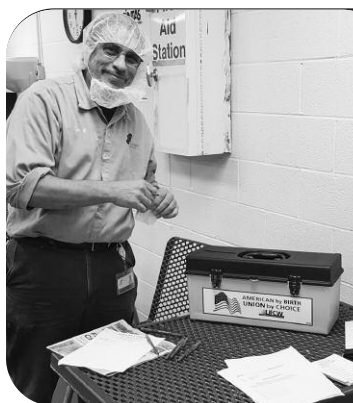
Happy Retirement!

Congratulations to **Gary Ditzel**, who retired from the seafood and deli departments at ShopRite in Manahawkin, N.J. He will miss the many customers he became friends with through the years. Pictured, from left: Seafood Manager and Shop Steward Michelle Scott, Ditzel and Local 152 Union Representative Mike Thompson.

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.



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.

Get the facts from your union, not unreliable sources

You've heard it from President String, you've heard it from me and you've heard it from your union rep: "Do not spread misinformation."

This is good advice to follow when the union is negotiating a contract on your behalf. We need a united front to secure the best contract possible, and when lies and half-truths are floating around on the work floor and in break rooms, it only serves to weaken and divide us.

It's damaging enough when falsehoods are spread throughout a grocery store or processing plant. It gets even worse when they've spread unchecked across the entire country.

That is the unfortunate situation we're in now. Social media across all platforms are overrun with conspiracy theories containing misinformation and lies. The corporations that own these powerful platforms have been unable — and, at times, unwilling — to confront this problem as well as they should.

Reducing the tension

Falsehoods can be dangerous. Our

members who interact with the public every day are facing stress because they don't know if their next customer will respect the advice of medical experts and follow safety protocols. Most of us have encountered individuals who refuse to wear masks because they have been duped by conspiracy theorists and political extremists.

We can do our part to reduce unnecessary tensions by getting our facts from trusted sources, including Local 152's website and printed materials, such as this publication, *Unity*. Whether you need accurate details about the COVID-19 vaccine or information on the fight for hazard pay, you can get it from your union.

Social media like Facebook and Twitter have become the primary news source for millions of Americans. This phenomenon has had some positive aspects, such as the inclusion of previously neglected voices in the national conversation. But social media still has much to learn from the old ways of gathering and disseminating news, such as research, reliable sourcing and taking



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Anthony Benigno

responsibility for published content.

To live in a truth-based society, we must be vigilant when choosing our news sources and let the facts guide us through these uncertain times. In doing so, we will take better care of ourselves and each other.

Visit **UFCW.ORG/LANGUAGE** today.

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Flowing with the spirit

Member Curtis Watson looks out for his coworkers and parishioners

When Local 152 member Curtis Watson clocks in to work at the Kraft Heinz facility in Dover, Del., he's continuing a family tradition.

His mother, Mary Watson, was one of the first workers at the processing plant when it opened in 1964. She was pregnant with Curtis at the time.

He remembers being taught union values at home growing up, so he understood he needed to find a union job for himself when it was time.

"It was important for me to work a union job," he said. "I knew everything would be done properly at the workplace and my job would be more secure. I would be able to take care of my family."

He also was impressed by the wages and benefits on offer when he started at the facility in 1989. As a machine operator, he monitors the production and quality of flavor packets that can be added to bottles or glasses of water.

Sales of the product have been surging since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has translated into additional hours for workers at the plant, which recently increased its operation to seven days a week.

"It's been really challenging," he said, with workers maintaining distance from each other while wearing face masks, face shields and earplugs to protect their hearing. "But you've gotta do what you have to protect yourself and your family. We've been up to the challenge — we do it for each other."

Safety first

Watson has been on the safety team at his workplace for more than 15 years. He conducts safety audits of the equipment, files monthly reports and is a point of contact for other workers who can report safety issues to him and get them resolved.

He also serves in a committee to help solve scheduling issues for workers, many of whom come in to work at 3:30 a.m.



"We're going to come up with some alternatives and take them to our plant manager," he said.

"Dealing with babysitting is difficult for a single parent," he added, "and the extra hours can take a toll on your immune system. We're finding new solutions so people can maintain their jobs and still maintain their health."

'It's a calling'

When the stress of his job threatens to overwhelm him, Watson finds it helps to pray.

His strong faith is something he has held throughout his life, and he knew at a young age that he would be a leader in the ministry. For the past six years he has been a pastor at Plain Truth Baptist Church in Hartly, Del., alongside his nephew, Frank Watson, who is also a pastor.

"I'm doing what I've been called to do, and it's fulfilling,"

he said.

Curtis worked with the late pastor of Plain Truth at the Kraft Heinz facility before taking over the leadership role.

"He was my mentor," he said. "I always knew the Lord, but he brought that feeling back when I visited his church."

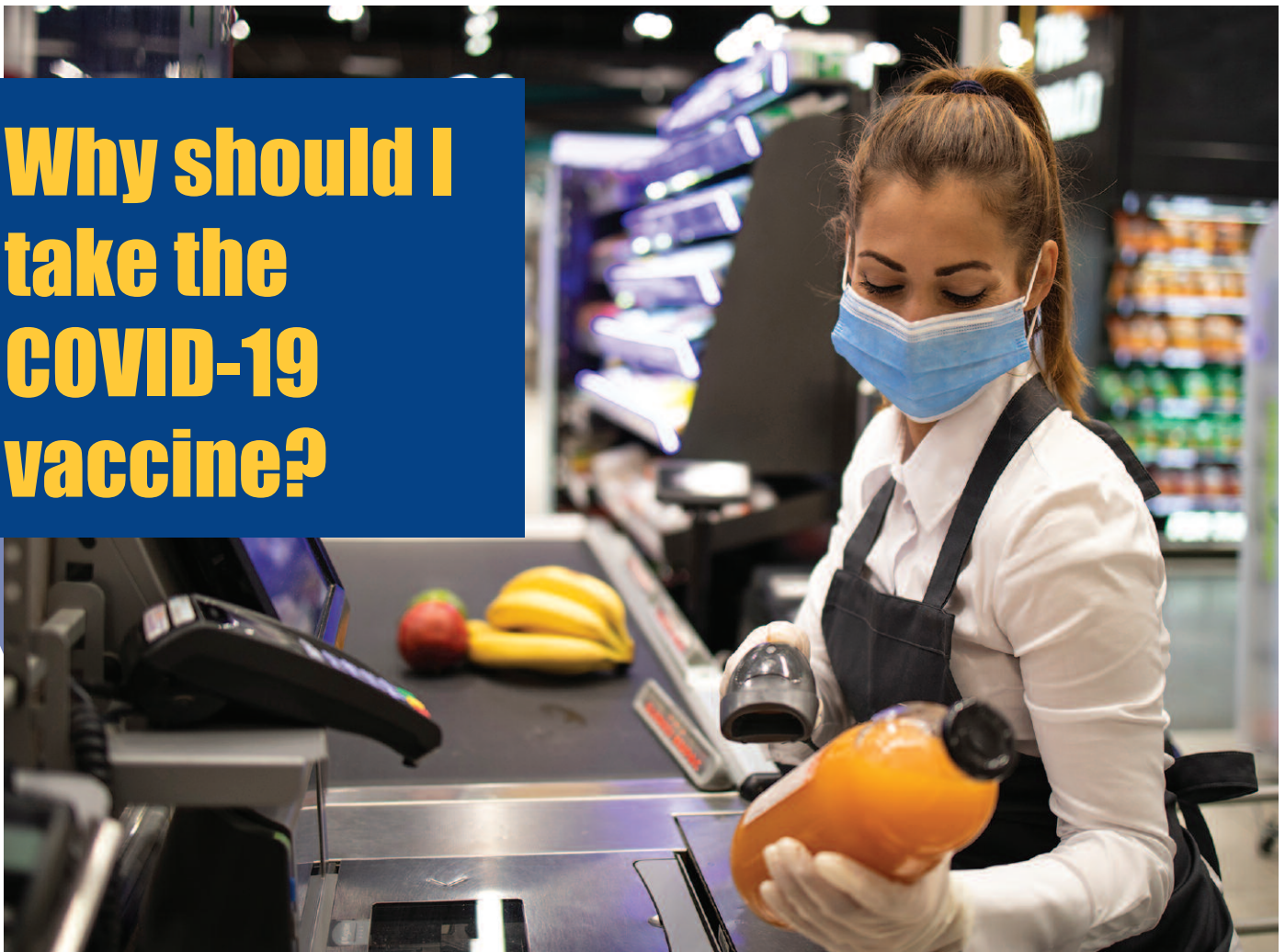
Watson lives with his wife, Angela, his stepchildren, Asia and Janai, and his grandchild, Myles, who will turn 3 years old in March.

He has received many compliments from his congregation since taking over the pastor role, both for his sermons and his teachings during Wednesday night Bible study.

The ideas for his Sunday sermons sometimes come to him through meditation, but more often while he is on the job and thinking about the lessons from Bible study. He does study and plan out his words, but many of them appear only in the moment.

"It takes preparation — you have to know what you want to communicate," he said. "But when the time comes, I don't preach with notes a lot. I flow with the spirit."

Why should I take the COVID-19 vaccine?



Three Ways to Avoid COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

While vaccination details are getting worked out, here's what you can be sure of:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- Nobody legit will call about the vaccine and ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. **That's a scam.**

Ignore any vaccine offers that say different, or ask for personal or financial information.

Learn more at

ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams

consumerresources.org/beware-coronavirus-scams



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COVID-19 vaccine

(Continued from front page)

good idea for those with a history of medical allergies to remain close to the vaccination location for 30 minutes following the injection.

Just as we have all worn masks, practiced social distancing and washed our hands over the past year, we must also receive both doses of the vaccine in order to help the U.S. reach herd immunity and get the spread of the virus under control.

Only through widespread vaccination against the coronavirus can we fully protect at-risk members across our state and the country and begin to return to a long-awaited sense of normality.

Talk to your health care provider about when you may be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information

Each state is handling the vaccine distribution differently. Visit ufcwlocal152.org for up-to-date information about eligibility and availability in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Manufacturing industry update



Health care protected, wages increased in new Goya Foods contract

Local 152 members at Goya Foods in Pedricktown, N.J., made a unanimous decision to ratify a strong new contract.

The new five-year agreement includes yearly wage increases, increases in shift differentials in some job classifications, better grievance language and a yearly maintenance of benefits increase to protect members' health care.

The negotiating committee included Local 152 Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Executive Director Danette Montes-Palmore, and committee members Jose Vazquez, Luis Vazquez and Julio Duran (not pictured).



Contract success!

Members at Bevco in Edgewater Park, N.J., ratified a new contract thanks in part to the hard work of the negotiating committee, which included Local 152 Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Lisa Sanders, Union Representative Jose Echevarria, Shop Steward John Grover and committeeperson Kevin Keller.

Health care industry update

Members at United Methodist ratify improved new contract

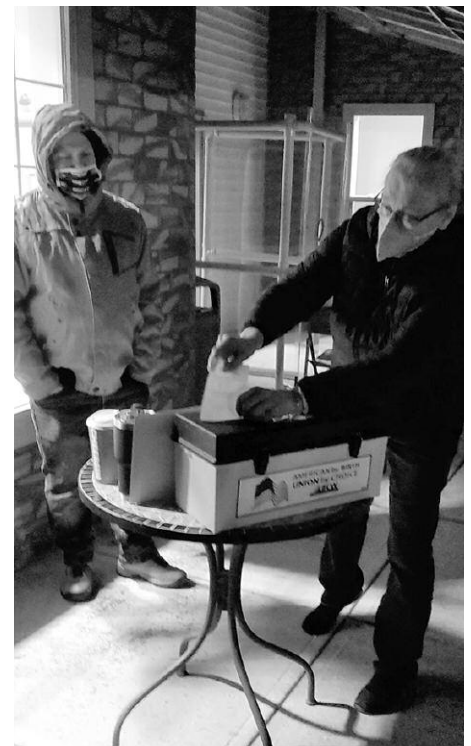
Local 152 members at United Methodist Communities at Bristol Glen in Newton, N.J., have ratified a new three-year contract.

Members will receive retro pay, yearly wage increases, a ratification bonus, a longevity program, increased pay differential in the health care department and a lower cost share for health care benefits.

The agreement includes an increase to the yearly shoe allowance and reinforces that the employer pays the cost of any mandatory health examinations, tests and vaccinations. The bargaining unit for this location will also now include all therapists from the physical therapy department.

The negotiating committee included Local 152 Director of Organizing Chad

Brooks, Director of Field Services Peggy Kelly, Union Representatives Matte Kane & Peter White, Stephanie Anistevich, Jerri Desposito, Peggy Albert and Jo-ellen Kwiatkowsky.





Food baskets

Every year during the holidays, Local 152 — with help from the Village ShopRite of Somers Point — purchases food “baskets” and distributes them to members picked by the stewards in their facilities. We are grateful to the volunteers who make this possible, with special thanks going to Union Representative Cary Lawson, Store Director Nancy Mahoney and Shop Steward John Puesi.



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Happy retirement!

Joann Allgeyer	12/01/2020	Village ShopRite
Patricia J. Amenhauser	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
James A. Bucci	12/01/2020	Freda Corp
Maryann Cardona	10/01/2020	Acme Markets
James Citta	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Brian F. Coach	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
Susan Colavito	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Kurt Crede	10/31/2020	Acme Markets
Murray L. Davidson	10/01/2020	Langhorne Shop 'n' Bag
Cynthia J. Davis	12/01/2020	Incollingo's Iga
Jaralyn Redira Delance	01/01/2021	Acme Markets
Joan M. Denoma	11/01/2020	Village ShopRite
Carol A. Digiamberardino	11/01/2020	Stop & Shop
Gail A. Ellis	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
Barbara G. Ferguson	10/01/2020	Super Fresh
Merrill Fowle	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Barbara Gallagher	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Vickie L. Gillespie	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Anne R. Golden	09/01/2020	Acme Markets
Sally A. Green	09/01/2020	Collins Family
Syed K. Hameed	11/01/2020	Pathmark Stores
Helen Hampton	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Pamela Hardick	11/01/2020	Super Fresh
Robin K. Haubert	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
Barbara A. Heller	01/01/2021	Eickhoff ShopRite
Juan C. Heredia	12/01/2020	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.
Michael P. Hines	01/01/2021	Pathmark Stores
Teresa F. Hoover	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
Helene C. Hulme	12/01/2020	Pathmark Stores
Barbara A. Kays	11/01/2020	Pathmark Stores
George Kostiuk	12/01/2020	General Supermarkets
Patricia Lazicki	12/01/2020	Village Shop Rite
Robert E. Marter	01/01/2021	Jon Breslow Deli Products
Veridiana Martinez	12/01/2020	Envirochem
James C. McAllister	12/01/2020	Freda Corp
Randy L. McCurry	12/01/2020	Acme Markets
Martha T. Mercado	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Michael Mulvihill	12/01/2020	Ball Park Branda
Debra L. Nevrincean	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Lisa O'Toole	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Renukaben D. Patel	12/01/2020	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.
Charles Rehr	12/01/2020	C & R Family Foods, Inc.
Patricia Richards	01/01/2021	Super Fresh
Donald Rossman	01/01/2021	Acme Markets
James M. Rowe	11/01/2020	ShopRite Of Manahawkin
Diane H. Sacchetti	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
Michele Schaffer	12/01/2020	George's Market

Barbara J. Sharp	11/01/2020	Zallie's ShopRite
Linda A. Shevlin	01/01/2021	Acme Markets
Robert Marti Snowden	11/01/2020	Burlington Shop 'n' Bag
Sheree Steedle	01/01/2021	Acme Markets
Donna M. Stoelker	12/01/2020	Zallie's ShopRite
Barbara Tabibian	11/01/2020	Acme Markets
James C. Thompson, Jr.	09/01/2020	Super Fresh
Alison I. Tieman	12/01/2020	Eickhoff ShopRite
Randy L. Valentine	09/01/2020	Acme Markets
Robert Vicario	01/01/2021	Acme Markets

In memoriam

Richard Banks	12/10/2020	Pathmark Stores
Jean C. Bartlett	12/12/2020	Pathmark Stores
Jean Benigno	12/24/2020	Acme Markets
Esteban R. Benique	01/13/2021	Eastern Boneless Beef
Maryann Bogart	11/05/2020	Acme Markets
Joanne Brucker	12/09/2020	Acme Markets
John M. Buck	01/10/2021	Super Fresh
Dorothy M. Butler	11/17/2020	Greatscot
Alice Cassella	11/25/2020	Pickwell SHS Enterprises, Inc.
Robert B. Gerenzio	12/08/2020	Liberty Thrift
Amos Cherry	10/11/2020	Milden & White
Lena Daniels	11/17/2020	Dietz & Watson
Mary Ann Farrell	01/14/2021	Super Fresh
Linda S. Gates	12/05/2020	Stop & Shop
Stark Gilliam	10/10/2020	Diamond Meat Co.
Virginia Givin	10/28/2020	Super Fresh
Rita Goffredo	01/05/2021	Brown's ShopRite
Willie E. Graham	12/24/2020	Ball Park Brands
Rudolph Grassia	01/11/2021	UFCW Local 152
Rudolph Grassia	01/11/2021	Amalg. Food Proc. Local 190
John J. Green	01/13/2021	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Ernest Grieb	12/20/2020	Super Fresh
David J. Groff	12/18/2020	Whitehall ShopRite
Joseph P. Hahn	11/20/2020	Acme Markets
Clarence D. Hare	12/12/2020	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Rowland C. Hoopes	11/11/2020	Acme Markets
John Howat	12/16/2020	Medford Inc.
Dolores Ingram	12/07/2020	Acme Markets
Eunice R. Jones	10/20/2020	Acme Markets
Joseph. A Mangano	11/25/2020	Zallie's ShopRite
Mary Ann McClarnon	01/24/2021	Super Fresh
Tyrone M. McCutcheon	11/26/2020	Village ShopRite
Stephanie Mikalic	11/10/2020	Colonial Beef
Angelo Miragliolo	12/29/2020	Super Fresh
Vincent A. Montesano	01/27/2021	Pathmark Stores
Thomas Moore, Sr.	12/04/2020	Ball Park Brands

Please see next page

Local 152 successful in bringing cannabis workers to UFCW

In January, workers at the medical cannabis company Verano NJ located in Branchburg, N.J., announced their intention to organize with the UFCW.

The workers made the decision to unionize following a joint organizing effort by UFCW Locals 152 and 360. The 80 employees at the company work in cultivation and extraction of cannabis, as well as preparing the product for sale.

“Cannabis workers are skilled, trained and caring professionals,” said Local 152 Union Representative Hugh Giordano, who assisted in the organizing effort. “Having a union will make it so they can speak up for not only themselves as workers, but also on other working-class issues such as patients’ rights.”



Verano NJ, which is permitted to cultivate and process medical cannabis in New Jersey, recently held a series of job fairs and is seeking to expand its work force. The major factors that prompted the workers to seek union representation were dignity on the job and long-term security, Giordano said.

“Verano workers want to know they have health care, along with dental, vision and prescription coverage,” he said. “They also want to know this is a career with a path to retirement.”

The negotiating committee for the first contract will reflect the diversity of the work force, including women, people of color and other groups that are often underrepresented, Giordano said.

“I believe we can have a positive bargaining experience which will lead to a happy work force,” he said.

“Having a UFCW voice will let these workers send a loud and clear message to their colleagues in the industry: ‘We’re organized — and so can you!’”

Continued from previous page

Allen Perkins	11/08/2020	Pathmark Stores
Catherine Portella	11/29/2020	Super Fresh
Nancy Price	01/22/2021	Super Fresh
William R. Rickenbach	11/21/2020	Acme Markets
Robert C. Roschel	12/16/2020	Acme Markets
James Rose	12/01/2020	Food Fair, Inc.
Grace Sacco	10/22/2020	Acme Markets
Maria Sawicky	12/03/2020	Formost Kosher Meat Packers
Larry I. Sax	11/06/2020	Village ShopRite
Margaret E. Seibert	12/09/2020	Acme Markets
Romayne Senkowsky	12/05/2020	Super Fresh
Melanie Sharpe	11/23/2020	Acme Markets, Inc.
Margaret E. Turlington	11/14/2020	Ace Supermarket
Jose R. Velez	12/25/2020	George Wollman Wholesale
Lavinia Wachter	11/29/2020	A & P Tea Company
David E. Waligurski	01/16/2021	ShopRite of West Chester
Robert F. Wernett	01/23/2021	Reading ShopRite
Lenore P. Wisner-Greger	11/28/2020	



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Vaccine priority for America's frontline workers

Last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold of the world, many people realized what we at Local 152 have known all along: that the hardworking members of this union are the cornerstones of our communities.

Our members in manufacturing plants maintain the food supply chain so our country doesn't descend into chaos. Our grocery store members keep families fed in a time of crisis. Our health care members look after the most vulnerable among us.

Surely, these important citizens must be among the first in line for the vaccine so they can keep doing what they do in their high-exposure workplaces.

We are calling on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize these brave men and women for early access to the COVID-19 vaccine, with health care workers at the front of the line.

Better for all of us

Protecting our country's workers in the grocery, meatpacking and food processing industries is essential to keeping our communities safe now and in the future. The CDC must recognize

the vital services these workers provide by ensuring they are among the first to receive access to the COVID-19 vaccine after health care workers.

The data shows why we must act on this as soon as possible. A report by the UFCW International Union recently confirmed the rapidly growing impact of COVID-19 on frontline workers. The numbers show that among our UFCW brothers and sisters across the country there have been at least 350 frontline worker deaths and at least 48,000 infected or exposed. These include at least 109 grocery worker deaths, plus more than 17,400 infected or exposed to the virus.

Fighting for you

It is my role as a union leader to help you in any way I can to represent your interests and protect your health as you do your job.

In addition to fighting for your right to vaccine priority, we continue calling on all of our employers to provide hazard pay, guarantee free COVID-19 testing and PPE for workers, provide paid sick leave to all sick or exposed workers, increase transparency when outbreak



occurs, and much more.

You deserve these protections because you help make our communities healthy, secure and pleasant places to live and work. The sooner you receive the vaccine, the sooner we can all spend more time together in our homes and public spaces.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian String'.