



UNITY

WINTER 2024



152 President Brian String to retire after 39 years in UFCW

Local 152 President Brian String, who has served as leader of the union since its inception in 2005, will retire on April 1.

Executive Assistant to the President Dan Ross, Jr., will succeed String as the next president of Local 152.

String’s vision for a best-in-class union after the merger of Locals 56 and 1358 was realized through a commitment to organizing and a members-first philosophy that resulted in a loyal, motivated membership and a series of successes over two decades.

“I’m grateful and lucky I was able to do what I did,” String said. “Not
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Standing together

Johanna Foods members hold the line

On Dec. 13, members at Johanna Foods in Flemington, N.J., stood strong and voted to ratify a historic new contract.

Local 152 represents more than 110 members at Johanna Foods, a facility that produces yogurts and more.

The successful contract negotiation came just weeks after the membership at Johanna Foods unanimously gave a strike authorization to their negotiating committee.

This strong display of solidarity, coupled with a public awareness campaign supported by the UFCW International Union, ultimately helped deliver this landmark agreement.

“Many of these workers have dedicated their working lives to Johanna Foods,” Assistant to the President/Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Jr., said. “They care about what they do and their solidarity helped send a strong message that

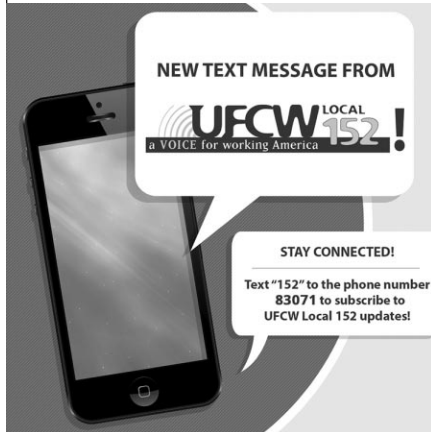


enabled us to bargain a tremendous package for these members.”

Local 152 members will first receive a substantial retroactive wage increase. The general wage increase for the life of the contract equates to \$4.70 per hour, signifying the largest general wage increase in Local 152’s history with Johanna Foods.

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STAY CONNECTED!



UFCW Local 152 Unity
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Workers Local 152

EDITOR
Brian String

UNION HEADQUARTERS
3120 Fire Rd., Suite 201
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
(888) JOIN-152

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BCI 100% Union

Local 152 participates in panel about negotiations and more

The 2023 Food & Drug Conference in December 2023 brought together innovators and industry leaders for a full day of updates, networking opportunities and professional inspiration.

FDC Director Ellen Anreder opened the conference with thoughts on gratitude and making the most of the time each of us is given, even during challenging circumstances.

UFCW 8-Golden State Secretary-Treasurer Kirk Vogt moderated a panel on “Negotiations, Organizing and Member Servicing.” It featured Local 152 President Brian String; Deana Abondolo, president of UFCW Local 342; and Jim McLaughlin, president of UFCW Local 99, who discussed the importance of organizing new workers and the need for Union representatives to establish personal bonds with members at their workplaces.

“UFCW has always been the best at servicing,” President String said, highlighting the union’s recent track record in representing workers in the cannabis industry, but stressed the need for organizing to continue to be the top priority.

“This generation of employees wants to join a union, but they also want to be



Local 152 President Brian String, right, with Local 99 President Jim McLaughlin.

part of a movement,” President Abondolo said, commenting on the challenges and opportunities presented by the current surge of interest in unions among young workers.

President McLaughlin detailed how the additional challenges Local 99 faces organizing workers in a “right to work” state helps them improve their overall member servicing.

The 2023 conference featured other panels on innovative ways for unions to combat soaring health care costs and the different ways to educate union members about how political engagement has the potential to improve their lives at work.

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved
2023 grand total: **208**

Back pay and benefits restored to members
2023 grand total:
\$171,980.67



President Brian String with Local 152 staff in 2023.

President String retires

Continued from front page
 many people can say they were able to serve others for a living. My responsibility to our members was always my top priority.

“To be able to walk into a processing plant or a supermarket or a nursing home, to look those members in the eye and know I’ve earned their trust — that’s what our union is all about.”

A union legacy

His leadership steered the young local’s health and welfare fund out of bankruptcy and into the thriving benefit fund it is today, providing industry-leading benefits to members at low and sometimes no cost, an extremely rare occurrence in today’s reality of soaring health care costs.

Under his guidance, Local 152 expanded through tireless organizing efforts into one of the most diverse UFCW unions in the country, with members in grocery, manufacturing, health care, public sector, trucking, sanitation and other industries. His belief that cannabis workers deserve the protections of a union contract has led to a fast-growing Cannabis Division in recent years.

“The people I hired were rock stars in

my book,” String said. “They had faith in our principles, they had the same philosophy and work ethic, and we were able to do things together that were previously only dreamt of.”

String’s steadfast commitment to providing excellent service to members helped Local 152 weather the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, devising new ways to connect with members, address their needs and keep them safe on the job with protective equipment.

His work over the years to cultivate relationships with pro-worker candidates and legislators was critical in the early days of the pandemic as he was able to work quickly with local and state governments to pass essential worker legislation to protect members.

Local 152 emerged from the pandemic with renewed strength, negotiating best-ever contracts across industries and redoubling organizing efforts to best position the union for the years ahead.

“There’s a whole new generation of workers that have different issues, different problems and a different outlook,” String said. “We’re building a huge safety net for these members. I’m glad I was able to help

with that and I’m excited for the next phase of the union.”

An enduring vision

String started in the industry as a 14-year-old cart boy for Food Town in 1981. Along the way, he worked as a clerk for Pathmark and Acme, as an organizer for the UFCW International Union at drives in Atlantic City and California, and as a student at the George Meany Labor Center in Silver Springs, Md.

Inspired by his father, Irv String, a veteran at A&P stores who became a UFCW union president, Brian served as the organizing director and negotiations director for Local 1358. He was president of Local 1358 when he was chosen to lead the newly formed Local 152 in 2005, following the merger of Locals 1358 and 56.

“My continuing education after high school was as an organizer,” String said. “Standing alongside nurses in Seattle, Wash. and poultry plant and supermarket workers in Fresno, Calif. — it was so rewarding. I’m forever grateful my father gave me the opportunity to make that choice; I made the right one.

“Now, my own son is working for the union and he’s guided by the same values instilled by me and his grandfather.”

Incoming Local 152 President Dan Ross, Jr., said he is inspired by String’s leadership throughout the years.

“He’s ‘members first’ — period,” Ross said. “All the initiatives the local has put into place under his leadership have focused on advancing the interests of our membership.

“Brian will be remembered as an advocate, always, for our members as well as a confident, strategic negotiator with the willingness to face a good fight when needed.”

String has full confidence that the union is in capable and competent hands with Ross and praises his calm demeanor and abilities as an organizer and negotiator.

“I would let him bargain my contract any day of the week,” he said. “He will make a tremendous leader and his time is now.

“Local 152 is in great hands. The torch will keep burning and will be brighter than ever under Dan’s leadership.”

Jobs outlook; Rite Aid woes

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

In January 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor said 353,000 new jobs were added, allaying fears that a recession is still possible.

Additionally, the unemployment rate dropped from 3.9 percent in October to 3.7 percent in November, a strong and encouraging figure.

In a survey conducted by grocery online research firm Brick Meets Click/Mercatus, composite-level sales for 23 U.S. grocer banners declined 13.5 percent during the 12-week period which ended on Sept. 20 (compared to the same period in 2022). The study deduced that the sales decreases were driven by a higher number of customers shifting back to in-store purchases or moving to a competitor's online service.

Another key finding was that total order volume was down 16.8 percent, which the two firms believe was the result of an overall customer base reduction. The survey did note that active customers completed more orders and spent more per order than in 2022. None of this should be surprising given the sharp dip in digitally-driven sales since the peak of COVID.

Rite Aid closures

Bankrupt drug chain Rite Aid announced that it will close another 31 stores in the near future. That's in addition to the more than 100 units the Philadelphia-based drug chain said would be shuttered shortly after Chapter 11 protection was filed in October.

In the Mid-Atlantic, that batch includes one store in Maryland (Delmar); four stores in Pennsylvania (Bellefonte, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and West Chester); two stores in New Jersey (Beachwood and Moorestown); two stores in New York (the Bronx and Miller Place); and two stores in Virginia (Norfolk and Williamsburg). All told, Rite Aid may end up with 500 fewer stores than it started with just a few months earlier.

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

Members at work



**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:



Use your benefits wisely in 2024 and beyond

Your union-negotiated benefits package is a big part of your overall compensation from your employer.

These benefits, which include health care, provide valuable peace of mind. Members know that if they or anyone in their family need medical care, it is available and affordable, and won't be the financial disaster it could have been if they were uninsured.

Your benefits are comprehensive and costly, and that's why employers often target them for reduction or removal from the union contract each time we sit down at the bargaining table.

These are benefits our union has fought hard to build and preserve, so use them wisely! Here are some ways to ensure the benefit fund stays strong for the rest of your career and for future generations:

Get a primary care provider

Rather than waiting until an emergency strikes and scrambling to find care — from someone who is not well-versed in your medical history — be proactive and establish a connection with a primary care provider.

Take preventive action

Staying in good health isn't just about taking care of injury or disease when it happens. It's also about taking steps to prevent illness in the first place. Stay up to date with routine screenings and annual vaccines. Don't let a big problem go undetected!

Monitor your mental health

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 learn about services you can access.

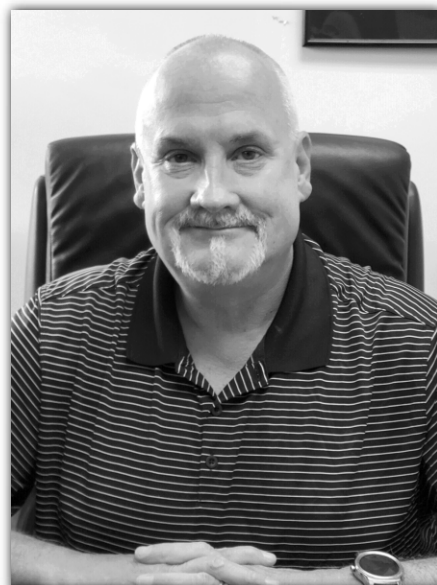
“These are benefits your union has worked hard to build and preserve”

Healthy eating and exercise

Not only will your body feel better when you give it healthy food and regular exercise, you'll also be doing your part to prevent the onset of a chronic illness.

Keep up with your medications

Use your prescription benefits to help pay for short-term treatments or long-term maintenance medications that keep big health issues in check. Sign up for automatic refills or obtain multiple months' worth of medication, if available, to ensure you don't run out and end up pausing your treatment plan.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

By Dan Konczyk

Would you like to earn some extra cash? Provide an organizing lead to Local 152 that results in a union election. Some involvement will be required. By getting involved, you are helping to make your union stronger and you have an opportunity to earn \$1,000!

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



Member Tina Grubelic and her “Tina’s Troopers” team at the “WALK to End Hydrocephalus” in Philadelphia.

Spotlight: Member Tina Grubelic

Even when she’s not helping customers as a cashier/clerk at Acme in Sea Isle City, N.J., Local 152 member Tina Grubelic still finds ways to help others.

She advocates for people with hydrocephalus, a medical condition that affects more than 1 million people in the U.S. It’s a chronic neurological condition which causes an imbalance in the production and absorption of brain fluid and requires surgical treatment to redirect that fluid outside of the brain.

Grubelic was diagnosed with the condition as an infant and underwent more than 20 surgeries in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) over six months. Doctors installed a shunt, a tubelike medical device that diverts flow of the brain fluid to her abdominal cavity for absorption.

She was able to live with the condition with comparatively few symptoms other than minor aches until 2020, when nausea and other symptoms required her to be taken by ambulance to a hospital to repair damage done by a malfunction in her shunt.

“When I was an infant, the doctors left enough tubing in my body for me to grow to six feet, but I only grew five feet tall,” she said. “The very end of the tubing had broken off and needed to be removed.”

Then, in 2022, she had another surgery to repair a tiny hole in the shunt in her neck that was leaking fluid into her chest, causing swelling.

It was after these two surgeries that she decided she wanted to learn more about her condition and take an active role in spreading the word about it.

“I wanted to find out if there were more people like me, since I was the only one I knew of that had this,” she said. “Growing up with an able-bodied twin, I felt like an outsider, but now I’ve been finding people to talk to.”

Her journey started when she was asked to speak at the National Hydrocephalus Conference in Texas in 2022. She told her story on

a panel titled “Living and Thriving with Hydrocephalus and Other Conditions” (Grubelic also has a mild form of cerebral palsy).

“I just spoke from the heart about what I go through each day, because it’s very different for each person,” she said. “It was great to learn from other people about how they process it. At that conference I found my people, and it was the best feeling.”

Energized by the conference and the people she met, she decided to participate in the Hydrocephalus Association’s “WALK to End Hydrocephalus” in Philadelphia that same year. Almost 40 friends and family members gathered as “Tina’s Troopers” to show their support, which they have now made an annual tradition.

Then, in February of this year, she accepted an invitation from the Hydrocephalus Association to meet with Congresswoman Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania’s Fourth District. She met with Dean in her office along with other advocates to push for research funding for the condition.

“It was a great opportunity to spread awareness,” she said. “I love telling my story and getting my point across.”

Grubelic worked at the Sea Isle City Acme during summers growing up when her family vacationed in the area and has worked there regularly since moving there in 2017 after graduating college. It’s the same store that Local 152 Secretary-Treasurer Dan Konczyk worked at before joining the union staff.

“It’s great because I can walk to work,” she said, “and I take advantage of the union-negotiated health benefits. With my last two surgeries, the benefits paid for a lot of it, so it’s a blessing.”

She plans to continue advocating for hydrocephalus by fundraising and spreading awareness.

“People have told me that they’re happy I’m out here doing this because not a lot of people know about the condition,” she said. “They’re appreciative, just like I was when I learned there were other people like me. I share my story so people know you can live a normal life with hydrocephalus — it doesn’t have to limit you.”

Cannabis workers in Atlantic City choose Local 152 for a voice on the job

Unionized workers at a cannabis dispensary in Atlantic City have voted to select United Food and Commercial Workers Local 152 as their representative in contract negotiations with their employer.

The 12 workers at the MPX NJ Atlantic City Medical Cannabis Dispensary join their fellow coworkers at MPX’s grow facility in Pleasantville, N.J., who joined UFCW Local 152 in 2023. The grow facility has been in contract negotiations for the last seven months making great strides in cementing their first contract.

The new Local 152 members work as “budtenders” who provide knowledgeable customer service, facilitate retail sales and fulfill online orders.

“These workers have put their trust in our union to help improve their lives, and we will fight for what they deserve,” Local 152 President Brian String said. “As the Local 152 Cannabis Division continues to grow, so does the power of our members in all of the industries we serve.”

Workers at MPX reached out to the union for representation based on Local 152’s track record in the cannabis industry, including a recent successful organizing drive at Colombia Care in Vineland and a strong first contract at The Botanist in Egg Harbor and Atlantic City.

The union will meet with the MPX workers to draft contract proposals and schedule bargaining dates with the company.



Workers at MPX in Atlantic City, NJ with UFCW Local 152 staff. From left to right: SPUR Tony Melendez-Mott, MPX workers Jess, Sam, Izzy, Becky, and JaVonn, and Union Representative Bryan String.

“These workers are seeking improvements to their wages, health care benefits and scheduling accommodations,” President String said. “Their hard work has helped MPX become a success in Atlantic City and their first contract should reflect their contributions.”

Local 152’s organizing success at MPX was also highlighted by the AFL-CIO. The organization included the win in its “Service & Solidarity Spotlight” series, which showcases victories for working people.



Budtenders at Design 710 unionize, seek first contract

Five budtenders at Design 710, a cannabis dispensary in Atlantic City, recently chose Local 152 for union representation. The group unionized by majority card check, certified by a third-party arbitrator in early January, and will begin working with the union to draft contract proposals and schedule bargaining dates with the company to begin the process of crafting their first union contract.

Murphy's Markets get new union contract

Local 152 members at Murphy's Markets ratified a new contract affecting members on the "meat side," which encompasses workers in the meat, seafood and deli departments.

Local 152 represents about 60 members at Murphy's Markets in Medford Lakes, Tabernacle and Beach Haven, N.J.

The three-year agreement includes several improvements such as retroactive across-the-board wage increases as well as respectable annual raises. All members now have 40 hours of sick time to use for routine appointments and emergencies, and they also maintain their excellent union health care with no cost share for the life of the agreement!

The Negotiating Committee included Assistant to the President/Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Jr., Union Representatives Kelli Wehmann and Tom Hartle, and Shop Stewards Bethany Lazier and Joyce Scurti.



Johanna Foods

Continued from front page

Additionally, members maintained their excellent union-negotiated health benefits with no employee cost share for the life of the agreement. Language also was put in place to allow for a more streamlined vacation selection process that will help our members plan their time off.

Finally, the employer agreed to substantial contribution increases to members' retirement savings to help them better prepare for a more comfortable retirement.

"We had a very diverse negotiating committee who had the respect of their peers," Ross said. "Committee members from different shifts, departments, lengths of service and ethnicities vocalized the needs of their coworkers."


The Negotiating Committee included Ross, Union Representative Matte Kane, Shop Steward Keith Kolbe and Committee members Ernest Crouse, Annah Maina, Jose Salazar, Dan Jones and Nestor Rivera. International Vice President Fallon Ager-Norman and Chief Legal Counsel Mark Belland of O'Brien, Belland, Bushinsky, LLC, also played pivotal roles in negotiations.



Above: New Local 152 members from Top Quality Baking in Vineland, N.J., from left: Donald Carter, Diana Saintilus and Dorry Darius (with Union Representative Jose Echevarria).

Inset: Members John Grover and Brian Watson from BEVCO Service, Inc.





Apply for the 2024 Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship!

Applications are due by March 22, 2024.

The Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for 2024! This scholarship is open to all UFCW Local 152 members and their dependents who will attend college full-time in Fall 2024.

Every year, the scholarship committee selects winners based on school records, SAT scores, personal activities, and need. Each winner will be awarded a \$5,000 grant paid directly to the school.

For an application or additional information, please contact (888) 564-6152. Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by March 22, 2024.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. — Nelson Mandela

UFCW CHARITY FOUNDATION

2024 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2024 the UFCW Charity Foundation will award several SCHOLARSHIPS, up to \$8,000 each, to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents under the age of 20.

For more information, and to find out if you are eligible, please visit:

ufcwcharityfoundation.org/scholarship

The scholarship application will be available online from February 12, 2024 – May 12, 2024.



If you are unable to apply online, you may request an application by mail at UFCW Charity Foundation, Attn: Scholarship Program, 1775 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or by email at dscholarship@ufcw.org. If you need the scholarship rules or an application in another language, please contact us at 1-800-551-4010 and we will obtain assistance for you. UFCW employed officers, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.



UFCW Discount College Program

Affordable college options for UFCW Local 152 members and family!



Happy retirement!

Margaret Ade	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Mayra A. Brito	11/01/23	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.
Christopher Burke	11/01/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 196
John J. Burke	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Constance E. Charlton	12/01/23	Acme Markets
James J. Clark	12/01/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 198
Holly L. Conn	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Sharon M. Costello	12/01/23	Super Fresh
Keever Crawford	12/01/23	Medford Inc
Jamee Lee Crist	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Paula J. Endress	12/01/23	Avon Foods, Inc.
Margaret A. Finger	12/01/23	Holiday Markets
Merrill Fowle	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Marian R. Frantz	12/01/23	Bottino's Supermarkets
Shirley K. Fraser	11/01/23	Bottino's Supermarkets
Paul W. Frederick	11/01/23	Medford Inc
Diane Green	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Kenneth Harmon	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Russell Hawkins	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Geneva Hazelwood	01/01/24	Super Fresh
Patrick S. Healey	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Mary P. Hegarty	01/01/24	Acme Markets
John M. Howard	01/01/24	Super Fresh
Mark A. Hugl	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Linda Marie Jacob	11/01/23	Feoli's Supermarkets
Harvey G. Jarvis, Jr.	12/01/23	Colligas Family Market
Denise Johnson	02/01/24	Acme Markets
Barbara Lee A. Jones	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Mary E. Kealy-Maniaci	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Kirk W. Kohler	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Joseph Landy	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Karen Larned	02/01/24	Acme Markets
Rhonda Mack	02/01/24	Acme Markets
Barbara J. Maclean	11/01/23	ShopRite Manahawkin
Emil A. Maternia, Jr.	12/01/23	Acme Markets
James P. McAleese	12/01/23	Acme Markets
James W. McGallister	01/01/24	George's Market
Charles J. McGowan	11/01/23	M&E #2383
Andrew G. McKee	01/01/24	Super Fresh
Barry F. McMonigle	01/01/24	Delaware Supermarkets
Cheryl Meikle	01/01/24	Acme Markets
John Miller	12/01/23	General Supermarkets
Margaret F. Nugent	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Monique M. O'Connell	12/01/23	Stop & Shop



Ellen O'Donnell	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Marjorie P. Pepe	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Virginia Phero	01/01/24	Super Fresh
Steve Popper	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Lorraine Richards	02/01/24	Super Fresh
Brian S. Rodkey	11/01/23	Super Fresh
Kathleen H. Ruth	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Kurt C. Saettler	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Tina P. Salter	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Bryson Shope	01/01/24	Barney's Market
Robert J. Sickels	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Lisa Silipigni	12/01/23	General Supermarkets
Hope I. Spada	01/01/24	Brown's Superstores
Wendy Jo Sprigg	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Cheryle Stewart	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Craig A. Stocker	01/01/24	Acme Markets
Susanne String	12/01/23	Super Fresh
James T. Sulpizio	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Christina M. Tharby	11/01/23	Acme Markets
Bonnie A. Wallace	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Theresa C. Walton	12/01/23	Acme Markets
Tina M. Wardle	11/01/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Kimberly A. Wickward	12/01/23	Zallies' Supermarkets
Laura L. Wilson	12/01/23	Super Fresh

In memoriam

George B. Ade	10/25/23	Acme Markets
Ruby Antonio	11/06/23	West Deptford Shop n Bag
Mary Baglivo	12/06/23	Super Fresh
Joan C. Balitz	12/21/23	Saker ShopRite
Dolores M. Barats	12/17/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 196
Paul Colatriano	11/29/23	Thriftway-Penn Mart

In memoriam

Continued from page 10

Joan M. Crews	11/25/23	Ball Park Brands
Joseph J. Danko	01/08/24	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Marie A. Dascendis	12/19/23	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Joan Dickinson	11/16/23	Acme Markets
Richard E. Everman	12/15/23	Pickwell-SHS Enterprises
Virginia Faust	11/30/23	General Supermarkets
Sandra M. Fry	12/05/23	Acme Markets
Mark S. Gidel	12/11/23	Acme Markets
Frances Graff	12/29/23	A&P Tea Company
Theresa H. Gravish	12/03/23	Acme Markets
Thomas E. Grier	12/11/23	Kunzler Packing Co.
Fannie Hunter	12/19/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 196
Kim E. Kilgore	11/16/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Eugene Lariviere	11/26/23	Kunzler Packing Co.
Joseph Lavacca	11/25/23	Super Fresh
Loretta A. Lawson	11/21/23	Super Fresh
Olive S. Little	11/07/23	Ellis Meat Market
Joseph E. Losinsky	11/06/23	AMD Thriftway Market
Mary A. Lynagh	12/26/23	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Dorothy M. Marino	11/04/23	West Deptford Shop n Bag
Patricia F. McCullough	12/23/23	Kanes Shop n Bag
Patricia C. McElfresh	01/07/24	Village ShopRite-Rio Grande
Frank A. Pascale	12/24/23	Mister Price Rite
Melinda Platt	11/04/23	Bensalem ShopRite
Robert J. Potts	01/08/24	Ball Park Brands
Irma Rodriguez	11/25/23	Super Fresh
Kathleen Rubino	11/18/23	Acme Markets
June L. Ruch	12/28/23	Whitehall ShopRite
Joan C. Russick	11/29/23	West Deptford Shop n Bag
Kenneth R. Salera	11/19/23	Local 152 Staff
James A. Santomen	11/22/23	Old Fashioned Kitchen, Inc.
Jay Seifert	12/04/23	George Wollman Wholesale
Ronald W. Shourds	11/03/23	Pathmark Stores/Local 152
Katherine Siefert	11/12/23	Acme Markets
Harriet J. Sponyoe	01/01/24	Zallie's Supermarkets
Philomena Vanderzee	11/22/23	Acme Markets
Newton Weiner	11/23/23	Welsh Road Shop n Bag
Jean Wick	11/08/23	Acme Markets
Ida Winton	12/10/23	Acme Markets
Ronald H. Wright	12/02/23	Acme Markets
Magnolia Wright	11/02/23	Formost Kosher Meat
Joyce A. Youmans	01/12/24	Acme Markets



Happy retirement!
Patricia and Harry Back retired from Acme Markets after nearly 65 combined years

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Exclusive discounts for Local 152 members!

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<p>TicketsAtWork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels • Movies • Theme Parks 	<p>Jersey Shore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morey's Piers • Casino Pier • Fantasy Island 	<p>...and more!</p>

Visit ufcwlocal152.org for details

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It's been an honor to serve Local 152 members

April 1 of this year will mark 39 years since I started working for the UFCW. On that day I will retire and turn over leadership of Local 152 to the capable hands of Dan Ross, Jr.

It's been my life's passion to be a part of the labor movement, to do whatever I can to serve union and non-union workers and to fight for what they deserve.

After working in various grocery stores, I started my career as a union organizer standing alongside workers in Atlantic City and California who were fighting to join a union. Helping these workers unionize and reap the rewards of a union contract was among my proudest moments.

It wasn't an easy job, but it prepared me for what was to come, because fighting for the rights of working people has become harder than ever. The deck is stacked against union organizers. There are no easy targets today — it's a dogfight every time.

But adversity never stopped me from doing what I knew was right. When I was chosen to lead the newly

formed UFCW Local 152 in 2005, I knew we had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of workers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware.

We accomplished that goal by remaining steadfast in our commitment to organizing. It's the lifeblood of this union. We organize new members because a union contract means hard work is respected and members can perform their jobs with dignity.

As hard as we work to organize new members, we work just as hard to provide excellent service for our existing members. When I gathered with my staff and more than 100 stewards last year to plan for the future, I asked them, "Do you want to be an asset for this union? If you do, you will need to give of yourself. If you don't give a personal commitment to each member and become involved emotionally with their lives, then it's not the level of service Local 152 strives to provide."

When I talk about these expectations, they're not just empty words. I lived the values that I preach. I know those values will carry forward



President's Report By Brian String

to future generations of this union's leadership.

It's been an honor to serve this union's members and their families for two decades. My message upon retirement is: Remain strong, remain together, and the accomplishments of the Labor Movement will remain strong for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian String". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.