



UNITY

WINTER 2026



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Alexia Corneal

Scholarships and saving lives

In 2019, Alexia Corneal graduated from Middle Township High School with a passion for studying medicine.

Now, in 2026, after years of dedication to studying and gaining hands-on experience, she's an ICU Registered Nurse helping patients at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional.

Corneal, who is now a Local 152 member with the hospital, was aided in her journey in part by funds from an Irv R. String Local 152 scholarship. She was eligible through her parents, who both worked for Acme.

Please see page 2



Old Fashioned Kitchen

Strong new contracts bring improvements for members

Members in the manufacturing and cannabis industries ratified new contracts with Local 152 in recent months that raise wages, secure affordable health care and respect the hard work they perform.

Old Fashioned Kitchen

On Jan. 14, members at Old Fashioned Kitchen in Lakewood, N.J. ratified a new union contract.

The three-year agreement covers nearly 50 workers at the manufacturing facility, which produces blintzes, pancakes, and pierogies under the Golden brand.

All members will receive an across-the-board wage increase along with guaranteed yearly increases for the life of the contract. They will also receive a one-

time ratification bonus and members with more than 10 years of service will receive a one-time longevity bonus.

Through hard bargaining, the employer agreed to increase contributions to the Supplemental Pension and Savings Fund, and affordable union-negotiated health care was maintained. Bereavement leave was also expanded.

The negotiating committee included Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Jose Echevarria, Shop Steward Orlando Figueroa, and committee member Tinu Patel.

The Bloc

In December, approximately 20 patient care advocates and inventory coordinators

Please see page 11



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.



UFCW Local 152 Unity
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Workers Local 152

EDITOR

Daniel Ross, Jr.

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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(888) JOIN-152

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Corneal, center, at work in the ICU.

Scholarships and saving lives

Continued from front page

After graduating high school, she attended Atlantic Cape Community College and then completed the nursing program at Rowan College of South Jersey, obtaining her nursing degree in May 2025.

Corneal shared more about her early exposure to the union and her path to becoming a Local 152 member:

What did you know about the union growing up?

Growing up, the union was a part of my

life. With both of my parents working at ACME and being members of Local 152 for many years, I always knew the union was something that supported our family and looked out for workers. I understood it made sure people were treated fairly, had job security, and access to important benefits.

'The union provided stability and opportunities'

While I didn't fully grasp all the details when I was younger, I saw the impact firsthand. The union provided stability and opportunities, including educational support like the Local 152 scholarship. As I got older, I came to appreciate how important that support system really was, and those early experiences played a big role in shaping my decision to eventually become a union member myself.

What were your next steps after graduating college?

I worked as a patient care technician at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional, as well as at another hospital, while also continuing my summer waitressing job of eight years. At the same time, I was studying for my nursing boards exam, the NCLEX.

After successfully passing the NCLEX and obtaining my RN licensure, I began working full-time as a Registered Nurse at

Please see page 8

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances resolved
2025 total: **306**

Back pay and benefits restored to members
2025 total:
\$538,846.58

Member safety and work/life balance addressed in new contracts

Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional

On Feb. 12, 500 members at Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional in Cape May Court House, N.J., ratified their first new contract since Cooper University Healthcare merged with Cape Regional.

The three-year agreement provides immediate across-the-board wage increases as well as guaranteed yearly increases for the duration. All members will receive a longevity-based ratification bonus to reward seniority and the union negotiating committee was able to maintain affordable quality health care, now with a larger network of providers.

The committee was able to fight off several company proposals which would have negatively affected the agreement. In addition, they successfully created a “Staffing Committee” to review staffing data, reports, and unit- or department-specific staffing concerns. The soon-to-be-established committee intends to meet quarterly to echo safe patient staffing as a top priority.

The negotiating committee included President Daniel Ross, Jr., Director of Field Services Peggy Kelly, Bargaining Representative Chad Brooks, and Shop Stewards Audrey Brown, Amanda Molino, Kristy Pollard, and Chris Reitenauer.

Uptown Bakeries

On Feb. 10, more than 300 members at Uptown Bakeries in Bridgeport, N.J., ratified a new union contract.

The three-year agreement guarantees across-the-board wage increases annually and expands the night shift differential time, allowing more workers to earn the differential rate. It also shortens the length of service required for senior members to receive more vacation weeks, allowing the workers at Uptown Bakeries to have a better-balanced work/life schedule.

Finally, the agreement establishes a “Joint Labor and Management Committee” consisting of bargaining unit members, a union representative, and management, who will meet as needed to discuss items of mutual concern.

The negotiating committee included Director of Collective Bargaining Louis Faiola, Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Jose Echevarria, Union Representative Carilisse Lopez, Shop Stewards Jerimie Glover and Titsy Miranda, and committee member Jose Santa.



General Membership Meetings 2026

March 10 • June 9 • 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

Establishing labor protections for our members

The UFCW has been working hard to secure strong labor protections for all of our members across industries, including workers in the cannabis sector who face a wide range of workplace challenges.

Recently, UFCW Locals 152 and 360 played a key role in advancing legislation in New Jersey that establishes new labor protections for cannabis cultivation workers.

As cannabis cultivation workers sought to organize with the UFCW in the growing cannabis market, UFCW Locals 152 and 360 engaged policymakers and advocated for workers who were the victims of unintended loopholes in New Jersey's cannabis laws, which helped to build the foundation of the legislation that was signed into law by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy in January.

This legislation ensures that all cannabis workers in New Jersey,

including cannabis cultivation workers, are afforded similar protections to those provided by the federal National Labor Relations Act. It strengthens labor rights by empowering state authorities to enforce unfair labor practice charges in cannabis cultivation and impose clear penalties for employer violations.

This legislation is a significant step forward for workers

It also provides greater clarity for both employers and employees by setting standards regarding labor rights, working conditions, and accountability as the state's marijuana market matures.

This legislation is a significant step forward for other groups of workers in New Jersey and across the country who are not fully



REGIONAL DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

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

protected under federal labor laws. The UFCW is dedicated to supporting candidates, regardless of political party, and initiatives that uplift working people.

For more information about UFCW's legislative priorities that will lift up workers and their families with the goal of "Making Government Work Better for Working People," visit UFCWVotes.org.

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@ufclocal152.org.



Make your union member checklist for 2026

The first of the year isn't the only time to make plans and get organized. Any day that you make the time to set some goals and outline your future is the first step toward making those plans a reality.

As a union member, you have many responsibilities and opportunities that can get lost in the hustle and bustle of the workweek, and if you don't stop briefly to make a plan, before long you'll be wondering where the first half of 2026 went.

One easy way to organize your tasks is to make a checklist. Here are some reminders about your union membership to help you get started:

Schedule vacations early

If you want to enjoy your vacation when it best suits you, the time to start preparing is now. Rules about vacation requests vary, and they are generally granted on a seniority basis, but it's usually a good idea to submit your vacation requests to your employer as soon as possible.

Some workers may not get their first choice even if the request is submitted early, so prepare alternative dates for vacation time and allow for flexibility. Your union-negotiated vacation is your opportunity to recharge, enjoy life and maintain your focus when you are back on the job.

Mark union meetings on calendar

Make a note of the Local 152 general membership meetings for 2026 on page 3 of this issue. They're a great opportunity to make your voice heard, have questions answered and connect with fellow union members and leadership.

Schedule your health screenings

Your union-negotiated health benefits are a valuable part of your

Your union-negotiated vacation time is your opportunity to recharge

overall compensation — so use them! Talk to your doctor about screenings to help detect small health issues before they turn into big problems. Many screenings are covered at 100 percent by your benefit plan.

Make sure your contact info is up to date with the union

We need to have your current contact information on file in order to keep you updated with union news, contract negotiations, and more. Just because your employer has your new information doesn't mean it's been shared with us.

Make a note to help a fellow member

You'll never regret reaching out to a fellow union member to lend a helping hand. It doesn't have to be a big commitment; just taking a moment to think of something small to brighten the day of your coworker creates a sense of unity they will appreciate and you will find rewarding.



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 ufclocal152.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:

Greg Torian: Grateful for his union career

Local 152 Union Representative Greg Torian is heading into retirement, following a nearly 50-year career in the Labor Movement.

He started in the industry slicing lunch meat at Starn's ShopRite in Ventnor, N.J., when he was 18 years old. Even though he didn't intend to keep the job long-term, he felt that if he wasn't going to attend college then he should find a good union job with benefits and a pension.

"My father worked as a bus driver, and my mother was a plumbing inspector, so working union was something that was natural to me," he said. "It seemed like a secure choice."

He ended up staying with ShopRite for 25 years, and many of those were spent as a shop steward.

"I would often take my five-year-old son to union meetings, and I liked the way they did things there, so I accepted when I was offered the steward role," he said.

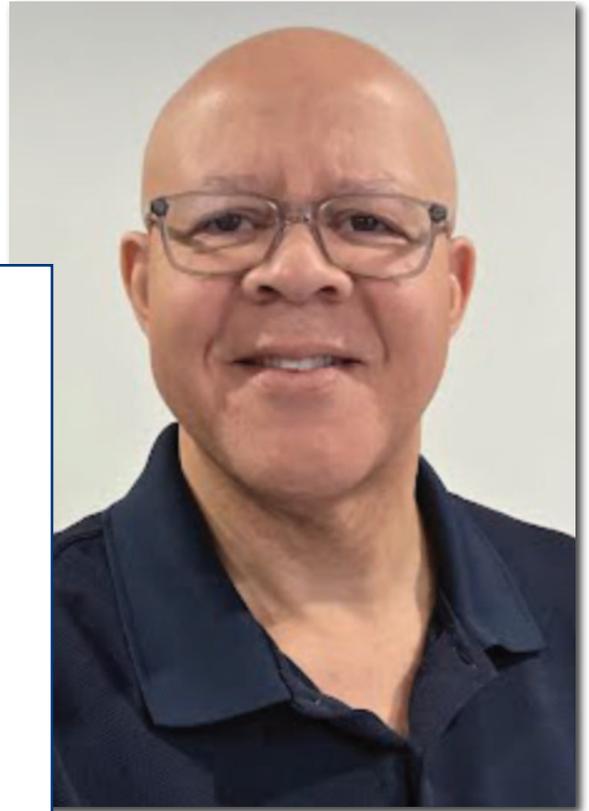
Fighting for members

After spending some time as a Special Project Union Representative (SPUR) for the UFCW International Union and assisting with organizing drives and informational picketing across the country, Torian started the next phase of his career as a Union Representative for Local 152 in 2006.

He represented manufacturing and retail members in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, assisting members with grievances and trying to reach favorable outcomes with management.

"Every meeting I went into, my approach was 'let's have a conversation and see if we can work this out,'" he said. "You don't just kick the door

'Nothing is more gratifying than someone giving you a hug and saying they felt like someone was on their side.'



down and make accusations. I would tell them 'I'm just trying to get the rest of the story,' and that helped put their guard down."

He remembers overseeing many successful grievance procedures which helped members get back on their feet.

"They would tell me that they're glad to be a union member and to have someone to represent them," he said. "Nothing is more gratifying than someone giving you a hug and saying they felt like someone was on their side."

He's encouraged by the interest younger members have in their union, including stewards from his workplaces that he brings to union meetings to keep them engaged in the process.

"It feels good when people appreciate the information you're giving them," he said. "They feel appreciated and it makes them interested in helping the union. They're asking the right questions."

Seize the day

In retirement, Torian said he feels a sense of melancholy that he won't see his colleagues at the union and the members he represented as often as he's used to. Instead, he's looking forward to spending time traveling with his wife, Pinto, and doing (or at least overseeing) remodeling projects around the house.

"When I wake up in the morning now, I'll make my own decisions about what I'm going to do with the day," he said, "and I look forward to that."

He also is grateful for the benefits and pension which will help him enjoy retired life.

"I value my pension and the fact I'm retiring earlier than age 67, when I still have the energy to do things," he said. "I sometimes meet people who haven't planned for retirement or don't have a union contract, and it's kind of scary to think that they'll have to plan for how to survive when they stop working."

Always organizing: Jose Echevarria retires

Local 152 Union Representative Jose Echevarria has big plans for retirement, and he wants to make sure he doesn't postpone his adventures until it's too late.

"I'm ready," he said. "I want to retire while I'm still able to walk and visit places. I want to enjoy the rest of the time I have left."

Before he puts those plans into motion, he looked back over his union career and a lifetime of improving the lives of union members.

He started at Goya Foods in West Deptford, N.J. in 1986 as a truck helper, making deliveries throughout the Delaware Valley. He also spent time as a forklift operator and was the "right hand man" for his facility's shop steward before taking on that role himself after 10 years.

"I heard that the shop steward was moving to Puerto Rico, and I looked around and everyone was pointing at me to be the replacement, saying 'we want you to represent us,'" he said. "That was a good feeling."

"I loved looking out for my fellow members as a steward, protecting them from the things the company tried to do," he continued. "I was really tough. Standing up to the Company, I was terminated twice. The union helped me get back to work and I learned a lot as a steward."

Protecting workers

When he became a Union Representative for Local 152 in 2005, he used his experience to form a new approach to tackling workplace issues.

"I managed my temper much better," he said. "I did it with paperwork, I didn't need to argue. At the end of the day, I'm there to protect workers, so I didn't need to always agree with the

'When you have a house, you need house insurance, and at your job you need the same thing — a union to cover you.'

company, but I needed to establish a good relationship."

His desire to fight for workers even extends outside of business hours, as he remembers many times being out on the town with his wife and striking up a conversation with workers at a restaurant or retail store.

"If I see a driver delivering something, I'll give them my business card, because that's what I do," he said. "If I can organize anyone, I'll do it. My wife looks over and says 'what are you doing? Are you working right now?' I'm always talking to workers."

"I tell workers: 'When you have a house, you need house insurance; when you have a car, you need car insurance; and at your job you need the same thing — a union to cover you.'"

The road ahead

In retirement, Echevarria hopes to spend more time with his wife, Iris, as well as golfing and maybe return to league bowling. He also plans to spend time traveling, to his childhood home in Puerto Rico as well as to Aruba.

He'll have more time to devote to playing music, specifically the percussion instruments he played when he was in bands who would play shows across the East Coast and in South America.



"When I was a kid I would be banging away at my mom's pots and pans," he said, before he transitioned to bongo and conga drums. "Music was my life. At home, I'll still play once and awhile."

Echevarria also enjoys camping as a way to relax and meet people.

"I have a camper and I can park somewhere, take a swim in the pool, grill my own food and then spend time around the fire pit and meet new neighbors," he said. "I've made a lot of friends that way. I'm thinking of going to Myrtle Beach next — I can park and the beach is right there."



President Daniel Ross, Jr., celebrates with Greg and Jose at their retirement luncheon.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

Apply for the 2026 Irv R. String Local 152 Scholarship!

Applications are due by Friday, April 3, 2026.

The Scholarship Fund will award \$5,000 scholarships to eligible members or dependents of members who will be attending college full time this fall. Determination of winners will be made based upon school records, SAT scores, personal activities and need. Selection will be made on the recommendation of an outside independent committee.

For an application or additional information, please contact (888) 564-6152. **Applications are due by April 3, 2026. Applications will NOT be accepted if not postmarked by April 3, 2026.**

Scholarships and saving lives

Continued from page 2

Cooper University Hospital Cape Regional in the ICU in August 2024. It was at that time that I became eligible to join Local 152, marking an important milestone as I officially followed in my family's union footsteps while beginning my nursing career.

What are your responsibilities in your new role?

I'm responsible for providing comprehensive, hands-on care to critically ill patients. This includes closely monitoring patients' vital signs and telemetry strips, performing thorough assessments, administering medications, and coordinating care with the rest of the health care team.

I also assist with procedures, advocate for patients and their families, and respond quickly to any changes in a patient's condition.

What I enjoy most about my role is the ability to make a meaningful impact every day. I find it incredibly rewarding to provide direct care to patients during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, working alongside skilled, compassionate, and supportive colleagues.

Being in the ICU has allowed me to combine my passion for science, medicine, and patient care while continuously learn and grow as a nurse.

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

UFCW CHARITY FOUNDATION

2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2026 the UFCW Charity Foundation will award several **SCHOLARSHIPS**, up to \$12,000 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 9, 2026 – May 10, 2026.**



*Member eligibility: active since January 1, 2025. Dependent eligibility: under 20 on May 24, 2026; UFCW-employed officers, staff, and their immediate families are not eligible.
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 e-mail at dlscholarship@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.



Local 152 members at Aunt Kitty’s Foods, Inc., were recently presented with 25-year anniversary clocks. The photo features members **Benito Lopez** (40 years, Master Mechanic); **Luz Rodriguez** (38 years, Production Machine Operator); **Pathiel (Joe) Powell** (37 years, Production Sauce Cook); **Hector Rios** (36 years, Label Operator); **Luis Jimenez** (31 years, Label Depal Operator); **Willie Hayes** (28 years, Sanitation Supervisor); **Steve Hall** (27 years, Sanitation Lead); **Juan Pagan** (27 years, Warehouse Forklift Foreman); **Michael Green** (26 years, Production Sauce Cook); **Jose Montanez** (25 years, Production Lead A-1); as well as Plant Manager Charlie Reed, Production Manager Louis Volk, and Labeling Supervisor Debbie Copley.

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!

Yazid N. Abdullah	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Angela Bates	01/01/26	Super Fresh
Ronald P. Braxton	12/01/25	Super Fresh
Mark S. Bunting	12/01/25	Feoli's Supermarkets
Edly Gates	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Lori Desher	01/01/26	General Supermarkets
Steven M. Donnelly	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Dolores Eccles	12/01/25	Acme Markets
Joyce M. Eimer	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Gina Haney	12/31/25	Cooper University Hospital
Robert C. Harmon	01/01/26	Shorday's
Carlos Hernandez	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Audra R. Jalosky	01/01/26	Pathmark Stores-Local 198
Jojo Jean	01/05/26	Cooper University Hospital
Jacqueline B. M. Jeffers	01/01/26	48th Street Food Rite
Dwayne G. Jones	01/01/26	Ball Park Brands
Andrea J. Keating	12/01/25	Lawrence Shop N Bag
William C. King, Jr.	12/01/25	Acme Markets
Barbara A. Leonard	01/01/26	Holiday Markets
Carol A. Lundell	12/01/25	Pathmark Stores-Local 152
Irene K. Maguire	01/01/26	Saker ShopRite
Anthony Mango	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Odessa Morton	01/01/26	Eickhoff Sprmkt-Delran
Theresa A. Ochrymowicz	12/01/25	Acme Markets
Leslie C. Pressley	12/01/25	Acme Markets
Sharon L. Robinson	12/01/25	Creative Supermarkets
Sharon Sipler	12/01/25	Acme Markets
John Sweeten	01/01/26	Super Fresh
Lori Turner	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Harry J. Weaver	12/01/25	Village ShopRite
Anna Jean Wharton	01/01/26	Acme Markets
Mary L. Wilk	01/01/26	Pathmark Stores-Local 198
Robin K. Wilson	01/01/26	Super Fresh
Sherry Wolpe	12/01/25	Super Fresh

In memoriam

Rodney E. Cope	01/03/26	Pathmark Stores-Local 198
Angelina Corigliano	01/03/26	Eickhoff Sprmkt
Grant J. Cunningham	12/07/25	Super Fresh
Ruth M. Dibello	01/19/26	Acme Markets
Robert Dickinson	01/03/26	Acme Markets
John C. Feriod, Jr.	12/27/25	Pathmark Stores-Local 152



Betty Jane Flynn	01/11/26	Acme Markets
Elayne E. Foster	12/22/25	Bottino's Supermarkets
Marjorie E. Frisby	12/18/25	Super Fresh
Russell S. Gardy	12/06/25	Milden & White
Anita L. George	12/22/25	Pathmark Stores-Local 152
Rafael Gonzalez	11/25/25	General Supermarkets
Carol S. Grannum	12/28/25	Super Fresh
Pamela Hardick	01/10/26	Super Fresh
Harry Herring	12/27/25	E.F. Schulze Co., Inc.
Phyllis Hughes	12/20/25	Zallie's Supermkt
Stephen Kornhausl	01/06/26	Laneco Inc. Food Lane Stores
Shirley Interra	01/17/26	General Supermarkets
Ronald J. Lavin, Sr.	01/25/26	New Wilsons Meats Inc.
Deborah M. Makowski	12/24/25	Holiday Markets
Frank A. Marino	01/30/26	Food Fair/Pantry Pride
Thomas J. McGeary	12/23/25	Pickwell-SHS Enterprises
William McLaughlin	12/01/25	Cross Bros. Meat Packers
Caldwell Murphy	12/13/25	Kansas Beef Industries
Irving Pennock	12/19/25	Supermarkets Cherry Hill
Nelson Robinson	01/30/26	Catelli Brothers, Inc.
Henry E. Salkowski	12/15/25	Pathmark Stores-Local 152
Franklin G. Schappell	12/10/25	Berks Packing Co.
John Sweeten	11/18/25	Super Fresh
Judy A. Tomasetti	01/14/26	Super Fresh
Richard Tullie	12/10/25	Acme Markets
Wilford D. Walker	12/12/25	Acme Markets
Robert Weland	12/30/25	Acme Markets
Jean M. Willcutt	12/04/25	Saker ShopRite
Gershon Willner	12/17/25	Cross Bros. Meat Packers
Robert Wood	02/12/26	Vornado
Nabil N. Yazji	12/27/25	ShopRite

Happy retirement!

Kim Kelly
Cooper Cape
Regional

Patricia Milburn
Acme Markets



The Bloc

Strong new contracts

Continued from front page

at The Bloc Dispensary in Waretown, N.J. ratified their first union contract.

The three-year agreement guarantees considerable yearly wage increases as well as a one-time ratification bonus and store credit for all employees. Members have access to affordable, union-negotiated health care benefits, paid holidays and paid sick leave, and an employee discount.

With their first union contract, these workers have now achieved fundamental protections, such as job protection, the grievance procedure, seniority and successorship language.

The negotiating committee included Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Tony Melendez-Mott, and worker John Trivigno.

Dietz & Watson Logistics

Nearly 200 members at Dietz & Watson Logistics, the warehouse and distribution center for Dietz & Watson in Philadelphia, ratified a new union contract in December.

The new four-year agreement guarantees an across-the-board wage increase with additional compensation for third shift and long-term members, increased retirement security, earned time off improvements and more.

The negotiating committee included Director of Collective Bargaining Louis Faiola, Collective Bargaining Representative Peter White, Union Representative Matte Kane, Shop Stewards Bill Kelly, Angel Perez Mateo, Paulo Lopes Teixeira, and committee member Ruben Henderson.

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.



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

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Dignity and Pride in Retirement

In this issue, I'm proud to recognize the retirement of two longtime Local 152 union representatives who spent their careers standing up for working people.

Jose Echevarria and Greg Torian are names many of you know well. For many years, they were there when members were wrongly accused by management, when unsafe working conditions needed to be addressed, and when questions came up about contracts or the next round of negotiations. Even more importantly, they took the time to listen to our member's needs.

When they weren't on the shop floor or meeting with members, they were working behind the scenes, filing grievances and spending countless hours on the phone trying to make meaningful improvements in the lives of our members. Most importantly, throughout their respective careers, they worked with humility, integrity and never felt entitled—only grateful for the opportunity to serve our membership.

Now, as they begin retirement, Jose and Greg can now focus more on what matters most—family, health, and making new memories. Every worker deserves to know that their many years

A lifetime of work should be honored with a dignified retirement.

of hard work will be respected with a secure retirement.

Retirement benefits shouldn't be seen as something only a lucky few get to enjoy. It should be the gold standard for all working people who spend their careers helping an organization succeed. Employers who negotiate retiree benefits see the payoff in greater retention of employees as it gives workers a sense of security and a reason to grow roots in their respective workplaces. Retirement benefit proposals need to be taken seriously by all employers during negotiations as they provide a tangible investment in their workforce that generates long term results.

As we move forward into 2026 and beyond, Local 152 is prepared to fight to protect and improve upon existing retirement benefits enjoyed by so many and advocate to expand them to all workers in the industries we represent. A lifetime of work should be honored with a dignified retirement.



In closing, I want to personally thank Jose and Greg for their many years of service and commitment to our membership. Their work made our union stronger, and their legacy will continue to be felt for years to come. Godspeed gentleman!

