



UNITY PREVAILS! LOCAL 152 STANDS STRONG WITH STRIKING STOP & SHOP WORKERS IN NEW ENGLAND

On Thursday, April 11, when more than 31,000 grocery workers at 240 Stop & Shop stores across New England walked off their jobs to demand a fair contract, the first thing that popped into Local 152 Representative Mike Thompson mind was “Where can I go to help out?”

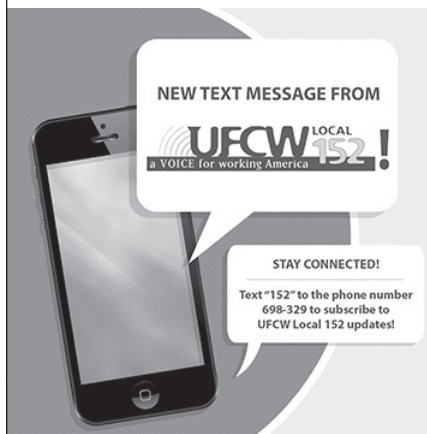
Thompson and other Local 152 staff members immediately headed north to support the striking workers. In cooperation with UFCW Locals 328, 371, 1445, 1459, and 919, they walked on picket lines, supplied food and drinks, and gave advice to picket captains.

Throughout the 11-day action, Local 152’s team was joined by UFCW International Union
Please see page 2



Above: U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) meeting with striking workers.
Top of page: Local 152 reps join the fight.

STAY CONNECTED!



UFCW Local 152 Unity
Official Publication of
United Food and Commercial
Workers Local 152

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Vol. 15, Issue 2
UFCW Local 152 Unity
(ISSN: 1542-720X) is published
quarterly by UFCW Local 152,
3120 Fire Rd., Suite 201
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Periodicals postage paid at
Trenton, NJ

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to *UFCW Local 152 Unity*
3120 Fire Rd., Suite 201
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Published by:

100% Union



Local 152 stood with striking

Continued from front page
staff, community activists, clergy, state
and local politicians, presidential can-
didates and others in an overwhelming
outpouring of support for the workers.

Thompson traveled to several stores
in Farmington, Conn.,
during the strike and
found the UFCW mem-
bers “together, resolved
and committed.”

“They felt a lack of
respect for the hard
work they do, which is
the only reason their
company is so profit-
able,” he said. “They
were being taken ad-
vantage of.”

Local 152 Organizer
and Communications
Representative Alley
Snow helped out in
East Hartford by boosting morale and
keeping workers up to date.

“I distributed all kinds of informa-
tion, like how members could file for
unemployment — a confusing process
— and made sure they were signed up
for text alerts from their local unions,”
she said.

“I gave them flyers they could pass
along to customers, distributed addi-
tional signage as necessary and made
sure the strike schedule was being
followed.”

Snow said the workers she encoun-
tered were strong,
determined and ready
to sacrifice everything
to get what they
deserved.

“Some of these peo-
ple had worked for Stop
& Shop their entire
lives,” she said. “They
truly love their job and
their communities.

“One worker was
upset knowing that the
plants she took care
of inside of her store
for Palm Sunday were
slowly dying. She des-
perately wanted to check on them and
hoped her store managers were watering
them.

“To say that these people are hard-
working is an understatement!”

Soon after the strike began, it be-
came apparent that the company was
taking a big economic hit. The vast

**‘I told many of the
members I helped
in Connecticut that
the entire nation
was watching this
strike, and that
they had to stay
strong to set the
precedent across
the country.’**

IT PAYS TO BE UNION!

Grievances filed or resolved:

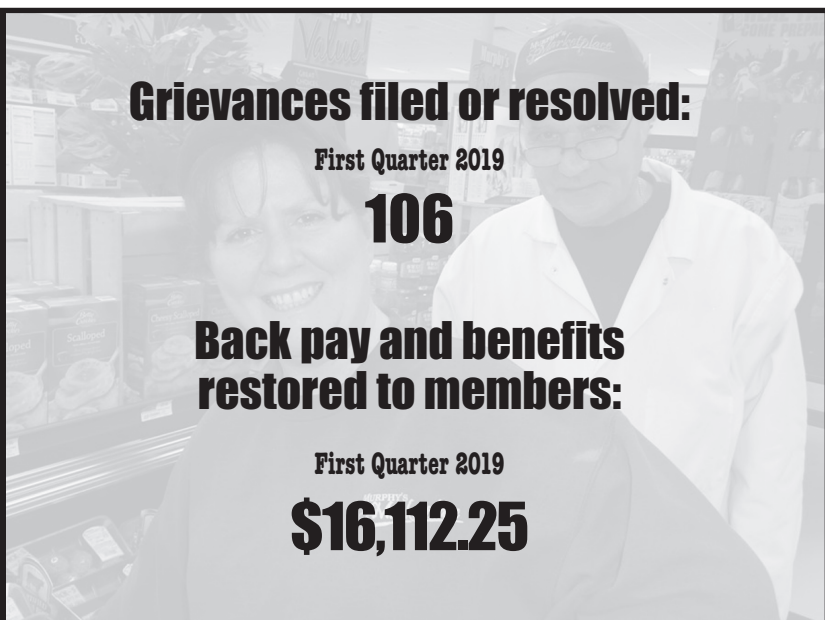
First Quarter 2019

106

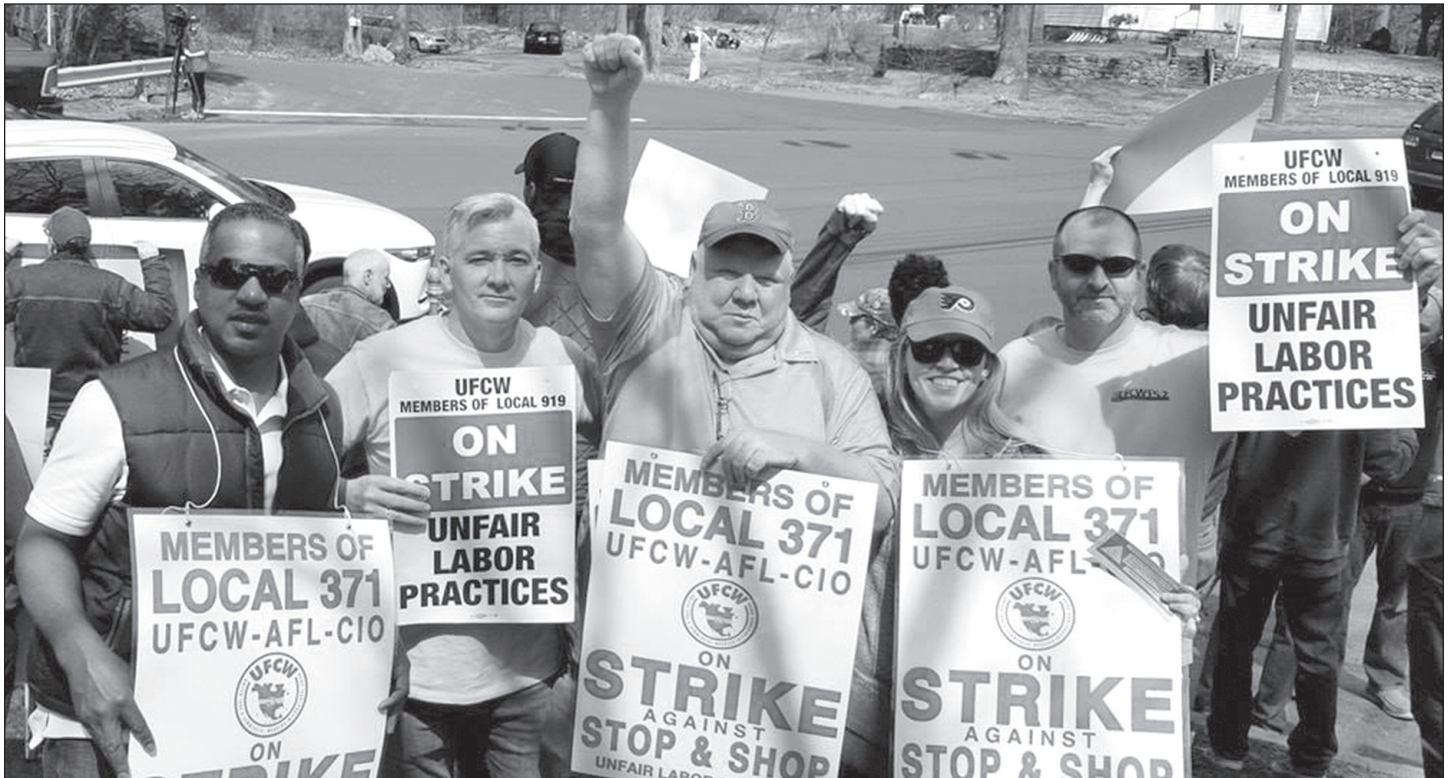
Back pay and benefits restored to members:

First Quarter 2019

\$16,112.25



Stop & Shop workers in New England



Local 152 reps on the picket line, from left: Cary Lawson, Mike Thompson, Matte Kane, Alley Snow and Ron Whille.

majority of shoppers refused to cross the picket lines and took their business elsewhere, resulting in empty stores with little to no fresh items for sale. Revenue losses for Stop & Shop were estimated at \$10 million per day.

Incredibly, fewer than a dozen of the 31,000 workers chose to work during the strike.

At a rally in Boston, former Vice President Joe Biden said the workers were not being treated by their employer with dignity.

“We’ve got to start recognizing what people do, because it matters to everybody,” he said. “It matters whether or not they feel respected.”

U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal also attended rallies to encourage workers to stay strong and urge shoppers not to cross the picket lines.

Economist Randy Albelda, from the University of Massachusetts Boston, said the strike forced customers to think of larger social justice issues.

“If the person who works at the deli can take care of her kid, that’s probably good for me,” Albelda told The Boston Globe about the mindset of many shoppers.

On Easter Sunday, April 21, a tentative agreement was reached between the local unions and Stop & Shop. The agreements maintain health care and retirement benefits, in

addition to providing wage increases and other improvements. Workers’ spouses were able to maintain eligibility for health benefits.

The workers returned to their jobs the following day and the new contract was ratified by an overwhelming majority of the workers on May 1.

The strike, described by the Globe as one of the most effective in recent memory, will have lasting effects on future contract negotiations nationwide.

Thompson predicted it will trigger an awakening among unionized workers.

“Following the strike, union members will realize the power they have by sticking together,” he said, “and the fear that unity creates for these big companies.”

Snow said Stop & Shop and other employers will remember the support the striking workers received from longtime customers and other members of their communities.

“I told many of the members I helped in Connecticut that the entire nation was watching this strike,” she said, “and that they had to stay strong to set the precedent across the country.”

“It’s clear that together we can win,” Snow continued.

“I firmly believe that the strength of the members and the strength of the union was the reason they were so successful.”

Groceries growing — but too fast?

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

Part of virtually every discussion I have with retailers about the current state of their businesses seems to focus on how the overstoring glut isn't abating.

Now comes word from JLL's Grocery Tracker that new food store openings (all formats) increased nearly 30 percent last year with more than 17 million square feet in retail space added nationally.

Among the most aggressive players to add stores over the past decade are Target and Whole Foods.

Whole Foods discounts: fact vs. fiction

The big recent Whole Foods news is that the "good for you" retailer has reduced prices on more than 500 items and parent company Amazon has expanded grocery deals for its Prime members as part of the discount program.

Many of the items are in produce and meat, but after the last round of cuts, I'm skeptical since the price reductions were more flash than substance. And in our price checking research over the past year, nobody has raised prices more than Whole Foods (although to be fair, with inflation, nearly all retailers have raised their everyday retails).

Also, one place you likely won't see an Amazon Go store is in New Jersey.

The Garden State has officially banned cashless stores. New Jersey joins the city of Philadelphia in not allowing stores that sell food to operate on a cashless basis.

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



Improve your health with the Local 152 Mobile Health Van

Local 152 members and their eligible dependents can receive free health screenings from the union's Mobile Health Van.

The free screenings include cholesterol, blood pressure and body mass index.

These screenings can identify health concerns in their early stages and help you avoid severe, high cost health issues.

The Health Van visits Local 152 worksites throughout the month and members are able to receive free screenings regardless of where they work. Visit ufcwlocal152.org for the current schedule.



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 \$500! For additional information, call or text Local 152 Director of Organizing Chad Brooks at (609) 670-8605.

The ways Local 152 fights for you

Working union has many advantages, and they all add up to a better quality of life for you and others in your community.

Here are just some of the ways Local 152 fights for you every day:

Collective bargaining

President String and his team of veteran negotiators have won trailblazing contracts with employers in a broad spectrum of industries (retail, manufacturing, food processing, public sector, health care).

As each contract comes up for renegotiation, we ask the members what they would like to see in their new agreement. We also conduct research on the financial status of the employer and the latest trends in the industry.

Contract enforcement

Once a collective bargaining agreement is reached and the affected union members vote to ratify it, the agreement becomes a binding contract. Local 152's union representatives visit the worksites to meet with the members

and managers to ensure the contract's terms are being followed and members' rights are respected.

To resolve more difficult problems, your union contract specifies a formal grievance process which may eventually be decided by a neutral arbiter.

Organizing

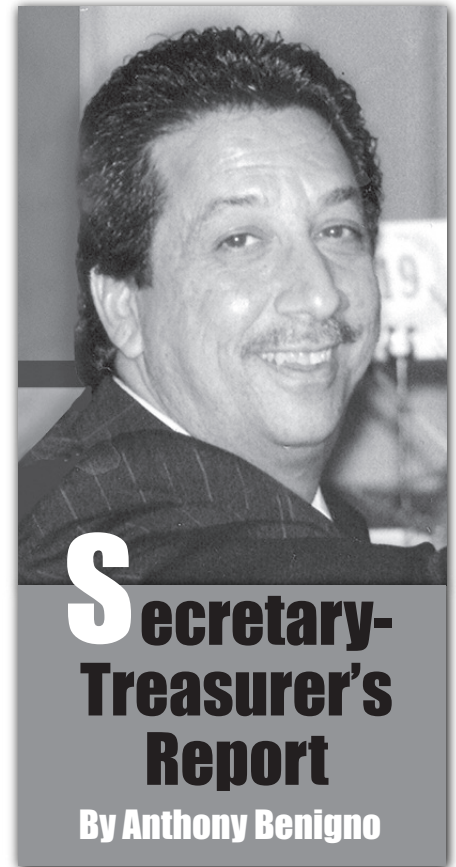
Growth is key to maintaining and enhancing the quality of our collective bargaining agreements. Larger and stronger unions are better able to negotiate effectively with powerful corporations.

Director of Organizing Chad Brooks and his team of organizers have scored significant successes in bringing new members, new companies and new industries into the Local 152 family.

Political action

Local 152 works closely with our allies in the Labor Movement to support pro-worker legislation and policies.

We support meaningful reforms in health care, solving the pension crisis and correcting weaknesses in the nation's labor laws. We advocate strengthening



laws to protect workers from toxins and safety hazards and we oppose efforts to weaken requirements for adequate lunch breaks and overtime pay.



Visit UFCW.ORG/LANGUAGE today.

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желанный

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환영

benvenuto

Bienvenido

Herzlich willkommen

歡迎

UFCW members can learn a foreign language for free.

UFCW.org/LANGUAGE



LOCAL 152 Members at Work

ShopRite
Steward
Election





Scenes from the **Stop & Shop** strike



Happy Retirement!



Laurel Norcross, Acme Markets (pictured with Local 152 Union Representative Cary Lawson)



Patricia "Tish" Debrecki, ShopRite (pictured with, from left, Local 152 Union Representative Mike Thompson and Store Director Victor Meyers)

Manufacturing industry update



Dietz & Watson members ratify new contract

In February, members at Dietz & Watson in Philadelphia ratified a new, three-year contract with an overwhelming majority.

Local 152 represents roughly 460 members at Dietz & Watson, which has been operating since 1939. For four generations, Dietz & Watson has been supplying meats and cheeses to consumers around the country. Some of their products include deli meats and cheeses, sausages, Italian

specialties like sopressata and salami, and many more.

With the newly ratified contract, these members will now receive many additional improvements, including a yearly across-the-board wage increase for the life of the contract, longevity increases, additional earned time off, the preservation of their affordable health care benefits and other items.

The Negotiating Committee included Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Dan Ross, Assistant Director of Collective Bargaining Danette Montes-Palmore, Collective Bargaining Representative Ron Whille, Chief Shop Steward Kariem Smith, Shop Steward Annette Ruiz, Shop Steward Stephen Groves, Donna Johnson, and Larry Gamble.



Health care industry update

Cannabis workers in Maryland vote to join union for a better way of life

In March, workers at Vireo Health's Maryland Medical Solutions in Hurlock, Md., voted to join UFCW Local 27 to ensure they receive the good pay and benefits that come with a union contract.

Vireo Health's Maryland Medical Solutions is a physician-led, patient-focused medical cannabis grower and processor.

Workers at the facility were excited to join our union family.

"I'm excited to be able to negotiate over wage increases that would allow for things like a savings account," said Ian Stenzer.

"It's exciting to know that we will have job security and will have the power to bargain for improvements to our jobs," added Blaine Hill.





Exclusive soccer tickets

Attention members! Local 152 has partnered with the Philadelphia Union to offer discounted tickets to a match against the Houston Dynamo on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019 at the Talen Energy Stadium in Chester, PA.

The last day to purchase is Aug. 10, so take advantage of this exclusive offer while supplies last.

Seats are available for just \$24! To get your tickets, visit ufcwlocal152.org.

Discounted aquarium tickets!

Local 152 has partnered with Adventure Aquarium in Camden, N.J., to offer members an exclusive 20% discount off general admission tickets.

Follow these steps to purchase tickets:

1. Visit adventureaquarium.com
2. Click "Buy Now" and then "Buy Tickets"
3. Enter our group code in the "Promo Code" field. You will need to contact your union representative or the union office at (888) 564-6152 for this code.

Discounted tickets for members!



Local 152 has partnered with the Atlantic City Blackjacks, a brand new arena football team, to offer exclusively discounted tickets to a match against the Baltimore Brigade on Sunday, July 21.

Seats are available for just \$27! To get your tickets, visit ufcwlocal152.org.

Local 152 has teamed up with the Philadelphia Phillies to offer a member-exclusive discount for the Phillies vs. Marlins game on Saturday, June 22.

Tickets are just \$19 after the discount in Pavilion Deck 309. Visit ufcwlocal152.org for details.



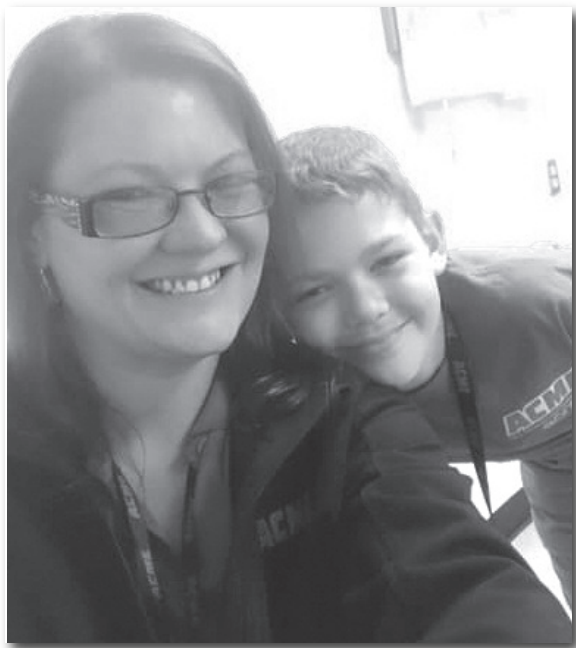
Local 152 has partnered with The Franklin Institute to offer a 30 percent discount on tickets to members. Founded in honor of Benjamin Franklin, the Franklin Institute is dedicated to public education and creating a passion for science.

Happy retirement!

Mary Abbonizio	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Gerald Maynes	05/01/2019	Acme Markets
Rosa Alexander	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	James McCullough	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Christine Auriemma	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	James McGill	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Maryanne Avella	05/01/2019	Acme Markets	John R. McGovern	02/01/2019	Ball Park Brands
Paul Bachetti	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Rosemarie Miller	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Patricia Back	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Mary Montgomery	03/01/2019	Acme Markets
Harry Back	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Barbara Moore	05/01/2019	Acme Markets
Christine Bellace	02/01/2019	Zallie's Shop Rite	Bertha Moore	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
David Bitler	04/01/2019	General Supermarkets	Julie Nicaastro	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Elizabeth Boehmler	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Harold Norman	02/01/2019	Acme Markets
Norma Braun	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Robert Olinik	02/01/2019	Acme Markets
Michael Brodton	03/01/2019	Village Shop Rites	Augustine Olivieri	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Timothy Brubaker	03/01/2019	Kunzler Packing Company	Patricia O'Neill	05/01/2019	Acme Markets
Stephen Butkiewicz	05/01/2019	Village Shop Rites	Thomas Palmer	05/01/2019	Super Fresh
Margaret Clarke	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Susan Pizzuttillo	02/01/2019	Zallie's Shop Rite
Michael Clauson	02/01/2019	Medford Inc	Michael Quann	02/01/2019	Incollingo's Ig
Mary Clement	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Jackie Rananawski	03/01/2019	Zallie's Shop Rite
Thomas Coleman	03/01/2019	Acme Markets	Susan Rogers	03/01/2019	Philadelphia Ma
Betty Conley	05/01/2019	Zallie's Shop Rite	Benjamin Romeo	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Sharon Conzalovich	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Thomas Shaw	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Judith Cosgrove	03/01/2019	Acme Markets	Sharon Smith	04/01/2019	Pathmark Stores
Elizabeth Crawford	03/01/2019	Zallie's Shop Rite	John Souders	02/01/2019	Acme Markets
Joseph Danko	05/01/2019	Cherry Hill Shop Rites	Stephanie Spalding	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
David Delattre	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Donna Sponburgh	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Allen Dubolino	04/01/2019	Pennex Foods In	Michael Stumpo	04/01/2019	Browns Shop Rites
Richard Farquhar	03/01/2019	Super Fresh	Regina Swenson	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Helen Franks	02/01/2019	Acme Markets	Theodore Tiazkun	05/01/2019	Cherry Hill Shop Rites
Stephen Giallombardo	05/01/2019	De Supermarkets	William Turner	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Paul Grech, Jr.	05/01/2019	Medford Inc	Robert Vance	02/01/2019	Acme Markets
Betty Greenstreet	02/01/2019	Acme Markets	Susan Wallace	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Angelo Grippo	05/01/2019	Pathmark Stores	Penny Wyckoff	02/01/2019	Acme Markets
David Gundrum	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Roeina Young	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Debra Hackett	04/01/2019	Acme Markets	Frank Zotynia	04/01/2019	Acme Markets
Ronald Harris	05/01/2019	Acme Markets			
John Heaton	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Charlotte Himstedt	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Darryl Holloway	02/01/2019	Browns Shop Rites			
Marietta Hujber	02/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Dorothy Jakob	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Alvan Jaworski	02/01/2019	Bottinos Shop Rite			
Craig Jerde	03/01/2019	Lissack Store-C			
Diane Kelly	05/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Rhonda Kennedy	05/01/2019	Collins Family			
Yvonne Kyles	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Paul Lecher	03/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Judith Lyons	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Janet Madajewski	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Doreen Madara	04/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Patricia Martone	05/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Pauline Maternia	05/01/2019	Acme Markets			
Janet Lynn Mayers	05/01/2019	Shoprite Spmkts			

In memoriam

Marino Bertini	02/13/2019	Village ShopRite
Shirley Boyle	02/14/2019	Vineland Shop 'n' bag
Willie Edge	02/28/2019	Envirochem
Robert Greco	03/27/2019	Ball Park Brands
Paul Hagins	03/20/2019	Colonial Beef Co.
Carole Leslie	03/29/2019	Supermarkets Of Cheltenham
Joan Lex	02/28/2019	Village ShopRites
Eleanor Masusock	02/13/2019	Colonial Beef Co.
Joseph Porber	03/05/2019	Medford Inc.
William Price	03/18/2019	Super Fresh
Robert Roccia	02/21/2019	Butler Foods/Penn Packing
Barney Tubman	03/22/2019	Village ShopRites
William M. Vaughan	02/05/2019	J Katz & Son Inc.
John White	02/15/2019	Frontier Beef Co.



A union education

Member Tiffany Lea from Acme Markets in Seaville, N.J., brought her son Lucas with her last month on National Bring Your Kids to Work Day.

STAY UP TO DATE! Text **local152** to **698329** to subscribe to Local 152's text message system. Local 152 does not charge for text messages but your cell phone provider's message and data rates may apply.



www.facebook.com/ufcwlocal152

President's Report


Continued from page 12

"renewed zeal" recently, "especially as the stock market hits record highs and average Americans realize they aren't sharing in the wealth."

The success of the strike led to a strong new contract that Stop & Shop workers ratified in early May. Employers in Local 152's jurisdiction and across the country were watching these events closely, and I have no doubt they understood the lesson.

A lesson our membership lives and breathes every day: There is strength in unity!

Brian Stig





Earn your GED for Free

Please visit UFCW.ORG/GED to find out more.

No matter when you last sat in a classroom, your union is here to help you build a better life.

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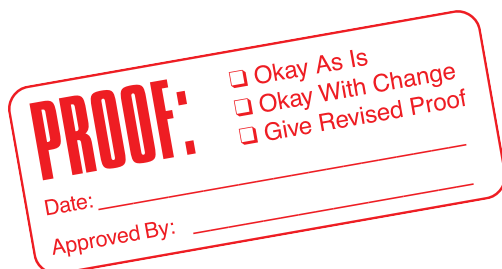
Your union can help you go to college for free (Really!)

Visit www.UFCW.org/College to learn more

UFCW.org

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Striking workers win with solidarity

Union workers in the Northeast and across the country scored a major victory with the successful Stop & Shop strike last month.

More than 31,000 UFCW members across 240 stores took a stand in the name of fairness and respect when they walked picket lines for an unprecedented 11 days in April.

These workers had the support of their union brothers and sisters, locally and from coast to coast. (For coverage of Local 152's participation in the strike, turn to pages 1–3 of this issue of *Unity*.) They also drew vocal support from news commentators, political leaders and clergy.

At a rally in Boston, former Vice President Joe Biden said he was “sick and tired of the way everybody’s being treated” and that the middle class needed to “take this country back.”

At another rally, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren urged shoppers to support the workers. “Understand that people on the picket line are not just fighting for their families,” she said. “They’re fighting for all our families. They’re fighting for basic fairness and equality in this country.”

The message was heard loud and clear by the public.

Community support was crucial

In every city and town in the affected areas, grocery shoppers refused to cross the picket lines. They would not turn their backs on their friends and neighbors who worked in the stores — the people who bagged their groceries, cut their meat and fish, arranged their flowers and kept their produce fresh.

We know these shoppers because we have them in our stores, too. Our customers value the hard work of Local 152 members and, should a similar situation ever arise in our communities, they will show their appreciation even if it causes them some inconvenience.

The effect of the public's support for the New England supermarket workers was immediate. Stop & Shop stores were empty during the strike — devoid of shoppers and product. Many locations didn't even try to continue operations and simply shut down. The company was estimated to have lost \$10 million per day.

The Boston Globe called the New England dispute “one of the most effective strikes in recent memory,” one that was “built on a growing hunger for social justice.”



President's Report By Brian String

“What we’re seeing is an increasing resistance to the fundamental unfairness of a system that’s so skewed both economically and politically to the wealthy,” Harvard Law School labor professor Benjamin Sachs told the Globe.

Tom Juravich, a labor studies professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, added that unions are finding a
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