



Labor Fax

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-2005-

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The successes we achieved in 2004 gave us motivation to pursue an even more aggressive agenda in 2005. We set the tone for our year in January by:

- Testifying before the Assembly State Government Committee to ensure that the concerns of working families were heard in the debate on creating a Constitutional Convention to reform the property tax system.
- Attending a meeting with workers at Delphi plant in New Brunswick regarding programs for displaced workers.
- Attending rallies in support of striking health care workers at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Willingboro.
- Providing strike assistance to 1,350 members of IBEW System Council U-3 and 186 members of Teamsters Local 701.

Although it is the shortest month of the year, February certainly was full of accomplishments. In just 28 days we:

- Held a one-day workshop at Rutgers University on Strategic Planning for Safety and Health committees. Program participants included members of CWA 1034 and 1040, HPAAE, IAFF 2663, IAM, RWDSU 108 and UWUA 375.
- Offered LEAP assistance to SEIU Local 1199 members dislocated from their jobs at Medicenter and Pathmark.
- Provided testimony to the Assembly Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee in support of legislation aiding New Jersey's military installations and personnel.
- Led lobbying efforts in support of an increase to the State's minimum wage.

Every sports fan looks forward to March Madness. We decided to also put on a full-court press and in March:

- Attended and addressed the Women in Leadership Development Conference at Rutgers University.

ANOTHER YEAR OVER

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

2005 is drawing to a close and now is a perfect opportunity for us to look back over the past 12 months and reflect on all that the New Jersey labor movement accomplished. Together we achieved many victories this year: the overwhelming election of Jon Corzine as our State's 53rd Governor, passage of legislation raising the minimum wage and banning the off-shoring of State-funded service contracts, and numerous organizing victories allowing thousands of new workers to enjoy a voice at work.

While we are proud to put this edition of Labor Fax together, it is all of you that deserve credit for everything that is included in it. Every year we come to you with an even more aggressive agenda and every year your leadership allows us to make our goals reality.

With an ever-changing labor movement, and an Administration in Washington which is increasingly hostile towards workers, it is obvious why many would be fearful about the challenges that face us in 2006. Through your continued support we look forward to turning these challenges into opportunities and making 2006 our most successful ever.

In the coming year we look forward to building on our extensive network of support to further our goal of improving the lives of New Jersey's working families. With nearly 400 rank-and-file union members now elected to public office, it is clear that the voice of labor has never been stronger and rarely will there be a discussion about important public policy where all sides will be forced to consider the needs and desires of working families.

Once again we thank you for your support throughout this year, offer you and your families the very best wishes this holiday season and look forward to a successful year in 2006.



**1998
Labor Fax
APEX Award**

- NJ State AFL-CIO: The Voice for Working Families in New Jersey -
OPEIU:153

- Celebrated electoral victories of two rank-and-file union members. Brother Paul Huggins, Ironworkers Local 11, won a special election to the Little Falls Municipal Council and Brother Harry Smith, NALC 908, was elected to the Cinnaminson Board of Fire Commissioners.
- Co-hosted Apprenticeship and Training Conference introducing "New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to College Educations" (NJ PLACE) program.
- Held a rally on the Statehouse steps with more than 500 union members opposing plans by the Bush Administration to privatize Social Security. Senator Jon Corzine and Representatives Rob Andrews (D-1), Frank Pallone (D-6) and Rush Holt (D-12) also participated in this event
- Launched final call to action in support of striking IBEW workers resulting in more than 11,000 letters to Governor Codey and Legislative leaders. This action prompted a final round of negotiations resulting in a settlement less than one week later.
- Supported efforts of Transport Workers Union, Local 225-Branch 4 in supporting workers threatened with layoffs by the Township of Howell.
- Celebrated Governor Codey's signing of legislation prohibiting the off-shoring of state-funded service contracts. The successful lobbying efforts by our affiliates on this legislation led to overwhelming, bi-partisan support in both houses of the Legislature and made New Jersey the first state in the nation to enact such a law to protect our jobs.
- Launched Operation Clean Sweep 2005, an effort to ensure the accuracy of union membership files, allowing us to improve our successful election programs.

The game doesn't end at half-time nor were we going to pack it in just half way through the year. We kept pushing forward in support of workers in June and:

With the winter behind us, we were ready to 'Spring' into action in April by:

- Joining Governor Codey at a bill-signing ceremony enacting a \$2 an hour increase to the minimum wage. This action led to increased salaries for nearly 200,000 workers.
- Holding inaugural meeting of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Organizing Roundtable. This coalition of unions will help develop strategies and share best practices to grow the labor movement.
- Welcoming 3,000 new union members to the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. These members are faculty members, graduate assistants and teaching assistants at Rutgers University; instructors at Lincoln Technical Institute; and teachers, assistant teachers and social workers at the Paterson Head Start program.
- Supporting the election efforts of 15 rank-and-file union members in their bids to win seats on their local school boards.
- Commemorating Worker's Memorial Day at a remembrance event in honor of New Jersey workers who were victims of workplace injuries and illness. The event drew attention to our call for increased safety and health protections for workers.
- Attended Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference in Rhode Island and served on the transition team in preparation for 2006 ESAT Conference in Atlantic City.
- Held the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative/COPE Endorsement Conference and Labor Awards Ceremony in Atlantic City and offered Senator Jon Corzine a unanimous endorsement in his race for Governor.
- Hosted the first Congressional Forum on the Employee Free Choice Act in Trenton. During this forum members from several unions offered testimony regarding their experiences in trying to organize and win first contracts. Representatives Rob Andrews (D-1), Frank Pallone (D-6), Steve Rothman (D-9) Rush Holt (D-12) and Bob Menendez (D-13) served on this Congressional panel.
- Announced the receipt of a \$120,000 training grant to develop a chemical plant security training program.

Let's be honest, everyone slows down just a little bit for the summer, except the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. In July and August we:

They say the days get longer as summer draws nearer. With everything we had on our agenda for this month we could certainly use it:

- Participated in lobbying efforts against the flawed Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). We are proud that all seven of New Jersey's Democratic Representatives in Washington, as well as Representatives LoBiondo (R-2), Smith (R-4) and Garrett (R-5) opposed this measure.
- Provided a newly developed health and safety training program for automotive apprentices of RWDSU 108 employed at Strauss Auto facilities throughout the state.
- Attended and participated in the AFL-CIO National Convention in Chicago and the Coalition of Labor Union Women Convention in Detroit.

- Led a rally and testified against State Health Benefits Commission's proposal to remove "out-of-pocket" cap for Retiree Prescription Drug Program.
- Facilitated comprehensive training programs for restaurant workers, nursery employees, deckhands, bus drivers and guards at New York Waterways.
- Provided LEAP training for Teamsters Local 863 representing 250 members from Tuscan Dairy and A&P.

Tens of thousands of union members participated in the 2004 election and we knew that 2005 would be no different. With campaign season upon us in September we:

- Hosted our Legislative Conference at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City. We were proud to welcome comedian, singer, entertainer and union brother Joe Piscopo to our COPE Luncheon during this 2-day conference.
- Held first-ever OSHEP Conference for health and safety professionals, activists and trainers. Programs offered at this conference included Motor Vehicle Safety, Respiratory Protection and Disaster Response.
- Officially launched Labor 2005 program with more than 1,000 union members participating in labor-to-labor walks throughout New Jersey.
- Announced first organizing victory utilizing the recently signed card-check recognition legislation. CWA 1034 successfully organized 41 Assistant Prosecutors in the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.
- Participated in a rally in support of 450 members of CWA 1037 employed by the Passaic County Board of Social Services who had been working without a contract for more than nine months.

Election Day was quickly approaching and our political operation was in full gear. However, that was only one item on our very full October agenda:

- Supported the efforts of Representative Frank LoBiondo (R-2) calling on President Bush to restore his unfair and anti-worker decision to suspend prevailing wage regulations in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.
- Held Eldercare Conference on "Health Care Literacy for Retirees". More than 150 union retirees participated in this event which featured Gubernatorial candidate Jon Corzine as the keynote speaker.
- Joined Business and Community Leaders to discuss strategies to strengthen community colleges and create additional educational and workforce training opportunities for New Jersey workers.

We achieved a great victory on Election Day and also accomplished the following in November:

- Elected 43 rank-and-file union members to public office through the New Jersey State AFL-CIO labor candidates program. This brought the total number of labor elected officials to 372.
- Mobilized tens of thousands of union members in support of labor endorsed candidates. Our efforts led to a decisive victory for Senator Jon Corzine as our State's 53rd Governor and 89% of our endorsed candidates for the New Jersey Legislature.
- Provided Occupational Safety and Health training to New Jersey High School teachers involved in placing students at worksites.

We set out to make 2005 our most successful year ever. December would be our final opportunity to make a difference this year. We were determined to keep the pace of the previous 11 months and in December we:

- Commemorated International Human Rights Day with a rally in support of workers' rights to organize and join unions.
- Testified before the Assembly Labor Committee in support of Legislation restricting public employers' ability to impose contracts.
- Attended and spoke at State Employment and Training Commission Conference in Atlantic City.
- Facilitated 3-day OSHEP Train-the-Trainer course for UNITE HERE Local 54 staff in Atlantic City.

Shop Union for the Holidays



This holiday season, support good jobs by giving union-made gifts. Your shopping dollars can keep good-paying jobs – with good wages and benefits – in your community.

For a fine selection of holiday gifts, go to: www.shopunionmade.org

Union Label & Service Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO was proud to confront labor challenges facing our members in 2005 and stand in solidarity with them on picket lines throughout the state. Unions facing strikes and contract disputes in 2005 included:

- JNESO District Council 1– Striking against Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Burlington County
- IBEW System Council U-3 Local Unions 327, 1289, 1298, 1303, 1309– Striking against JCP&L
- SEIU Local 1199– Striking against Victoria House Nursing Home in Matawan and Wayneview Manor in Wayne
- UAW 2326– striking against Book Sales, Inc. in Edison
- Teamsters Local 701– Striking against Waste Management
- CWA 1031– Fighting for a fair contract at Livingston Library
- UNITE HERE Local 284– Fighting for a fair contract at North American Linen
- TWU, Local 225-Branch 4 and Teamsters Local 469– Fighting Layoffs by the Township of Howell
- UNITE HERE New York Joint Board– Striking against Coral Dye and Finishing
- Teamsters Local 830– Striking against Pepsi
- CWA 1037– Fighting for a fair contract at Passaic County Board of Social Services

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO welcomed several new affiliates in 2005. Among those who will be joining our more than one million members and 1,000 affiliates in support of working families in 2006 are:

- Rutgers University AAUP-AFT
- Boilermakers D-432
- Fire Fighters Local 4408

Thousands of workers won a voice at work throughout New Jersey in 2005. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to welcome the following new union members to the labor family:

- AFT– Assistant teachers and social workers at Concerned Parents for Paterson Head Start and instructors at Lincoln Technical Institute in Mahwah
- CWA Local 1040– Mental health professionals at UMDNJ
- CWA Locals 1022, 1023 and 1101– Retail sales associates and call center workers at Cingular Wireless
- IAM– Field Service Technicians at Dish Network
- CWA 1034– Mercer County Assistant Prosecutors

The labor family in New Jersey lost many good friends and supporters in 2005. While the New Jersey State AFL-CIO said goodbye, the support the following individuals gave on behalf of New Jersey's working families will be remembered for many years to come:

- Michael Scarano– Former Business Agent BAC 5
- Albert Grebler– Retired RWDSU 108 1st Vice President
- Congressman Peter Rodino
- Sol Stein– Organizer UNITE HERE
- Ed Purtill– Executive Secretary of the United Labor Agency of Bergen County
- Donald Tucker– Assemblyman, District 28
- Rocky Palamaro– UAW
- Joseph Demark, Sr.– Former President and Business Manager, SMWIA Local 25
- Doug Jablonski– State Trooper NCO Association

THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO WISH ALL OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Upcoming Events

March 24-25, 2006	WILD Conference Rutgers Labor Center
June 13-14, 2006	COPE/Endorsement Conference Caesar's Atlantic City
June 25-30, 2006	Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference Atlantic City
July 30-August 4	Northeast Union Women's Summer School Rutgers Labor Center