



Labor Fax

October 13, 2004

Volume 8, Issue 10

BY THE NUMBERS

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

We have all heard reports about the incredible amounts of money that go into political campaigns, and have often wondered where these dollars come from and how they are spent. It will probably come as no surprise that the money raised from Big Business far out-distances that which comes from working families. In fact, in 2002, corporate interests outspent union members in political contributions 12 to 1! They spent over \$700 million while we spent just over \$60 million.

While there is still a few weeks left in this year's campaign cycle it appears that we will once again be greatly outspent! Does that mean that our voices won't be heard on Election Day? ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!

In 1996 the AFL-CIO set out to counteract the difference in political contributions by establishing the nation's strongest grassroots network of political activists, and it worked! By 2000, after increasing the number of union members who were registered to vote by 4.8 percent, union households represented nearly 26 percent of the total vote in that year's Presidential election.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO has been proud to be a part of this program and to make our's the most successful in the country. In the past three weeks nearly one thousand rank and file union members have fanned out across the State to talk to their brothers and sisters about the importance of this year's campaign. Thousands more will participate on Election Day! Together with phone banks, this year's program will allow us to touch nearly all of our union members and remind them why it is so important for them to vote for John Kerry for President and the rest of our endorsed candidates.

We may be outspent, but we certainly aren't outworked!



1998
Labor Fax
APEX Award

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**ELECTION DAY COUNTDOWN:
20 DAYS: NOVEMBER 2, 2004**

CONFERENCE SUCCESS

Over 500 delegates, guests and friends attended the Legislative Conference of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO held October 5-6, 2004 at the Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa in Atlantic City. Those in attendance during the two-day Conference learned about steps being taken on the national level to ensure a Kerry/Edwards victory in November from AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka and also participated in a political director's meeting at which affiliates committed over 10,000 volunteers for the Labor 2004 program right here in New Jersey.

OUR FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON

Two of New Jersey's representatives in Washington DC also addressed the delegates at the Legislative Conference in Atlantic City. Congressman Donald Payne and Senator Jon Corzine both spoke about the divisive nature of the Bush Administration in Washington and implored delegates to do all that they could to send Senator John Kerry to the White House so that they can begin to move forward on legislative initiatives to improve access to health care, create jobs and protect workers' rights to organize.

OUR FRIENDS IN TRENTON

The success of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO's labor candidates program was evident on the first day of the Conference when two of our former labor candidates, and current legislators addressed the delegates. Senator Steve Sweeney (D-3) and Senator Joe Coniglio (D-38) both thanked the delegates for their support during last year's campaign and pledged to continue to fight for New Jersey's working families in Trenton. Assemblyman Joe Egan (D-17) also attended the Conference.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO presented New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey with a resolution thanking him for his years of service to the working families of this state. Upon accepting the resolution Governor McGreevey delivered an emotional address to the delegates thanking them for their support and for welcoming him as a member of the labor family. Governor McGreevey's address was received by the delegates with a standing ovation which lasted for several minutes.

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

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ON THE ROAD

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:
 ...attended the United Steelworkers of America District 4 Education Conference in Atlantic City.
 ...participated in Labor walks and phone bank programs.
 ...testified before Senate and Assembly Labor Committees.
 ...attended and addressed Monmouth/Ocean Central Labor Council Meeting.
 ...addressed the Chemical Industry Council of New Jersey at the PolyOne Plant in Pedricktown, NJ.
 ...testified before the Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee.
 ...presented a demonstration of the New Jersey E-Activist Network to Legislative Conference Delegates.
 ...picketed with striking members of UNITE HERE 54 in support of a fair contract.

RETIREES ROCK THE VOTE!

Over 125 enthusiastic union retirees from around the state attended the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Legislative Forum held at IBEW Local 400 in Wall, New Jersey. Congressman Rush Holt, Senator Joe Vitale and John Fuller, a representative of Senator Frank Lautenberg, addressed the attendees and answered their questions on topics such as prescription drug benefits, property taxes, social security, and nursing home standards. Retirees also heard about ways they can participate in the Labor 2004 program from President Charles Wowkanec.

CHECK THIS

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO thanks all of the union members, officers and lobbyists that participated in the September 29 hearing on S-194 (Smith). This bill, concerning the "card check" method of organizing was posted for a vote on this day by the Senate Labor Committee. Unfortunately, while testimony was heard on this bill, no vote was taken. Chairman Steve Sweeney (D-3) has assured us that the bill will be posted again soon for a vote.

NOT WITH OUR DOLLARS

On September 30 the Assembly Labor Committee passed A-3042 (Van Drew/Egan) along party lines by a vote of 5-2. Only Assemblyman Michael Doherty (R-23) and Assemblyman Guy Gregg (R-24) voted against this measure which would prohibit contractors and grantees from using state funds to deter organizing drives.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO welcomes new affiliates ILA Local 2049 and the Maritime Port Council, Delaware Valley and Vicinity. These new members join the more than one million members and 1,000 local unions already affiliated with us. We also welcome the 27 workers at N.J. Air Products and Chemical Inc. facility, which voted to join PACE in August, to the Labor family.

**NOVEMBER 2
ELECTION DAY****WELCOME GOVERNOR CODEY**

Senate President Richard Codey addressed the delegates of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference on Tuesday, October 5. Senator Codey, who will assume the role of Governor upon the departure of current Governor Jim McGreevey on November 15, has more than 30 years of service in the New Jersey Legislature representing parts of Essex County. Highlight of Codey's career include his leadership in efforts to bring casino gambling to New Jersey and his work on behalf of the mentally ill. During his comments at the Conference, Senator Codey assured the delegates that he will not make any decisions effecting the labor community without first consulting the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and its affiliates.

E-ACTIVIST OF THE MONTH

CWA 1084 sent the most faxes in September to New Jersey Legislators and Congressmen on key pieces of legislation the New Jersey State AFL-CIO has been active on. Encourage your members to join the network today by visiting www.njafclcio.org. Local unions with the most E-Activist participants will be recognized each month in Labor Fax.

CONGRATULATIONS

Michael O'Brien was recently elected as new president of the Transport Workers Union (TWU). Michael, a long-time friend of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, began his career with the union as a school bus driver in 1972.

OF NOTE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO extends condolences to the family of Dolores "Dell" Raudelunas who passed away on October 12. Dell served as the Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Greater Union County for over 30 years and was among the earliest supporters of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Community Services Agency.

SOLIDARITY ALERT!!**STRIKE RALLY AND MARCH****IN SUPPORT OF****UNITE HERE 54****SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16****12:00 p.m.****SHOWBOAT****PACIFIC AVENUE****ATLANTIC CITY**