



# Labor Fax

January 25, 2005

Volume 9 Issue 1

## A NEW BEGINNING

By Charles Wovkanech & Laurel Brennan

The new year has begun, bringing with it new opportunities to improve the lives of New Jersey's working families. Working together the labor movement in New Jersey accomplished so much in 2004, yet there is still so much left for us to do in 2005.

Legislatively, we will continue to work towards implementing public policy that is good for the more than one million members and 1,000 local unions that we represent. Among other issues, we will continue to push for passage of legislation allowing the card check method of organizing, search for opportunities to increase access to and the affordability of health insurance and prescription drugs, and work with Governor Codey and the State Legislature to raise the minimum wage.

Improving our political program, widely recognized as one of the best in the nation, will also be high on our agenda this year. By increasing the number of rank-and-file union members elected through our Labor Candidates program, currently 309, the voice of labor will continue to be heard in the Statehouse, in county administration buildings and in town halls throughout New Jersey. Our members will also play key roles in the Gubernatorial and Legislative races taking place this year.

Finally, our expanded OSHEP program will continue to offer the very best health and safety training courses available to workers throughout the state. With eight different programs already scheduled between February and May, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO will remain committed to making our state's workers the safest in the nation.

We look forward to working with all of our members and affiliates throughout the year. Without you none of our goals are attainable.



1998  
Labor Fax  
APEX Award

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## STANDING STRONG

Representatives from unions throughout New Jersey joined members of IUOE/JNESO District 1 on Wednesday, January 19, 2005 to mark the nine-month anniversary of their strike against Lourdes Health System and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital at Burlington. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO encourages all members to assist the striking nurses by making a contribution to their strike fund. Donations can be sent to JNESO Rancocas Strike Fund, 146 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For more information contact Ginny Treacy, Executive Director, at 732-745-2776.

## THEY'RE NOT ALONE

1,350 members of IBEW System Council U-3 and 186 members of Teamsters Local 701 are also currently on strike. The IBEW members, have been on strike against JCP&L for more than six weeks while Teamsters Local 701 have been striking Waste Management since January 10, 2005. Striking workers appreciate the continued support of their union brothers and sisters from throughout the state.

## STATE OF THE STATE

Several representatives of the New Jersey labor movement were at the Statehouse on Tuesday, January 11 to watch as Governor Dick Codey delivered his State of the State address. Among the many highlights of the speech were calls for a raise in the state's minimum wage, additional funding for mental health services for New Jersey residents and a continued movement towards improving the public perception of elected officials.

## COMMITTEE APPROVES MINIMUM WAGE BILL

On January 24, 2005, S-2065 sponsored by Senators Sweeney (D-3) and Vitale (D-19) and Acting Governor Codey, was released from the Senate Labor Committee by a 5-0 vote. Voting in favor of the minimum wage increase was Committee Chairman Steve Sweeney (D-3), Senator Joe Doria (D-31), Senator Bernard Kenny (D-33), Senator Robert Littell (R-24), and Senator Walter Kavanaugh (R-16). If signed into law, the bill would "phase in" over two years a \$2 per hour increase. The current minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour. A Minimum Wage Advisory Committee would also be formed by the law, of which the New Jersey State AFL-CIO would recommend two nominees to be appointed by the Governor. The bill now waits for a vote by the full Senate. The Assembly companion, A-3691 is pending in the Assembly Labor Committee. To send an automatic pre-written fax through our web site to your Legislative Representatives urging them to support an increase in the minimum wage visit [www.njafclcio.org](http://www.njafclcio.org).

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**ON THE ROAD**

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:  
 ...attended a special COPE meeting with AFL-CIO Political Department to plan Labor 2005.  
 ...conducted a special meeting of the Public Employees Committee to discuss issues related to the proposed Constitutional Convention.  
 ...participated in a joint hearing of the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee.  
 ...testified before the Assembly State Government Committee.  
 ...attended a rally in support of striking IBEW workers.  
 ...participated in NJ Apprenticeship Conference Planning Meetings.  
 ...spoke at Plumbers Local 24 YTTW Consortium Meeting.  
 ...met with RWDSU regarding Automotive Technology Apprenticeship Program.  
 ...participated in New Jersey Construction Trades Training Directors Meeting.  
 ...met with Jewish Vocational Services regarding adult education training resources available to local unions.  
 ...joined with IUOE/JNESO District 1 members at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in a rally to mark the nine-month anniversary of their strike against Lourdes Health Systems.

**STAYING ON THE ROAD**

With all the time Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO spend in their cars on the road, it is especially important during the winter season that our vehicles are safe and ready for the poor road conditions this season often brings. It is reassuring to know that with 35 facilities throughout the state, employing over 600 members of Local 108, Strauss Discount Auto is available to help keep our cars and light trucks running well. Through their auto technician's apprenticeship program, Strauss is also introducing the labor movement to a new generation of workers. To find a location near you click on <http://www.straussauto.com>

**APPOINTMENTS PLEASE**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO congratulates the following members on their recent appointments:

- Vincent Giblin, former Business Manager of IUOE Local 68 was elected President of the International Union of Operating Engineers on January 18, 2005.
- Patrick Perno, former Business Manager for UA Local 14 has been named the Secretary Treasurer for the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Service Technicians, Sprinklerfitters and Steamfitters.
- William Barnham, UA 9, has been selected to serve an unexpired term on the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- Beth Ward, IUOE/JNESO District 1, was appointed to the Small Employee Health Benefits Program Board of Directors.

**Upcoming Events**

February 8, 2005	PEC Meeting Trenton
February 16, 2005	HAAC Meeting Trenton
February 18, 2005	OSHEP Workshop Strategic Planning for Health and Safety Committees Rutgers Labor Education Center
March 3-4, 2005	Apprenticeship Conference Atlantic City
March 12, 2005	School Board/Non-Partisan Labor Candidates Seminar Trenton
April 28, 2005	Workers' Memorial Day Commemoration
June 14-15, 2005	New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative/COPE Endorsement Conference Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa Atlantic City

**LABOR'S MOST WANTED**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is once again searching for candidates to participate in the 2005 Labor Candidates Program. Since 1997, this program has elected 309 rank-and-file union members in our towns as school board members, council members and mayors; in our counties as freeholders; and on the state level as members of the New Jersey General Assembly and State Senate. These elected officials are giving New Jersey's working families important voices in public policy decisions at all levels of government. For more information on the Labor Candidates Program contact John Shea, COPE Director at (609) 989-8730 or [cope@njafclcio.org](mailto:cope@njafclcio.org).

**OF NOTE**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO extends condolences to the Giblin family on the passing of Theresa Giblin on December 26, 2004. Our thoughts are also with Senator Bill Gormley (R-1) following the passing of his mother, Mrs. Margaret Gormley on January 14. We also regretfully report that Ronald Conigliaro, brother of Executive Board member and IAMAW District 15 Directing Business Representative, James Conigliaro, has passed away. Viewings will be held for Mr. Conigliaro on Thursday, January 27 from 2:00 p.m.-5:00p.m. and 7:00 p.m.-9:00p.m. at Scotto's Funeral Home, 106 1st Street, Brooklyn, NY with a funeral mass on Friday, January 28 at St. Mary's Church in Brooklyn.