



Labor Fax

December 21, 2006

Volume 10, Issue 7

Labor Fax Co-Editors:
Charles Wowkanech **Laurel Brennan**
President Secretary-Treasurer
Associate Editor:
Steve Lenox
(609) 989-8730 • www.njaflcio.org

-2006-

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2005 was a successful year for the labor movement in New Jersey. We knew we had to start strong in 2006 so in January we:

- Launched Operation Clean Sweep to further improve upon the accuracy of our COPE files. The success of this program allows us to more efficiently communicate with union voters during important political campaigns.
- Celebrated the inauguration of Governor Jon Corzine and pro-working family majorities in both the State Senate and the Assembly.
- Provided health and safety training to nearly 50 workers employed by Boeing, PF Laboratories and local school systems in the South Jersey region.
- Helped lead a rally in support of more than 1200 health care workers threatened with job loss after the owners of St. Mary's hospital in Hoboken voted to shut the facility.

We weren't going to let the fact that February is a short month keep us from achieving our objectives. In these 28 days we:

- Released our legislative agenda to all members of the State Senate and the General Assembly, as well as Governor Corzine. Among the policy proposals we informed these bodies we intended to fight for were Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) reform and finance, protection of pensions, school construction financing, expansion of health care coverage and promotion of pro-worker legislation.
- Supported the campaigns of three rank-and-file union members seeking election to their local fire districts. Their victories brought the total number of labor candidates elected to 375.
- Welcomed the 95 members of the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, System Council 2, SEIU to the New Jersey State AFL-CIO family.
- Addressed students at Ramapo High School about the importance of unions and the role that organized labor has played in shaping our nation.

LOOKING BACK...MOVING FORWARD

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

With labor leaders across the nation still debating the future of the labor movement at the national level, no one was quite sure what 2006 would bring to unions and working families.

However, right here at home, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, our Central Labor Councils and Building Trades Councils, our affiliated unions and our members kept our eyes on the prize and continued to work together towards our common goal of growing the labor movement.

Throughout the year, whether our efforts saw us working in the political arena, in the halls of government or at worksites where workers pursued their right to join a union, the common ingredient to our success was unity. As One State- One Voice- One Labor Movement, we achieve great things.

In New Jersey, we have shown repeatedly that the right combination of political action, legislative initiative and aggressive organizing keeps the labor movement in the strongest position possible to continue advancing the agenda of our State's working families.

Now, with pro-working family majorities in both the House and the Senate, we look forward to bringing our model for success to the labor movement nationwide. Together, it is time to take an even more aggressive approach and stand together in our fight to make universal health care a reality, bring an end to the Wal-Marting of our nation, and offer workers a real opportunity to join a union without the threats or intimidation that so regularly thwart their efforts to gain a voice at work.

Once again we thank you for a very successful 2006 and wish all working families a happy and healthy 2007.



**1998
Labor Fax
APEX Award**

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

OPEIU:153

It was the hard work of our affiliates, not the Luck of the Irish, that helped us in March as we:

- Testified before the joint Senate Labor and Health Committees hearing on legislation requiring employers to pay their fair share towards employees health care.
- Joined Governor Jon Corzine as he signed his first Gubernatorial Proclamation. This proclamation made official for the NJ PLACE program which offers union members college credits for work completed in apprenticeship programs.
- Attended a rally in support of more than 150 members of the Boilermakers who had been locked out of their jobs by Celanese and National Starching for nearly a year. Less than two months after this rally an agreement was reached and the workers were back on the job.
- Led the Women in Leadership Development (WILD) Conference at Rutgers University. More than 100 labor women attended this two-day conference which featured a keynote address by Governor Jon Corzine.

April was a busy month and certainly very taxing as we:

- Welcomed Komilla John and Sal Lombardo to our staff. Together, Komilla and Sal bring over 40 years of health and safety training experience to our OSHEP project and will enhance our program as we continue to offer first class training to our affiliates in every sector of the workforce.
- Celebrated the victories of seven rank-and-file union members who were successfully elected to their local school boards. These victories brought the total number of labor candidates elected to 382.
- Helped New Jersey become the first state in the nation to launch standardized "Security Awareness and Preparedness Training." This program was developed through the cooperation and support of 27 strategic partners from government, academia, industry and labor, and will be administered by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO/Rutgers University Occupational Safety and Health Education Program (OSHEP).
- Participated in a Day of Action in support of comprehensive immigration reform which considers the human and civil rights of all workers.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much time for us to stop and smell the May flowers. This month we:

- Offered training for 22 union representatives as part of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO LEAP program.

- Participated in Voice at Work Rallies in support of members of USW Local 675 who had recently been locked out of their jobs by Medco. On the same day we joined AFL-CIO President John Sweeney at a rally in support of 7,000 nurses and health care workers represented by HPAE involved in contract negotiations at nine hospitals throughout New Jersey.
- Supported the campaigns of two successful labor candidates in local, non-partisan elections. The victories of Bilal Beasley SEIU 617, in Irvington, and Lizette Parker, CWA 1089, in Teaneck, brings the total number of labor candidates elected since 1997 to 384.

As the long days of summer approached, we found ourselves wishing for more hours in the day. Still, in June we:

- Held the New Jersey State AFL-CIO COPE Endorsement Conference and Labor Awards ceremony in Atlantic City. Conference delegates offered Senator Bob Menendez a unanimous endorsement.
- Hosted the Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference in Atlantic City.
- Stood in solidarity with 650 nurses represented by HPAE 5004 who went on strike at Englewood Hospital. Despite their efforts to negotiate with management at Englewood Hospital, these workers would be on strike for nearly a month.
- Made presentations at the AFL-CIO's Working for America High Road Network National Conference in San Diego.

The summer is supposed to be a time for resting and relaxing. However, there was still a lot of work to do and in July and August we:

- Participated in a national Day of Action by leading a rally in Newark urging members of the NLRB to hold oral arguments before issuing their decision in the 'Kentucky River' cases.
- Co-hosted the 31st annual Northeast Regional Summer School for Union Women at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.
- Applauded the signing of an Executive Order by Governor Corzine which recognized the Child Care Workers Union. This partnership between CWA Local 1037 and AFSCME Council 1 will give a voice on the job to more than 7,000 home child care workers.

- Held the tenth annual New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Candidates School at the Eagleton Institute for Politics at Rutgers University.
- Supported more than 1,300 nurses represented by USW Local 4-200 on strike at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. These nurses would be on strike for more than three weeks before reaching an agreement which included additional pension protections and better health benefits than were initially offered.
- Applauded the signing of two pieces of legislation endorsed by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. S-539 and S-1396, both sponsored by Senator Barbara Buono (D-19) are intended to help reduce the cost of health care and prescription drugs in our state.
- Provided an OSHA 10-hour Outreach course to 20 educators enrolled in UMDNJ's Safe Schools Program.
- Prevented the disenfranchisement of tens of thousands of voters statewide in November's election when New Jersey Attorney General Stuart Rabner announced the signing of a consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice in regard to the Help America Vote Act.
- Co-hosted a labor rally with the New Jersey Construction and Building Trades Council and the Change Coalition. Several thousand union members participated in this rally in support of Senator Bob Menendez.
- Completed the second and third Security Awareness and Preparedness programs and the first on-site training program. In total, this program has trained over 200 participants representing 75 companies in the chemical and petroleum industries.

The polls were close and money was tight during this Election season. There was no doubt that labor was going to make the difference this Election Day. We were prepared for the fight and in September we:

- Co-hosted the first annual conference of the New Jersey chapter of the Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (LCLAA).
- Joined Governor Jon Corzine at the signing of legislation requiring the prompt payment of contractors, sub-contractors and sub-sub-contractors on both public and private projects.
- Participated in a rally with several building trades members calling on developers in Asbury Park to protect worker's rights by providing good jobs and fair wages.
- Hosted nearly 300 retired union members at the 5th annual New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Legislative Conference. Speakers at this conference included Senator Bob Menendez and Congressman Frank Pallone.
- Hosted the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference in Atlantic City. Guests included Governor Jon Corzine, Senator Bob Menendez and AFL-CIO Organizing Director Stewart Acuff.

Electing Senator Bob Menendez, our endorsed Congressional candidates, and a record number of labor candidates was on everyone's minds in October. However, there was still other work that had to be done. This month we:

- Participated with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development in a Rapid Response program for 150 employees represented by USW at Gerdau Ameristeel in Perth Amboy.

Working families went to the polls in huge numbers on Election Day giving Senator Bob Menendez an overwhelming victory over his opponent. In addition to helping deliver his victory, in November we:

- Launched our largest Get-Out-The-Vote effort resulting in the successful election of Senator Bob Menendez, nine of our endorsed House candidates, and 41 rank-and-file union members.
- Hosted a rally with U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) in support of Senator Bob Menendez.
- Celebrated a judge's decision supporting the nurse's at South Jersey Healthcare who voted earlier this year to join HPAAE.
- Provided disaster site worker training to 15 workers from 3 local unions representing 11 employers.

Well, the holiday season has set in and December is a good time to reflect on all that we have accomplished in 2006. However, our work isn't done and so far in December we have:

- Co-hosted a rally in support of public employees urging Governor Jon Corzine and the New Jersey Legislature to respect the collective bargaining process,
- Worked with several legislators and the Governor's office to advance legislation to make New Jersey the second state in the nation to offer paid family leave.
- Supported the URA-AFT's efforts to organize Administrative and Support staff at Rutgers University.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO was proud to confront labor challenges facing our members in 2006 and stand in solidarity with them on picket lines throughout the state. Unions facing strikes and contract disputes in 2006 included:

- HPAE 5004– Striking against Englewood Hospital
- USW 4-200– Striking against Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
- JNESO District Council 1– Fighting for a Fair Contract at Virtua West Jersey Hospital
- Boilermakers Local 484– Locked out from Celanese and National Starching in Meredosia, Illinois
- HPAE– Fighting for fair contracts with 11 hospitals across New Jersey
- USW– Fighting for Fair contracts at Medco
- RWDSU Local 108– Fighting for a fair contract at Academy Bus Tours
- CWA 1034– Fighting for a first contract at the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office
- USW– 15000 USW members nationwide on strike against Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- AFSCME 1199J– Fighting against contract violations by Morris County and the Morris View Nursing Home

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO welcomed several new affiliates in 2006. Among those who will be joining our more than one million members and 1,000 affiliates in support of working families in 2007 are:

- Musicians Local 399
- United Transportation Union
- CWA 1102
- MEBA District Council 1
- SEIU Fire and Oilers

Thousands of workers won a voice at work throughout New Jersey in 2006. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to welcome the following new union members to the labor family:

- UNITE HERE– Laundry workers at North American Linen
- CWA 1034– Assistant Prosecutors in Atlantic County
- IAM District Lodge 15– Assistant Prosecutors in Atlantic County
- AFSCME District Council 1 and CWA Local 1037– Home Child Care workers

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

The labor family in New Jersey lost many good friends and supporters in 2006. 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:

- Professor Wells Keddie- Rutgers University
- Evelyn Dubrow- ILGWU, UNITE, CLUW
- Martin Berger– ILGWU, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
- Frank Wade– Retired Executive Director New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades
- Carmen Perry, Business Manager LIUNA 593
- Don Wood, President, IATSE 536
- Anthony Neglia, President, Musicians 248
- Andy DiMatteo, UAW Region 9
- Edward McGee, Painters D.C. 711
- Joe Glazier, Textile Workers
- Red Campbell, Seafarers Union
- Dominick Critelli, President, IFPTE Local 195
- Frank Neary, Retired Business Manager, IBEW 400
- Eugene Grambo– Business Manager, Laborers 473
- Bill Terrell– UAW

Upcoming Events

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 16, 2007 | OSHEP Education Conference Trenton Marriott |
| March 23-24, 2007 | WILD Conference Rutgers Labor Center |
| June 12-13, 2007 | COPE/Endorsement Conference Borgata 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