



# Labor Fax

April 27, 2006

Volume 10 Issue 3

## JUST GETTING STARTED

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

With the first hundred days as Governor now behind him, it seems very clear that Jon Corzine is remaining true to his commitment to remain sensitive to the needs of New Jersey's working families.

In this short amount of time, he has already taken important steps to shore up the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), lent his support to the innovative NJ PLACE program and worked hard to ensure the success of the first-in-the-nation Security Awareness and Preparedness training program developed to protect the workers at and communities around our state's many chemical and petroleum facilities.

However, there is no doubt that his biggest challenge in the early part of his Administration will be to work with both houses of the State Legislature to pass a sensible budget. On this front, his initial proposals once again seem to be in line with the concerns of working families.

While proposals to keep municipal aid flat and raising the sales tax by one penny are clearly disappointing, he seemed to respond to our calls to bring a halt to the recent, and recurring, practice of raiding the UI fund and his commitment to funding the public employee pension fund with \$1.5 billion. We must remember that since 1997 state and local governments have failed to keep their promise to workers and have cheated the pension system out of nearly \$6 billion.

With the Legislature set to return from their budget recess, the real work involved in developing a budget will begin. Between now and June 30th, the Constitutionally mandated date to pass a balanced budget, the labor movement must deliver a united message to all of our State's lawmakers to remind them to keep working families in the forefront of all of their discussions on this important matter.



1998  
Labor Fax  
APEX Award

## Labor Fax Co-Editors:

Charles Wowkanech

President

Laurel Brennan

Secretary-Treasurer

Associate Editor:

Steve Lenox

(609) 989-8730 • [www.njaflcio.org](http://www.njaflcio.org)

## HELPING THEM GET A START...

The Youth Transition to Work Partnership (YTTW) grant program seeks to facilitate effective transition of youths to high-skilled, high-wage employment in occupations with long-term career potential and opportunities for occupationally relevant lifelong learning, and thereby motivate youth to greater success in secondary and postsecondary education. Since 1998, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO has been working with local unions to develop successful YTTW programs that have exposed thousands of high school students to career opportunities through registered apprenticeship programs.

While most apprenticeship programs exist within the construction trades, the Youth Transition to Work funding has also helped facilitate the expansion of registered apprenticeship into new occupations including: Automotive Technicians, Computer Operators, and the Culinary Arts.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is about to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new round of YTTW grants. Unions interested in developing a Youth Transition to Work program in a high skilled, high-wage occupation should call Chris Estevez, New Jersey State AFL-CIO Education & Training Coordinator at (609) 989-8730 for more information.

## HELPING THEM MAKE A CHANGE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, provides the Labor Employment Action Project (LEAP) to enable New Jersey's unions to work pro-actively for workers whose jobs may be vulnerable. LEAP addresses the serious challenges of mass layoffs and plant closings, as well as the important opportunities provided by life-long learning, New Jersey's One Stop Career Centers, and other valuable services.

A key component of LEAP is the Peer Counselor Train-the-Trainer program, which is being conducted May 2, 3, & 4, at Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick. Over 400 union leaders and members participated in our LEAP training, and thousands of union members have benefited from the assistance Peer Counselors provided.

For more information about this training contact Nancy Miller at 973-614-0049 or [nmiller@njaflcio.org](mailto:nmiller@njaflcio.org).

## ESAC CONFERENCE

This year's Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference will be hosted by the New Jersey Apprenticeship Policy Committee at Bally's in Atlantic City, New Jersey from June 25 – June 30, 2006. For more information please visit [www.esac2006.com](http://www.esac2006.com)

**ON THE ROAD**

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:

...Participated in a rally in support of members of Boilermakers Local 484 locked out from Celanese and National Starching since June 2005.

...Addressed participants at AFL-CIO Northeast CLC/AFL Regional Conference.

...Attended Prayer Breakfast hosted by Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey.

...Hosted Women in Leadership Development (WILD) Conference at Rutgers Labor Education Center.

...Presented information about apprenticeship opportunities in the construction trades at a career fair at the Trenton Daylight/Twilight Alternative School.

...Participated in State Advisory Council of the School of Management and Labor Relations.

...Attended 19th Annual NJ SEED Congressional Briefing in Washington D.C.

**PROTECTING PATIENTS BY DEFENDING NURSES**

A set of decisions is currently pending before the NLRB which may allow hospitals to categorize 'charge' nurses as supervisors and, therefore, prevent them from exercising their voice at work through union representation. There is no doubt that employers in various sectors of the workforce will seek to thwart the rights of other "lead" professionals to join unions using these decisions as their precedent.

Currently bargaining with 11 hospitals, HPAAE is committed to protecting their members' rights to union representation and is fighting to ensure that nurses' voices are not taken away, leading to devastating consequences for those receiving medical care.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to join in this fight and encourages all of our affiliates to speak out against these decisions. To find out how you can join with us in support of HPAAE's campaign for nurses' and patients' rights contact Jeanne Otersen, HPAAE at 201-262-4335.

**MAJORITY FOR MAJORITY CARD CHECK?**

New Jersey Congressman Chris Smith (R-4) became the first Republican member of our State's Congressional delegation to sign on as sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act. All six Democratic House Representatives from New Jersey have also signed on as sponsors. With Representative Smith's support, the Employee Free Choice Act now has 215 co-sponsors in the House, just three short of a full majority.

**IN MEMORIAM**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO extends our condolences to the family of Professor Wells Keddie, Ph.D who passed away on April 1, 2006. Additionally, we send our sympathies to Brother Joe Egan, IBEW 456, and his family on the recent passing of his mother, Marion Egan. Finally the New Jersey State AFL-CIO was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Wayne Bryant, Jr., son of Senator Wayne Bryant.

**Upcoming Events**

April 28, 2006	Workers' Memorial Day
May 2-4, 2006	LEAP Worker Peer Counselor Training Program Rutgers Labor Education Center
May 9, 2006	PEC Meeting Trenton
June 13-14, 2006	COPE/Endorsement Conference Caesar's Atlantic City
June 25-30, 2006	Eastern Seaboard Apprenticeship Conference Atlantic City
July 30-August	Northeast Union Women's Summer School Rutgers Labor Education Center

**PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHED**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to announce the completion of the first ever Security Awareness and Preparedness Program training.

Twenty-seven strategic partners from the labor movement, industry, academia and government contributed to the development of this program and are to be commended for their continued commitment to the workers and residents of our State. This first-in-the-nation training will provide workers in the chemical and petroleum industries throughout the state with critical security awareness skills and safety techniques that will supplement other efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks. There are currently approximately 100,000 workers employed in these industries statewide.

Building on our well-established record of providing quality safety education programs for employers in the State, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, along with our OSHE Program partners at Rutgers University, will strive to continually enhance this program to meet the changing needs of the workforce.

For more information about this program please contact Christine Rampolla, Program Coordinator, at 609-989-8730.

**PROTECTING WORKING FAMILIES**

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO welcomes a recent, unanimous decision by the State Supreme Court that companies who don't take certain safety precautions can be sued if their workers' spouses get sick from asbestos dust brought home on work clothes.

**WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY**

To find out where Workers' Memorial Day events will be held in honor of the 50 New Jersey workers that were killed on the job in 2005, please visit [www.njafclcio.org](http://www.njafclcio.org)