



Labor Fax

May 20, 2004

Volume 8, Issue 3

PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

Congratulations are in order for all of the Democratic candidates who threw their hats in the ring to take on a President whose policies have set our nation backwards. Each of them laid out a vision to help move America into the second half of the first decade in this new millennium. While it is clear that Senator Kerry's record of accomplishment over the years has resonated with the most voters during the primary season, we must remember that it is the result of November's election which will ultimately help to get America back on track.

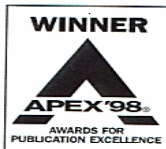
It is vital to future generations of Americans, and to the future of our brothers and sisters in labor, that we work together to defeat President Bush and to elect a President who will stand up for the hard working families that make our nation great. Senator Kerry is the man for the job, proving his desire to serve others is genuine through a lifetime of public service.

President Bush's failed economic policies have cost America millions of jobs, put healthcare out of the hands of an additional 4 million families and undermined our system of public education. His desire to thwart organized labor has been evidenced time and time again during his first term in the White House, first through his refusal to allow for the organization of those who guard America's airports and most recently in his attempt to take away overtime eligibility rights from nearly 8 million workers.

Yes, we know who will be carrying the banner for America's families in this year's Presidential election. It is up to all of us to make sure that our families, friends, colleagues and most importantly, fellow labor union members, know which candidate we must elect to make America great again.

SOMETHING TO ADD?

If you would like to contribute to a future edition of Labor Fax call Steve Lenox at 609-989-8730 or email him at slenox@njafclcio.org



1998
Labor Fax
APEX Award

Labor Fax Co-Editors:

Charles Wowkanech
President

Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer

Associate Editor:

Steve Lenox
(609) 989-8730 • www.njafclcio.org

OVERTIME UNDER ATTACK

President Bush's attempt to take overtime pay away from workers across the country, approximately 250,000 here in New Jersey, was dealt a blow when the U.S. Senate voted in favor of the "Harkin Amendment" on May 4, 2004.

This amendment guarantees that no worker will lose their overtime pay under new rules issued by the Bush Administration. Both of New Jersey's U.S. Senators, Corzine and Lautenberg, voted in favor of this amendment, once again showing their support for New Jersey's working families.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

Senator Jon Corzine recently introduced a bill in Washington, the "Super 301 Restoration Act", to help curb job loss due to the trade deficit America's economy is currently struggling with. Under this bill, the United States Trade Representative would be required to provide an annual report to Congress on foreign trade practices which may be costing Americans jobs.

Based on the findings of the report, the USTR would also be required to work with each country identified to eliminate recognized trade barriers and open foreign markets to American goods.

WANTED, LABOR CANDIDATES

The NJ State AFL-CIO's 8th annual Labor Candidates School is scheduled for June 25-27, 2004. Any union members currently running for elected office will benefit from this training. For more information, or to enroll, contact John Shea, COPE Director at cope@njafclcio.org or 609-989-8730.

STAND TOGETHER

The NJ State AFL-CIO urges all affiliates to join registered nurses, and members of JNESO District Council 1 IUOE, as they begin the second month of their strike against Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Willingboro. The event will be held **TODAY**, May 20, 2004 at Strike HQ, 215 Sunset Road, Willingboro, 4:00-6:00 pm. For more information call Strike HQ at 609-877-7577 or email jnesonj@aol.com.

THE NEXT GENERATION

SEIU Local 32BJ is offering 20 summer internship positions as part of their 3rd annual Youth Brigade Program. Participants will learn about the labor movement, build leadership skills, and participate in the struggle for social and economic justice. For more information call 212-388-3784. Application deadline is May 28, 2004.

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

LABOR 2004 KICK-OFF

The Labor 2004 Political Program Kick-Off meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 2:00 pm in Atlantic City. AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman as well as representatives from various International/National unions will be participating. This meeting will give affiliates an opportunity to learn about this year's program aimed at electing Senator John Kerry and to commit volunteers to assist in these efforts.

LABOR CANDIDATES LUNCH

On Wednesday June 16, 2004, the NJ State AFL-CIO will hold its annual COPE Luncheon in the Bally's Park Place Hotel Ocean Ballroom. Tickets for this luncheon are \$150 per person with all proceeds benefiting the NJ State AFL-CIO Labor Candidates Program. This annual luncheon is a convenient way for affiliates to meet many of this year's labor candidates and to help cover the cost associated with holding the Labor Candidates School scheduled for June 25-27, 2004.

For more information about this lunch or the Labor 2004 Kick-Off call John Shea, COPE Director, at 609-989-8730.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO urges all affiliates to attend HPAE's "One Voice" rally for patient care standards which will be held on May 25, 2004 at the IBEW Local 164 Meeting Hall, 65 West Century Road, Paramus. For more information call HPAE at 201-262-5005.

KEEP THE JOBS HERE!

The Senate Labor Committee passed S-494 which calls for an end to the "off-shoring" of state funded contracts, a practice which has cost New Jersey workers their jobs. We thank Senator Shirley Turner for introducing this bill and Senator Joe Coniglio for posting it and supporting it in his committee. To find out more, or to contact Legislative Leadership on this issue, visit www.njaflcio.org.

A FAIR DAY'S PAY

Bills extending prevailing wage requirements to projects financed by the CRDA, County Improvement Authorities, the Educational Facilities Financing Authority and the NJ Health Care Facilities Financing Authority have passed the Labor Committees in both the Assembly and Senate. Both bills are awaiting action from their respective Appropriations Committees. To find out more, or to contact Legislative Leadership on this issue, visit www.njaflcio.org.

LEAP WORKER PEER COUNSELOR TRAINING

All affiliates are encouraged to send members to the Labor Employment Action Project (LEAP) Peer Counselor Train-the Trainer Program. This program enables unions to work pro-actively when their members are threatened by layoffs and plant closings. To date, 300 union leaders and members have participated in LEAP training, with several thousand benefiting from the Peer Counselors it provides.

This training will be held June 23-25, 2004 at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick. For more information contact Nancy Miller, LEAP Coordinator at (973)-614-0049.

Upcoming Events

- May 20 Get on the Bus!
Stop Nursing Home Cuts Rally
Trenton
- May 24-27 OSHEP- Safety and Health
Train the Trainer Course
- June 14-17 26th Constitutional Convention
Atlantic City, NJ
- June 23-25 LEAP Worker Peer Counselor Training
Rutgers Labor Center
- June 25-27 Labor Candidates School
Rutgers Labor Center

LABOR CANDIDATES WIN ELECTIONS

Labor candidates claimed victory in these races thanks to union members' voices:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Office</u>
Keith Laforgia	SMWIA 25	Clifton BOE
Cindy Simon	AFT 1796	Wayne BOE
Ida Renne	IBEW 1158	West Paterson BOE
Sam Ferraino, Jr	UFCW1360	Woodbury BOE
Anna Scott	AFT 481	Irvington BOE
Ken Carmen	IBEW 351	Magnolia BOE
Matt McDevitt	IBEW 98	Pennsauken BOE
Carol Hardy	OPEIU 32	Irvington BOE
Carl Ingram	BAC 7	Mt. Ephraim BOE
Joe Toland	SWMIA 27	Somers Point BOE
John Sowell	SWMIA 27	Irvington Council
Louis Gallo	Plasterers 29	N. Arlington Council

Since 1997, 279 rank-and-file union members have won election to public office with the help of the NJ State AFL-CIO Labor Candidate Program.

KEEP THE WORKPLACE SAFE!

The NJ State AFL-CIO and Rutgers University OTEC will conduct a Health and Safety Train-the-Trainer Course May 24-27, 2004 at the Rutgers Labor Education Center. Topics to be covered include ergonomics, hazard awareness, OSHA, sexual harassment, workplace violence, and development of safety committees. For more information contact John Seigler or Christine Rampolla at worksafe@njaflcio.org or 609-989-8730.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

The last day to reserve rooms at Bally's for the NJ State AFL-CIO 26th Constitutional Convention is May 22.

APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

Congratulations to Bob Angelo, Director of the Rutgers University Union Leadership Academy, on his appointment as Chairman of the New Jersey State Board of Mediation.