



Labor Fax

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LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER?

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

To many, Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer. The weather's right, the grass is green, and the vacations we have planned since last summer are just around the corner. However, for the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, our 1,000 affiliates, and one million members, there is a lot of work that has to be done in the coming months.

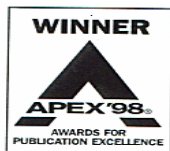
The summer begins with our 26th Constitutional Convention to be held June 15-17, 2004, in Atlantic City. Over the course of these three days, we will all be given the opportunity to discuss strategies to strengthen the labor movement in New Jersey, hear from the elected officials and labor leaders that are fighting every day for working families, and, most importantly, show our union pride.

Our eighth annual Labor Candidates School will follow soon after. Participants in this year's program, being held June 25-27, 2004 at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick, will learn the same strategies that have proven successful for 279 labor candidates since the curriculum was launched in 1997.

Our work continues through July and August, right up until Election Day in November, as our Labor 2004 program kicks into high gear and we work to secure the electoral votes of both New Jersey and Pennsylvania for Senator John F. Kerry. Rest assured, we will be calling you for assistance in these efforts.

It is not an overstatement to say that the future of the Labor Movement, and of all working families, not only in New Jersey but across the country, depends on Senator John F. Kerry's victory in November. We must elect a President who will make job growth, health care affordability and workers' rights, not corporate profits, his number one priority.

The work we accomplish this summer will be the groundwork for the work that we will do this fall. Together, we can make anything happen.



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Labor Fax
APEX Award

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SAFE ON BASE

A provision to authorize stricter background checks and new skill standards for all contract employees on military bases passed the House of Representatives on May 20, 2004. The section, authored by New Jersey Congressmen Chris Smith, Jim Saxton and Frank LoBiondo is intended to improve security on military bases. The trio developed the fix after reviewing several reports of undocumented workers being arrested at military bases across the country, including 20 who were working at McGuire Air Force Base right here in New Jersey. The lawmakers will now work to ensure that similar language is included in the final version of the Department of Defense bill.

KEEP THE JOBS HERE!

On May 20, 2004, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to release S-494, sponsored by Senators Shirley Turner (D-15) and Joe Coniglio (D-38), which would stop the "outsourcing" of American jobs via state funded contracts to foreign countries. The bill was released without recommendation by a 9-0-5 vote, mostly along party lines. All of the Democratic members of the Committee, as well as Senator Leonard Lance (R-23), voted in favor. The remaining Republican members of the Committee abstained. To send an automatic pre-written fax to the leadership of the Legislature to post this bill for a vote, please visit www.njaflcio.org.

ON THE MAIN STAGE

Delegates and attendees at the 26th Constitutional Convention will hear from several elected officials and labor leaders during the three-day event. Among those scheduled to speak are Presidential candidate Senator John F. Kerry, Senator Jon Corzine, Governor James E. McGreevey, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson, LIUNA President Terence O'Sullivan and United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard.

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.

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

ON THE ROAD

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:
 ...testified before the Assembly Labor Committee on amendments to CEPA regulations.
 ...addressed the NJ State AFL-CIO annual Eldercare Awareness Conference at the Rutgers Labor Center.
 ...provided testimony on the negative effects of NAFTA at a forum hosted by the United Nations Association of New Jersey.
 ...participated in a rally marking the one-month anniversary of JNESO District Council 1 IUOE's strike against Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Willingboro.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Labor Movement across the country will be uniting behind the upcoming Voice@Work Campaign's *Week of Action* which will take place from June 28-July 4, 2004. For more information on how you and your members can show your support for good contracts and the freedom to have a union, contact Bernard Pollack at 202-637-5308 or bpollack@aflcio.org.

LITERACY TRAINING GRANTS

The New Jersey Department of Labor is offering Literacy Training grants to unions throughout New Jersey. These grants are designed to help union members, and other workers, with basic mathematics, reading comprehension, basic computer literacy, English proficiency and work readiness skills. For more information contact John Biesko, Employment and Training Coordinator at 609-989-8730.

HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO hosted an emergency response workshop May 13-14 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Participants in the program included members of CWA Local 1032, IUOE Local 25, IAFF Local 73, IFPTE Local 195 and Teamsters Locals 97 and 877. NJ State AFL-CIO Executive Board Member, and PFANJ President, Thomas Canzanella spoke at the workshop which gave workers an opportunity to evaluate their emergency response plans. For more information on Emergency Response Plan training call 609-989-8730.

APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

Governor James E. McGreevey has nominated John E. Wade, Business Manager and Secretary/Treasurer, Iron Workers Local 373, to the Board of Trustees of Rutgers University.

AND THE WINNER IS

New Jersey State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Laurel Brennan was recently honored by the Executive Women of New Jersey for outstanding commitment to women's issues throughout the state.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

HPAE Local 5091 will be holding a rally in support of striking health care professionals on Friday, June 4th, 12:00 p.m. at the Bergen Regional Medical Center in Paramus. For more information call Bernie Gerard at 201-390-4655.

Upcoming Events

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| June 14-17 | 26 th 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 2004 KICK-OFF

The Labor 2004 Political Program Kick-Off meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. in Atlantic City. AFL-CIO Deputy Political Director Dave Boundy, 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 F. Kerry and to commit volunteers to assist in these efforts.

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.

GET E-ACTIVE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is now offering its members the opportunity to become E-Activists. Visit www.njafclcio.org to register for this network which will allow subscribers to be kept up to date on issues important to the labor movement and New Jersey's working families. E-Activists will also have the capability to contact their legislators directly on issues important to them.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

A ceremony will be held on the second day of the Convention to welcome several newly organized unions to the labor family. The event, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the Bally's Ballroom, will give us an opportunity to congratulate our new brothers and sisters on their victories and for them to experience firsthand what it means to join in solidarity with our 1,000 affiliates and one million members in our mission to improve the lives of working families.

OF NOTE

Our condolences to the families of Brother Jack Critchely and Mayor Glenn D. Cunningham on their recent deaths. Brother Critchely, a long-time labor leader, served most recently as President of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council. Mayor Cunningham also served as the New Jersey Senator representing the 31st Legislative District.