



Labor Fax

July 19, 2006

Volume 10 Issue 4

JUST GETTING STARTED

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

With the budget debate taking us into July this year it seemed as though summer would never come. Never have we looked forward more to the lazy days of July and August when we can sit back, enjoy all that our great state has to offer and try to recharge our batteries. Unfortunately, even with the hot, hazy days of summer upon us, there is still no time to rest for the labor movement.

The attack on working families continues out of Washington, D.C. and we find ourselves once again defending the rights of workers to have a voice at work. With the impending decisions in the three cases known as "Kentucky River" hundreds of thousands of union members across the country face the real possibility of losing their right to be in a union. However, even while the NLRB has refused to take oral arguments in this case, we refuse to be silent and we were proud to participate in a nationwide Day of Action on this matter.

Not only are we rallying against this decision, we are also adding them to our list of reasons to be active in 2008 and ensure that we do all that we can to elect a friend of working families to the White House. And, as we all know, the race for the White House starts this year with the mid-term elections.

Last month, we not only made our endorsements for this year's Senate and House races, we also officially launched the Labor 2006 program. Modeled on our successful political programs of years past, Labor 2006 will once again educate, energize and mobilize hundreds of thousands of union voters to support the candidates who have proven themselves to be friends of working families.

With the Senate race shaping up to be one of the closest in recent memory, and real opportunities to increase the number of labor friendly members in our Congressional delegation, we look forward to being in touch with all of our affiliated unions and supporters over the next 111 days leading up to the November election. Together we will once again prove on Election Day that when union members vote union members win.



1998
Labor Fax
APEX Award

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

opeiu:153

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2006 ENDORSEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Nearly 500 delegates to the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Conference offered Senator Bob Menendez their unanimous endorsement in his bid to retain his seat in the U.S. Senate. Senator Menendez addressed the delegates on the first day of the Conference and committed to continuing to serve working families in Washington, D.C. by fighting for real health care reform, an increased federal minimum wage, and stronger protections for workers who choose to exercise their right to form and join unions.

The following candidates for the House of Representatives were also endorsed on the final day of the Conference:

Robert E. Andrews, District 1
Frank A. LoBiondo, District 2
Christopher H. Smith, District 4
Paul Arohnson, District 5
Frank Pallone, Jr., District 6
Linda Stender, District 7
Bill Pascrell, Jr., District 8
Steven R. Rothman, District 9
Donald M. Payne, District 10
Rush Holt, District 12
Albio Sires, District 13

Finally, Oadline Truitt received the endorsement of New Jersey's working families in her race to fill the unexpired term of the late Assemblyman Donald Tucker in the 28th Legislative District.

LABOR 2006 LAUNCHED

With the endorsement process for the 2006 General Election completed, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO has officially launched the Labor 2006 political program. All recent polls have indicated that this year's Senate race will be a close one, and that the support of working families will be crucial to Senator Menendez' electoral success. As part of our effort to help our affiliated unions communicate directly with members, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO has prepared a sample letter and a worksite flyer supporting Senator Menendez. These pieces are free and available in whatever quantity your local union requires. To find out more about these pieces, or to get active in the Labor 2006 program, please contact John Shea, COPE Director, at (609) 989-8730.

LABOR CANDIDATES SCHOOL

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO will hold the 10th annual Labor Candidates School in collaboration with the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University August 4-6, 2006. For more information please call John Shea, COPE Director, at (609) 989-8730.

ON THE ROAD

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:
 ...Conducted classroom and practical training on OSHA's Powered Industrial Truck standard Sea Isle City employees.
 ...Provided an OSHA 10-Hour Outreach Course to educators enrolled in UMDNJ's Safe Schools Program.
 ...testified before the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee and Senate Labor Committee.
 ...provided LEAP technical assistance to IUE/CWA Local 416 at the Delphi plant in New Brunswick.
 ...provided advocacy and community services information in Spanish for IBT Local 125 members losing their jobs at Cott-Exsex in North Bergen.

RETIREES— MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Committee will hold their annual Legislative Forum on Monday, September 18, 2006 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm at UAW Region 9, 56 Vineyard Road, Edison. Endorsed candidates and legislators will offer their ideas and address questions on issues including property tax reform, universal healthcare, Medicare and Social Security. For information, contact Nancy Miller, Retirees Staff Liaison, at (973) 614-0049.

SECURITY AWARENESS TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

On May 31 - June 2, New Jersey State AFL-CIO OSHEP trainers facilitated the second train-the-trainer course, as part of a pilot phase of the "Security Awareness & Preparedness Program for Chemical and Petroleum Industries." The training sessions were conducted in partnership with the John J. Heldrich Center of Rutgers University, at the National Transit Institute in New Brunswick. Participants in the three-day pilot training course included representatives of Steelworkers Locals 8228 and 8972, IBT Joint Council 73, Akros Chemical, Benjamin Moore and Co., Cardolite Corporation, Dupont, Elementis Specialties, General Chemical, Hatco Corporation, Infineum, Johnson Matthey, Inc., Siegfried-Pennsville, Solvay Solexis, and Sunoco. A third pilot course will be offered this summer. For more information about this program please, contact Christine Rampolla, Program Coordinator, at (609)989-8730.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO would like to thank Representative Rob Andrews (D-1) for his efforts to add language which would help slow the pace of privatization to a piece of legislation currently pending on Capital Hill. This amendment was supported by the AFGE, AFSCME, AFT, CWA, the AFL-CIO Department of Professional Employees, SEIU, UAW, NAGE, NFFE and PASS.

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO would like to congratulate Joe Colfer, President of the Monmouth County BTC on his recent appointment to the Ft. Monmouth Economic Revitalization Planning Authority and Richard 'Buzzie' Dressel, Business Manager, IBEW Local 164, on his appointment to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

Upcoming Events

July 30-August 4	Northeast Union Women's Summer School Rutgers Labor Education Center
August 4-6,	Labor Candidates School Eagleton Rutgers University
September 18	Retirees' Legislative Conference UAW Region 9 56 Vineyard Road Edison
September 26-27	Legislative Conference Bally's Atlantic City
November 7	Election Day

IN MEMORIAM

The labor movement lost two great leaders last month with the passing of both Evelyn Dubrow and Martin Berger. Sister Dubrow, a long time ILGWU and UNITE lobbyist and legislative director, passed away on June 20 at the age of 95. Sister Dubrow co-founded the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and Americans for Democratic Action, and in 1999 was presented the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton for her role in winning social justice for all Americans. Brother Berger, who passed away on June 17, helped found the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Persons, an organization which now represents more than 250,000 senior activists and retirees in that state, in 2002. Brother Berger began his career in the labor movement right out of high school when he became an organizer with the ILGWU. Brother Berger went on to hold many leadership positions in ILGWU and also was the vice president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

LEAP TRAINS PEER COUNSELORS

Twenty two union representatives from a variety of unions statewide recently completed the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Employment Action Train-the-Trainer Course, designed to assist unions vulnerable to layoffs and plant closings. The interactive course held at Rutgers Labor Center included a presentation by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Rapid Response team, site visits to their local One-Stop Re-employment Centers, and strategic planning for layoff aversion, life-long learning, and service delivery to members in job transition. For more information about LEAP services, contact Nancy Miller, Project Coordinator, at (973) 614-0049.