



Labor Fax

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THINGS ARE HEATING UP!

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

After nearly two years of constant campaigning for the chance to get President Bush out of the White House, the Democratic Party officially nominated Senator John Kerry to carry the Party's banner into this November's election. As we saw at our own Convention in Atlantic City, Senator Kerry is certainly up to the challenge.

Senator Kerry's first big decision was made in early July when he announced that he asked North Carolina John Edwards to join him on the ticket as his runningmate, a challenge Senator Edwards gladly accepted. Together these candidates have nearly 75 years of experience helping America's working families.

This ticket has the experience and know-how to lead our country for the next eight years and to help get America back on track after four years of a Bush presidency marked with job loss, record deficits, anti-labor policies and corporate greed. We know that a second term for the Bush Administration would be devastating to the labor movement and to America's working families, which is why we won't let it happen.

What can America's working families expect from a Kerry/Edwards Administration? As Senator Kerry told us in Atlantic City, one of his first acts will be to raise the minimum wage, he will also appoint a Labor Secretary that "represents the Labor Movement of the United States."

Under President Kerry we can also look forward to healthcare reform aimed at providing insurance to the 43 million uninsured Americans, policies aimed at keeping jobs in America, and an economy that works for the American people, not just the corporations.

We look forward to working with you in our fight to elect Senators Kerry and Edwards!



1998
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APEX Award

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HELP IS ON THE WAY

On July 9, 2004 Governor James E. McGreevey signed S-701/A-2477, implementing certain portions of the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA). This bill effects the way in which the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and its affiliates conduct WORKER/VOTER registration drives in worksites across New Jersey.

According to John Shea, New Jersey State AFL-CIO COPE Director, "this law, as passed down from the Bush Administration, would not have helped America vote at all, instead, it would have had potentially devastating effects on our WORKER/VOTER program which has registered nearly 300,000 voters since 1998."

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO worked for more than a year to make sure that while fully compliant with HAVA, New Jersey's law would not hinder efforts to register union members to vote or get labor-friendly candidates elected. State Federation President Charles Wowkanech will continue to serve on the bipartisan commission which has been created by the Attorney General's office to establish a plan to implement this law over the next two years.

The federal Help America Vote Act, signed into law by President Bush in 2002, was presented as a means of protecting the integrity of the ballot. The need to overhaul the electoral process was highlighted during the Presidential election of 2000 when many voters had their ballots rejected due to unclear voting procedures in Florida. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to allow a recount of the votes allowing then Texas Governor George Bush to assume the Presidency.

Under this law, the State of New Jersey will establish an Election Assistance Fund to receive all money received to help implement HAVA, including funds to purchase electronic voting machines and the establishment of a statewide voter file. Other sections of the law also call for the establishment of voter grievance procedures, increased access to absentee ballots for members of the military serving overseas, and opportunities for those who vote by absentee and provisional ballot to verify that their vote was counted.

Governor McGreevey and the sponsors of this bill, Senator Joe Coniglio, and Assembly members Wilfredo Caraballo, Linda Greenstein and Brian Stack, should be thanked for their efforts to pass the strongest, most voter friendly, HAVA bill in the nation.

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

SHIPPING OUT

As reported in the August 4 edition of the *Star Ledger*, New Jersey Policy Perspective, a New Jersey think tank, recently issued a report indicating that 492,000 jobs in our state are at risk of being lost due to offshoring and outsourcing. In order to stop the trend of outsourcing the report recommends, among other things, that workers unionize and that governments be forbidden from contracting with companies that use foreign workers. To view the entire report visit www.njaflcio.org.

APPOINTMENTS PLEASE

Under Governor James E. McGreevey, the labor movement has gained an even greater voice in the State of New Jersey. Following are recent appointments made by Governor McGreevey, further strengthening our voice:

Employment Security Council

Jose Colon, Laborers 595,
William Coyne, Project Build,
Richard Dressel, IBEW 164,

Board of Trustees, Montclair State University

Bill Mullen, Building and Construction Trades Council

New Jersey State Board of Mediation

Peter W. McGourty, Teamsters 11

Board of Trustees, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Edward Zarnock, Union County CLC

READY TO TAKE THE "LEAP"

Thirty rank and file union members, shop stewards, officers and staff representing 8 local unions recently completed LEAP (Labor Employment Action Project) training sponsored by the New Jersey AFL-CIO in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The new LEAP Worker Advocates learned about New Jersey's comprehensive job development and job transition services and the new Trade Adjustment Act, visited their local One-Stop Re-employment Center, and participated in strategic planning for potential or impending layoffs or plant closings. The new Advocates are ready to assist their unions and members through difficult times.

FEELING REFRESHED

Sixteen Trained LEAP Worker Advocates recently attended the annual LEAP Refresher Course to learn about new development/job transition information and services, and had an opportunity to share successful experiences assisting their members with issues such as lifelong learning, job transition and early retirement. For more information on LEAP contact Nancy Miller, Project Coordinator, at 973-614-0049

CONGRATULATIONS

Tom Stapleton was reelected to his sixth term as President and Business Manager of Sheet Metal Workers International Association Local Union 27. Anthony Benedetti was also reelected to his sixth term as Financial Secretary/Treasurer.

Upcoming Events

- September 1- NYC Labor Day Rally
- September 9- Meet the Author
Book Review and Reception
Rutgers Labor Center
- September 13- Retirees Committee Legislative Conference
IBEW Local 400
Wall Township
- September 14- PEC Meeting
Trenton
- September 15- HAAC Meeting
Trenton
- October 5-6- NJ State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference
Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
Atlantic City

"NOBODY'S HOME"

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO will welcome Thomas Gass to the Rutgers Labor Center on September 9. Mr. Gass is the author of "Nobody's Home: Candid Reflections of a Nursing Home Aid." This book details the experiences of Mr. Gass during the years he spent caring for residents in a nursing home. Following a reception, Mr. Gass will discuss his experiences and also take questions from the audience. Space is limited for this special event. Please RSVP to Tina Carr at 609-989-8730 to reserve a seat!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Thirty-five cafeteria, police dispatch and other municipal employees in Lower Alloways Creek recently joined the Communications Workers of America. Twenty-two employees at the Passaic County Supervisors of Elections, 16 employees at the West Orange Library and 15 employees in the Atlantic City Facilities Management and Supported Employees Unit also recently joined the CWA.

OF NOTE

Our condolences to the family of Sam Diubaldi on his recent death. Brother Diubaldi served as the Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor from 1961-1987. Brother Diubaldi also served as the President of IBEW Local 1470.

E-ACTIVIST OF THE MONTH

The Council of New Jersey State College Locals sent the most faxes to the sponsors of the Employee Free Choice Act through our E-Activist Network. All members should visit www.NJAFLCIO.org to sign up for the E-Activist network today!