



Labor Fax

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Labor Fax Co-Editors:
Charles Wowkanech **Laurel Brennan**
 President Secretary-Treasurer
Associate Editor:
Steve Lenox
 (609) 989-8730 • www.njafclcio.org

At the heart of the issue is an effort to reclassify many workers such as nurses as “supervisors.” Unlike employees, “supervisors” do not have protected rights under the NLRA to form and join unions, and classifying workers as supervisors in order to deny them the right to union representation is a tactic regularly employed by management to suppress workers’ voices at work. These decisions will legalize this strategy and offer employers the protection of law to deny a very basic human right to their employees.

So now, with summer winding down, construction workers, painters, welders, electricians, carpenters and so many others are bracing themselves for the latest, and perhaps most devastating, assault on their rights in decades. The very real prospect is that these decisions could strip hundreds of thousands of workers of their union protection, while millions more could be blocked from joining a union.

These decisions come at a critical time in history for America’s workers. With gas prices hovering around \$3 per gallon, health insurance becoming an increasingly scarce commodity, and jobs continuing to be exported overseas, it has never been harder to make ends meet as a working class family.

Unfortunately, instead of trying to be a part of the solution, Big Business has exploited our nation’s weak labor laws and their allies in Congress and the White House have done nothing to stop them. With the current composition of the Labor Board heavily anti-worker, corporate America has become increasingly aggressive in their tactics to further erode workers’ rights.

The Bush Labor Board has been an active partner with Big Business in denying workers’ their freedom to form and join unions. As a body composed of presidential appointees, the Labor Board reflects the Administration’s priorities. And given the Bush Board’s past decisions, those priorities are clear.

It is a sad but true reality that the Bush Administration and Bush-appointed Labor Board have taken every opportunity afforded to them to roll back workers’ rights.

And that’s just plain wrong. Working people shouldn’t be treated as pawns in Washington, D.C.’s game of politics.

Our elected leaders must protect workers’ rights and fight hard for good jobs that provide a living wage, health care coverage and retirement security for all Americans. And the National Labor Relations Board should stop trying to limit the number of workers who can be protected under its watch.

People are working harder and making less. With working families struggling to keep afloat in a political and economic climate that is harsher by the day, their union protection is a beacon that guides them through the storm. They need and deserve a government that is on their side.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

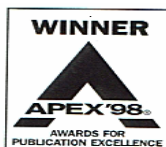
The attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. in 2001, and the ensuing ‘War on Terror’ has caused the federal government’s attention to be placed almost exclusively on foreign policy and homeland security for much of the last five years. With ever advancing technology making our world smaller, a growing desire by extremists to do harm to innocent people and an increased belief that we are more susceptible than ever to additional attacks, it is difficult to blame lawmakers, the media, or average citizens for allowing discussions on important domestic policies to be placed on the back burner.

However, at a time when our soldiers are fighting and dying to provide basic human rights to people thousands of miles away, President Bush has used our foreign entanglements and the threat of terrorism as a distraction while working to make the state of the American worker worse than it was when he took office.

Since almost immediately after entering the White House in 2001, President Bush has launched assault after assault on our nation’s workforce and sided with Big Business instead of the workers who have been the backbone of our nation’s economy. Worksite safety standards, overtime pay, and retirement security have all come under fire during this time, and working families have had to consistently battle to retain any rights at work.

Now workers across the nation are facing yet another attack on their rights as the Bush-appointed National Labor Relations Board is poised to issue a series of decisions that could take away the last avenue to economic security left for America’s workers: the freedom to form unions and bargain collectively.

With Bush’s past record on working family issues, and the fact that his National Labor Relations Board has already acted to take away or limit the right to form and join unions from 45,000 disabled workers, 51,000 teaching and research assistants, and two million temporary workers, the outcome of the pending “Kentucky River” cases is eerily predictable.



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 APEX Award

LATINO LEADERSHIP SEMINAR SCHEDULED

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO and the New Jersey Labor Council of Latin American Advancement (NJ-LCLAA) will co-host the 1st annual New Jersey Latino Labor Leadership Development Seminar on Saturday, September 16, 2006. This all day conference will be held at the Labor Education Center on Ryders Lane in New Brunswick. For more information about this seminar contact Christian Estevez at 609-989-8730.

LEAP TRAINING

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Employment Action Project (LEAP), in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will conduct a three day Train-the-Trainer program October 23-25, 2006 at the Rutgers Labor Center in New Brunswick. This proactive program will address all of the LWD services available to maintain and expand good union jobs, highlight avenues for life-long learning for union members, and provide the most current information necessary to assist unions and their members facing layoffs and plant closings. Reimbursement funds for time lost are available. Contact LEAP Coordinator Nancy Miller at 973-614-0049 or nmiller@njafclcio.org to register or for more information

RETIRES- MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS!

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees 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. Invited speakers include Senator Robert Menendez, Representative Frank Pallone (D-6) and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22). To download the Forum flyer and directions, please go to www.njafclcio.org. or contact Nancy Miller New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Staff Liaison at (973)-614-0049.

OSHEP ANNOUNCES THREE SECURITY CLASSES

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is proud to announce the dates for three Security Awareness and Preparedness Program training classes. Participants will attend a three-day comprehensive train-the-trainer program at Rutgers University. These courses will be held on:

Monday, September 18 - Wednesday, September 20, 2006

Monday, October 16 - Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Monday, October 23 - October 25, 2006

This course fulfills a mandatory training and worker participation requirement for specific companies in the Chemical and Petroleum Industries. Unionized facilities are required to allow union representatives at their facility to attend the course. If you represent members in the Chemical or Petroleum Industries, please contact Christine Rampolla, OSHEP Coordinator, at 609-989-8730, to help ensure all covered facilities are meeting their training requirements.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE FAST APPROACHING!

Register today for the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference at Bally's in Atlantic City September 26-27, 2006. This two-day conference will feature several guest speakers, including Governor Jon Corzine and Senator Bob Menendez, as well as information about how to support the Labor 2006 program.

Upcoming Events

September 7	Democratic State Committee Labor Reception Bally's Atlantic City
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

LABOR DAY EVENTS

Several events will be held around the state to mark Labor Day which will be celebrated this year on Monday, September, 5, 2006:

The Southern New Jersey Central Labor Council will hold their 112th annual Peter J. McGuire Labor Day Celebration on Friday, September 1, 2006. The event begins with a breakfast, held at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in Cherry Hill beginning at 9:00 a.m. A wreath laying ceremony will take place immediately after the breakfast at the Peter J. McGuire Memorial. For more information on this event call Nicole Nestopoulous at 856-663-1555.

On Sunday, September 3, 2006 the American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, Borough of Haledon and the City of Paterson will hold their 15th Annual Labor Day Parade. Ms. Lois Cuccinello, Assistant Commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, will serve as the Grand Marshall of this parade which begins at 1:30 p.m. at the American Labor Museum and concludes at the Great Falls in Paterson. A festival with food, fun and entertainment will follow the parade.

The final Labor Day event for 2006 will be held on Friday, September 8, 2006. Sponsored by the Essex-West Hudson Labor Council AFL-CIO, festivities will include a pre-parade program beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Newark City Hall, followed by a parade led by Grand Marshal Charles Hall, Jr., President, RWDSU 108, to St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral on Washington Street, and conclude with a 45-minute Interfaith Observation of Labor Day.

**ELECTION DAY COUNTDOWN:
68 DAYS: NOVEMBER 7, 2006**