



# Labor Fax

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## SUMMER DAYS OF ACTION

By Charles Wovkanech & Laurel Brennan

The summer months give us all an opportunity to slow down, spend time with our families, recharge our batteries and prepare for the coming months which will be filled with long days, and weekends of political activity.

However, as you will read in this edition of Labor Fax, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, and our affiliated unions, continue to be busy working towards our goal of growing the labor movement.

In Atlantic City, thousands of casino gaming employees continue to fight for their right to form unions and enjoy the benefits of a voice at work, while in Newark, members of UNITE HERE 284 underwent training courtesy of our OSHEP department so that they can work safer on the job.

We also recognize that while many view Labor Day as the traditional start of the campaign season, now is the time that we must start preparing for this fall's elections. We encourage all of our affiliates to spend this time updating lists and registering union voters. Only if we do this important work now can we achieve the same success for Labor 2007 as we have in our political programs for the past 10 years.

It is through our political successes that we have been able to achieve major legislative victories such as increases to the minimum wage, project labor agreements and card check recognition of unions. Additionally, the candidates we support often become the same elected officials that join our members on picket lines and in labor disputes ensuring that the voices of working families are heard.

We wish you and your families an enjoyable rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you at a campaign rally, phone bank or labor walk in September.



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## LABOR CANDIDATES SCHOOL

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO will hold its 11th annual Labor Candidates School in collaboration with the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University August 4-5, 2007. Union members participating in this two-day training program will be trained on many aspects of running a successful campaign. Several labor candidates currently serving in public office, including Assemblyman Nelson Albano (D-1), are expected to address the students regarding their own campaign experiences. For more information, please call John Shea, COPE Director, at (609) 989-8730.

## CANDIDATE'S FORUM

With the election for President still more than 15 months away, the race for the White House is in full swing. On Tuesday, August 7, as part of the Working Families Vote 2008 campaign, union members will have an opportunity to meet seven Democratic candidates for President at a forum hosted by the AFL-CIO. Watch this event live, starting at 7:00 p.m. on MSNBC to learn more about these candidates.

## ORGANIZING INSTITUTE IN AC

UAW organizers and staff, as well as more than 50 Atlantic City casino workers currently engaged in an organizing campaign to bring a voice at work to Casino Dealers and other gaming employees across the City participated in a special training program July 23-24 to sharpen organizing skills. Taught by the trainers from the AFL-CIO's Organizing Institute, this special training focused on making house calls more effective and getting the most out of Organizing Committee members. For more information about the Organizing Institute, contact the New Jersey State AFL-CIO at 609-989-8730.

## AC DEALERS PREPARE TO VOTE FOR UNION

On Saturday, August 25, casino dealers at Tropicana Casino and Resort will have the opportunity to vote to form a union with the United Auto Workers. These workers are seeking to join their nearly 2,500 colleagues at Caesars Atlantic City, Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, and Ballys Atlantic City that have already voted overwhelmingly to form unions and are currently awaiting the opportunity to join their employers at the bargaining table.

## MORE CAESARS' WORKERS ASK FOR UNION

Just months after casino dealers at Caesars Atlantic City voted overwhelmingly to form a union with the UAW,

**OSHEP TRAINERS RECEIVE TRAINING**

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide New Jersey workers with the most up-to-date health and safety training, OSHEP staff attended a three day course on Surveillance Detection, held by the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP). The course, held in Jersey City, July 17-19, offered participants guidelines for mitigating risks to critical infrastructure, provided professional development for OSHEP trainers, and was an opportunity to work with additional personnel in industries including the chemical and petroleum sectors. Information from the class will be used to enhance the "facility security practices" module of our Security Awareness and Preparedness training program. Most recently, OSHEP has delivered on-site training to workers at Grace Heat and Oil in Rio Grande; Houghton Chemical and Seagrave Coatings in Carlstadt; Pequannock Water Treatment Facility in West Milford; and BP in Carteret.

**NEW TRAINING SCHEDULED**

Due to additional demand, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO's OSHEP program will host another Security Awareness and Preparedness train-the-trainer course for representatives of chemical, petroleum, pharmaceutical and water treatment facilities. This training will be held August 15-17 at the Rutgers Heldrich Center. Please call Christine Rampolla to register at 609-989-8730.

**LAUNDRY WORKERS SAFER ON THE JOB**

New Jersey State AFL-CIO OSHEP trainers partnered with UNITEHERE Local 284 to teach a one-day awareness course for commercial laundry workers at the Rutgers Newark campus. Training content was coordinated with the union to educate and empower a collection of workers who spoke Creole, Spanish and English. Additional trainings will be provided to UNITEHERE Local 284 members working in the commercial industry throughout the summer. To find out how the New Jersey State AFL-CIO OSHEP program can customize training for your union, please contact Christine Rampolla at 609-989-8730.

**RETIREEES-SAVE THE DATE**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Retirees Legislative Conference will be held Tuesday, October 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at UAW Region 9, 56 Vineyard Road, Edison, NJ. This is an opportunity for union retirees to meet and question their Legislators on issues of most concern to them. Attendees will also hear about the Labor 2007 program. For more information, please contact Nancy Miller at 973-614-0049.

**BUILDING A BETTER WORKFORCE**

Christian Estevez, Education & Training Coordinator, recently represented the New Jersey State AFL-CIO by participating in a labor and workforce development roundtable hosted by the Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey (HDANJ) at Rutgers University. The objective of the roundtable, funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and attended by Commissioner David Socolow, was to define the principal barriers to the advancement of the Hispanic workforce, particularly the working poor and the marginally employed. A special report on the findings of the panel will be published soon.

**Upcoming Events**

August 4-5 2007	Labor Candidates School Eagleton Institute of Politics Rutgers University New Brunswick
August 15-17, 2007	NJ AFL-CIO OSHEP Training Heldrich Center Rutgers University New Brunswick
September 25-26, 2007	Legislative Conference Bally's Atlantic City
October 16, 2007	Retirees Legislative Conference UAW Region 9 Edison

**GOVERNOR SUPPORTS PAID FAMILY LEAVE**

We are proud that Governor Corzine recently announced his support for pending Paid Family Leave Legislation at the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Conference in June. Our membership appreciates that our Governor understands the importance of balancing the obligations of work and family and we commend him for his leadership. The bill has been released from the Senate Labor Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee and is pending a vote in the State Senate. The Assembly version is pending in the Assembly Labor Committee. The Legislature returns from recess after the November election, in which all 120 seats in the Legislature are up for re-election. Visit [www.njaflicio.org](http://www.njaflicio.org) to find out how you can contact your legislators today and help to make this year's election about working family issues like Paid Family Leave!

**MISCLASSIFICATION BILL SIGNED INTO LAW**

On July 13, 2007, Governor Corzine signed into law A-4009 (Caraballo / Karcher), which debarb certain employers from public work and establishes criminal penalties for the misclassification of construction workers as independent contractors. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO and the building and construction trade unions lobbied in support of this bill, which seeks to end this unscrupulous practice, for more than two years. Ultimately, because this practice allows employers to avoid certain financial obligations which cost the state and federal governments hundreds of millions of dollars annually, it is the taxpayers that suffer the most.

**LEAP TRAINING**

LEAP training addresses services available through the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development to maintain and expand good union jobs, highlight avenues for life-long learning for union members, and provide the most current information necessary for unions and