



Labor Fax

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SIX WEEKS TO MOBILIZE AND EDUCATE

By Charles Wowkanech & Laurel Brennan

The 2008 election cycle is the most important of our generation. Working families fear the consequences of a \$700 million bailout from Wall Street, while Main Street has continued to suffer with no relief. We have a responsibility to channel that concern into a dedicated and committed effort to electing those who will lead us out of the mess created by the last eight years of the Bush administration.

It is also our responsibility to ensure that, while a great deal of misrepresentation and false promises from candidates permeate our airwaves and print publications, we need to educate our union brothers and sisters and stick to the simple facts we learn by examining the candidates' voting records.

Barack Obama promises tax relief to middle class families, while John McCain promises tax breaks to the rich and Big Oil, consistent with his votes in support of Bush's economic agenda.

Barack Obama supports our freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life to restore the middle class. John McCain voted against the Employee Free Choice Act and opposes workers' freedom to form unions.

Barack Obama has a plan to extend health care coverage with lower costs and improve care and ensure that no one could be denied care because of a pre-existing condition or illness. Obama voted to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), voted to allow importation of affordable prescription drugs, and voted against cutting Medicaid funding. John McCain voted against reauthorizing SCHIP, risked health care for seniors and low-income families by voting for billions in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, and favors a plan that will create a new tax on working families by making employer-provided health benefits part of a taxable income.

We have less than six weeks to educate and mobilize our members through our labor to labor walks. We thank all of you who have worked tirelessly over the past months to contact your members, conduct mailings, register new voters, walk door-to-door and make phone calls on behalf of working families to make sure that our country gets the change that we need. In these last six weeks, we need to work ten times harder, make ten times as many phone calls, and visit ten times the amount of homes of our union brothers and sisters to share the facts with them. The election outcome we need is within our reach, but only if we pour our collective strength into it.

- NJ State AFL-CIO: The Voice for Working Families in New Jersey -
OPEIU:153

Labor Fax Co-Editors:

Charles Wowkanech

Laurel Brennan

President

Secretary-Treasurer

Associate Editor:

Christine Rampolla

(609) 989-8730 • www.njafclcio.org

NJ STATE AFL-CIO VOICES SUPPORT FOR TOLL ADJUSTMENT PROPOSAL

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO provided public comment to Transportation Commissioner Kris Kolluri and the New Jersey Turnpike Commission on September 24, 2008, in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

We understand that our members, and the general public that use these roadways, will have to pay a modest amount more to make these infrastructure improvements a reality. However, we believe that we no longer can simply ignore the continuing and worsening transportation problems. This is a sobering proposal that will only deal with immediate needs on these two major roadways. More needs to be done of course, in particular, to fund the TTF, but the current toll adjustment proposal is a much needed first step toward solving several major infrastructure problems. The proposal will also create thousands of jobs and give a much needed economic stimulus to working families in the Garden State.

For more information on the toll adjustment proposal, please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/turnpike/>. To view the New Jersey State AFL-CIO's testimony, please visit: http://www.njafclcio.org/pages/current_legislation/.

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS: CAN STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HELP REMEDY THE PROBLEM? ABSOLUTELY!

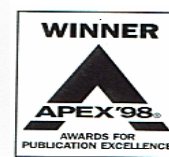
The New Jersey State AFL-CIO provided testimony to the Assembly Labor Committee recommending action at the state level to help address the national economic crisis and its effect on New Jersey's working families. Recommendations included finding a bipartisan, realistic plan to fund the Transportation Trust Fund, which would invest in our infrastructure and create thousands of jobs, to raise the minimum wage to put money in the pockets of workers who can least afford to live here, and to fix our broken health care system, which is draining an ever increasing amount of money from workers' pockets.

To read the full testimony, please visit:

http://www.njafclcio.org/pages/current_legislation/.

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS COMMISSION

Congratulations to Joseph Del Grosso, President of NTU/AFT Local 481, who was recently recommended by the New Jersey State AFL-CIO and appointed by Governor Corzine to the SEHBC. The Commission held its first meeting in September 2008.



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APEX Award

ON THE ROAD

Officers and Staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO:

...Met with CLC representatives, local union presidents and committees to rally our movement in the most important weeks leading to Election Day.

...Trained and assisted Graphic Communication Workers and Highway & Truckers Local 107 being dislocated from Lehigh Press, RWDSU Local 1102 and human resources regarding the closing of Kik Custom Products in Carlstadt; IBT Local 97 in Union regarding layoffs at General Chemical.

...Conducted groundbreaking Safety and Health Train-the-Trainer classes for UNITEHERE Local 54 members in English, Hindi and Gujarati. The training was held in Atlantic City and is part of a partnership between Local 54 and OSHEP to provide outreach training to union members about important safety and health rights and responsibilities.

...Provided technical assistance to IBEW Local 164 who received a Customized Training Grant to install Solar Panels.

...Delivered OSHA 10-Hour to teachers seeking SLE certification through the UMDNJ Safe Schools program and to the Middlesex County Construction Trades Training Program; Chemical Security Awareness and Preparedness training to employees of Chemtura Corporation in Fords; and Workplace Violence training for employees at Bostik, Inc., in Paulsboro as part of the company's safety and health training day.

MINIMUM WAGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The NJ Minimum Wage Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 25, 2008, to develop recommendations to be made to the Legislature concerning the "adequacy of the state's minimum wage." We anticipate that the recommendations will be voted on in November, and a report will be issued by the end of the year.

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO urged the Commission to adopt a three-part policy platform on the issue. Included was an immediate increase to \$8.50, the inclusion of an annual cost of living adjustment provision, and the creation of a base wage for tipped workers. Our testimony to the Commission can be viewed at http://www.njafclcio.org/pages/current_legislation/.

HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

Union members understand the importance of community and of giving their time to a worthy cause. For a heart-warming example, look no further than Florence, NJ where members of the Burlington County CLC, UA Local 9, IBEW Local 269, firefighters, police officers and other trades have joined forces with *Homes For Our Troops*, to construct a wheelchair-accessible home for Marine Sgt. Andrew Robinson, who was injured in Iraq. Sgt. Robinson, the son of UA Local 9 member William Robinson, is a graduate of Northern Burlington County Regional High School who joined the Marine Corps' early enlistment program in August 2000. In the two years since Andrew's injury, which has left him quadriplegic, he became the Team coordinator for team Semper Fi and has completed his first hand-cycle Relay triathlon. Currently, Andrew's Florence home is 90% complete. For more information, please contact Bill Robinson at (609) 354-2302. More information regarding Homes For Our Troops can be found at www.homesforourtroops.com.

Upcoming Events

October 4, 2008	Labor-to-Labor Walks
October 7-8, 2008	New Jersey State AFL-CIO Legislative Conference Atlantic City, NJ
October 11, 2008	Labor-to-Labor Walks
October 15, 2008	New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Committee Meeting New Brunswick, NJ
October 18, 2008	Labor-to-Labor Walks
October 21-23, 2008	LEAP Train-The-Trainer Program New Brunswick, NJ
October 25, 2008	Labor-to-Labor Walks
November 1, 2008	Labor-to-Labor Walks
November 4, 2008	ELECTION DAY
November 13, 2008	Steve Greenhouse Presentation: The Big Squeeze on U.S. Workers and Workers' Rights New Brunswick, NJ
November 19, 2008	Public Employee Committee Meeting Trenton, NJ
November 19, 2008	New Jersey State AFL-CIO Retirees Committee Meeting New Brunswick, NJ

For more information on any events listed, please check our online calendar at www.njafclcio.org.

LEAP TRAINING ADDRESSES WORKPLACE CHANGE

Never has the Labor Employment Action Project (LEAP) been so important, as the economic stability of our country is suffering. In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the New Jersey State AFL-CIO LEAP will conduct a Fall Train-The-Trainer Program on October 21, 22 & 23, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Rutgers Labor Education Center in New Brunswick. LEAP training addresses job retention, life-long learning, skills assessment and job and career transition strategies. Contact Nancy Miller, LEAP Coordinator, at (973) 614-0049 or nmiller@njafclcio.org to register.

WELCOME NEW OSHEP STAFF

We proudly welcome Ed Aldrich, who joins the staff of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO, as an OSHEP Training Specialist. Previously, Ed was an OSHA Outreach Trainer with IBEW Local 269. His significant experience and commitment to the labor movement is a big boost for OSHEP as well as for all our affiliates and training partners.

NEW AFFILIATES

We are proud to announce the addition of two newly affiliated unions to the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. Please welcome members of National Air Traffic Controllers and APWU Local 149.