



LABOR NEWS

YEAR-END EDITION – DEC. 29, 2017



New Jersey Labor Leads The Way Forward in 2017

By Charles Wowkanech, Pres. & Laurel Brennan, Sec. Treas.

We are greatly appreciative to our affiliates, Central Labor Councils, Building Trades Councils, and brothers and sisters from across all sectors of the labor movement for making 2017 a year of monumental achievement. Despite eight years of attacks from the Christie administration and an unhinged White House, organized labor in New Jersey delivered several landmark victories that promise a brighter future for all working families.

Through the Labor 2017 program, our movement elected the Murphy/Oliver team to provide the executive leadership that has been lacking in our state for nearly a decade. Together, we will advance an agenda that puts working families first, and gets our economy moving again through strategic investments in our middle class, in education, in infrastructure, and commonsense reform. This year, also saw 47 rank-and-file union members elected to

public office through the New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Candidates Program, which has achieved a total of 965 election victories to date.

In recognition of our state's best-in-class political program, we were honored to be featured during the 2017 National AFL-CIO Convention in St. Louis. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO delivered a keynote address and hosted a workshop touting the benefits of the labor candidates program, complemented by passage of "Resolution 10: Encouraging Union Members to Run for Public Office". In addition, our staff led a training on the MiniVAN and VIP systems, which our state was responsible for pioneering.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without the solidarity and support of our affiliate unions and many dedicated volunteers. As we enter 2018, we look forward to building on our success and ensuring a proud and prosperous future for our state.

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— 2017 HEADLINES —

Murphy/Oliver Win



- "Labor Powers Murphy Transition Team" **Nov. 17**
- "Labor Candidate Victories Rise to 964" **Nov. 9**
- "NJ Votes to Put Working Families First" **Nov. 8**
- "Solidarity Delivers for Murphy/Oliver Team" **Nov. 7**
- "Labor Walks the Walk" **Sep. 30**

Vertreese Victory



- "Once Again Labor Makes the Difference" **Dec. 7**
- "Working for the Win" **Dec. 2**
- "Our Union Sister Needs Your Support" **Nov. 27**

AFL-CIO '17 Convention



- "AFL-CIO 2017: Join, Fight, Win Together" **Oct. 24**
- "Wowkanech Elected to Executive Council" **Oct. 23**

Community Building



- "Union Volunteers Fly to Aid Puerto Rico" **Oct. 4**
- "Labor Lights Path to U.S. Citizenship" **May 1**
- "Don't Gamble on Safety AC" **Feb. 17**
- "Rising Women Raise the Nation" **Jan. 19**

MOBILIZE



AT THE *POLLS*

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO, working in partnership with Central Labor Councils, Building Trades Councils, affiliated unions, community allies and progressive partners achieved historic election successes through Labor 2017:

- **Murphy/Oliver victory**
- **47 Labor candidate victories with a 77% win ratio (965 all-time total)**
- **7,507 Phone & walk volunteers**
- **367,955 Doors knocked**
- **389,668 Pieces of mail**

Find a full summary of Labor 2017 in Labor News [Election Edition](#).

IN *SOLIDARITY*

- Stood with the Nabisco 600 to fight for American jobs (BCTGM)
- Rallied to pay public employee impacted by the shutdown (CWA)
- Fought back against union busting at Pearle Vision (RWDSU)
- Launched an Atlantic City Public Safety Campaign to oppose cuts to emergency services (IAFF)
- Opposed air traffic control privatization (NATCA)

- Protested to demand reinstatement of drivers at XPO Trenton (IBT)
- Struck against unfair labor practices at AAC/Sunrise House (HPAE)
- Joined the AT&T workers strike for a fair union contract (CWA)
- Mobilized for workers locked-out by Shore Point Distributing (IBT)
- Rallied for a living wage with Gateway Bus Drivers (RWDSU)

AT THE *STATEHOUSE*

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO lobbied, testified, and mobilized on behalf of various issues to champion working family interests including:



- **Atlantic City Economic Recovery Act**
- **Earned Sick Leave**
- **\$15 Minimum Wage**
- **Prevailing Wage**
- **PSE&G Nuclear Energy Facilities**
- **Paid Family Leave Reform**
- **Pension Investment Transparency**

For a full summary of legislative activity, visit our website's [current legislation](#) page.

IN THE *NEWS*

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO made headlines through the year, driving the conversation on many key state issues:

Women's Equality – “Unity in the fight for women’s equality (Courier Post) [Mar. 20](#)

Public Education – “Charter schools threaten diversity - we need public education” (NJ.com) [Mar. 21](#)

Workplace Safety – “Finding common ground on workplace safety” (NorthJersey.com) [Apr. 17](#)

Pension Investments – “Change desperately needed in managing N.J. public pension funds” (NJ.com) [Jun. 2](#)

Income Inequality – “Another Labor Day, still so much income inequality here” (NJ.com) [Sep. 1](#)

Right-to-Work (For Less) – “Truth about right-to-work” (APP) [Aug. 14](#)



FORWARD

The road ahead will not be easy, but as we proved in 2017, our unity, our solidarity, and our shared values will allow us to prevail. The coming years will mark a turning point for our state; the laws we will pass, and the message we will send, will leave no question that organized labor is

the true champion for all working people. We have done the work and built a movement that enables us to make our collective voice heard.

We congratulate our affiliates on a job well done, and hope you take a moment to appreciate your work, highlighted in this newsletter. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year. ☺

— UPCOMING EVENTS —

15th Annual WILD Conference
March 2-3, 2018 (East Brunswick)

COPE Endorsement Conference
June 12-13, 2018 (Atlantic City)

25th New Jersey State AFL-CIO Labor Awards
June 12, 2018 (Atlantic City)

22nd Annual Labor Candidates School
August 11-12, 2018 (New Brunswick)

EDUCATE

In 2017, the education efforts of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO have helped to raise up the voices of trade unionists across our state. Nothing could be more important, as working people face serious challenges, stemming from the Trump administration and right-wing special interests. With the educational opportunities provided by the state federation, our capacity to fight back and win is greater than ever before. Highlights of this year's edu-

cational activities to bolster leadership and solidarity across the state include:

- **21st Annual Labor Candidates School:** provided expert instruction to 33 rank-and-file union members running for political office with year round coaching.
- **NJ Young Workers Program:** A network of young trade unionists, bridging the knowledge gap between various sectors of the labor
- **14th Annual WILD Conference:** Empowered more than 250 union sisters to listen, learn, and lead in the fight to strengthen our labor movement and nation.
- **2017 AFL-CIO Convention:** Featured and honored NJ's formula for electing union members to public office with the adoption of Res. 10.

ORGANIZE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO remains dedicated to maintaining a robust organizing program to enhance the effectiveness and durability of the statewide labor movement. Over the last year, we congratulated and welcomed the following members to our union family:

- **ACC/Sunrise House:** Following a strike and lockout that took place, HPAE reached a tentative agree-

ment for 120 addiction treatment workers at AAC/Sunrise House.

- **XPO Trenton:** Teamsters 701 won their organizing victory despite the company spending thousands of dollars on union busters.
- **RWDSU 108:** Organized the Morristown Parking Authority and securing first contracts for Newark Pavilion Maintenance workers and Hasbrouck Heights DPW.
- **Northern NJ Hotels:** The Hotel Trades Council added 15 newly organized locations to its list of union hotels across Northern NJ.
- **Linden Co-Gen:** Following a successful organizing campaign, IBEW 94 helped 39 brothers and sisters ratify their first contract.
- **Altice Cable:** IBEW 827 added 100 new members to our union family in Oakland, New Jersey.

UNITE

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO recognizes that shared community values, and solidarity across all union sectors, are essential to our success. The following activities demonstrate our ongoing commitment to promoting a unified, progressive movement:

- **We Are One NJ:** Hudson and Union County centers, backed by the labor movement, have processed more than 1,000 U.S. citizenship applications, and celebrat-

ed with 538 clients upon their becoming fully naturalized citizens.

- **Puerto Rico Relief:** More than 300 union members, including nurses, tradesmen and women, and transport workers, flew to help their fellow Americans in need.
- **Women's March:** Across our state, more than 15,000 union members and community allies marched for equal pay, education,
- **Morris CLC Planning Meeting:** The state federation is working with local affiliates to build a CLC that will unite the voice of labor across Northwestern New Jersey.
- **Working Families United for NJ:** Our grassroots coalition leads in the fight for earned sick days, PFL reform, and a \$15 minimum wage.