

Important Update from CWA:
Christie Address Blames Public Workers for all of NJ's Ills
Applauds Legislature's Attack on Pensions and Plans Massive Cuts in Services

**Labor Unites to Protect Public Services,
Collective Bargaining and Retirement Security**

On Thursday morning Governor Chris Christie addressed a joint session of the Legislature and is making billions of dollars in cuts to State Services and to Schools. While urging the Legislature to pass legislation that cuts pensions and health benefits, Christie gave ludicrous examples of high wage individuals getting pensions that far exceed those of our members.

Immediately after the Christie speech, all of the public sector unions met with the "Labor Legislators" to discuss a strategy for protecting services and New Jersey public workers.

CWA's Position on the bills and Christie's speech:

1. We did not cause the State Budget crisis. Our benefits are not outlandish or unsustainable. We negotiated in good faith and we contributed over \$450 million in savings to the State Treasury;
2. We have a Contract and the Governor and the Legislature must respect it. We reopened negotiations and made a further legally binding agreement in order to protect jobs (the No Layoff Agreement.)

Here is the immediate plan:

1. Speak Truth to Power! – We are right now calling and meeting with Legislators and Editorial Boards with the actual information and misinformation being put out by Senator Sweeney and Christie.
2. We are reviewing the specific information of the ½ billion in cuts to State Government programs. We believe these cuts will be devastating to services our members provide. As soon as we have it we will immediately get information to Shop Stewards and post it on our website.
3. There will be a statewide Shop Steward meeting on February 22nd.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Call your State Assemblyperson and State Senator. Look at the website – www.cwanj.org for the talking points against the bills. If you don't have the phone numbers for your Assemblypersons and Senator, you can find them at www.congress.org.
2. Log onto the CWA website – www.cwanj.org and give us all of your contact information so that you get regular email and phone calls.
3. Please participate in all activities requested by your shop stewards and branch leadership – including Wear Red Thursday!