

Organizing for Political Power

Developing Legislative/Political Action Teams



LOCAL GOVERNMENT STEWARDS' MEETING
APRIL 17, 2010



Why Develop LPATs?



- March 12, New York:
 - Lehman Brothers Bankruptcy Hearings
 - “Repo 105” Scandal, happened “Unbeknownst to the investing public, rating agencies, government regulators, and Lehman’s board of directors,” and in a “materially misleading” way.
- March 16, Trenton:
 - Christie gives his budget speech: “We have the worst unemployment in the region and the highest taxes in America, and that’s no coincidence. “
 - “Two classes” in New Jersey: “those who enjoy rich public benefits and those who pay for them.”
 - Later in March, Christie and the legislature approve of a \$350 million bailout for the Revel Casino

Why Develop LPATs?



- February 18: Pension and Benefit Bills hearing in the Senate
 - Pass unanimously. No real amendments considered
- February 22: Pension and Benefit Bills pass 36-0 in the Senate
 - The President of the South Jersey CLC supports the bill on the Senate floor
- February 23: Cost analysis of the bills released
 - S3 will save around \$330 million
- February 25: Pension actuarial report released. Pension board asks the legislature to consult it.

Long-term Outlook to Power



- Running our own candidates
 - AFL-CIO candidate school
 - WFA candidate school: Eight CWA potential candidates attend, including five local government
- Developing power within the parties
 - Mercer County Pilot Project for County Committee Seats
- But we can't forget about short-term battles and activities, like the budget, the May 22 Rally, Civil Service Opt Out, Proposition 2.5, Pension Rollbacks for current employees, the privatization task force, the millionaire's tax, residency requirements...

We Need the Resources to Win



- Our candidates will need an infrastructure of committed union members to help them
- And we have to do this in a way that builds capacity while being engaged

What is an LPAT Member?



- Legislative and Political Action Teams
 - Minimally, someone who will volunteer on a campaign with the union 1-2 times per year, and who will make a call or write a letter every now and then on an important piece of legislation
- Start with a base of core activists, and then look for ways to expand

Current Activity in Locals



- Local 1032 formed a political action committee in early March
- Local 1084 has had a planning meeting and will have its first full political committee meeting Wednesday, April 21
- Local 1081 and Local 1086 have planning meetings scheduled
- Pat Hunt working with CWA and WFA to help organize and provide support

And Speaking of Resources...



- Local 1089 has 14 new contributors this year
- Local 1087 has 24 new contributors this year
- Local 1082 has 6 new contributors this year
- Local 1081 signed up 80 new contributors late last year
- Local 1032 has 75(ish) new contributors this year
- Others?
- Goal: Sustained and systematic COPE recruitment drives in every Local Government Local
- Set up a meeting with Hunt and Seth

Town Hall Meetings



- First was April 13 in Cherry Hill
- Four more this month:
 - April 19, Trenton
 - April 22, Vineland
 - April 26, New Brunswick
 - April 28, Newark



We Have a Web Site!

www.cwanj.org



CWA New Jersey



ABOUT US

GET INFORMED

GET INVOLVED

GET IN TOUCH

GET ORGANIZED

CWA Testifies at Privatization Task Force Hearing Wed, 04/07/2010 - 7:23pm

CWA State Director Hetty Rosenstein testified in front of the Task Force on Privatization today, criticizing Governor Christie's reckless drive towards privatization that places ideology in front of the best interests of taxpayers.

"Privatization of state government in New Jersey has been an almost unilateral disaster in terms of

We Make New Jersey Work



We have a Newsletter!



Dear Seth Hahn,

In this edition:

1. [May 22 Set for Massive Citizen's Rally in Trenton to Oppose Christie's Budget](#)
2. [CWA Hosts Town Hall Meeting with Legislators in Cherry Hill, Four More This Month](#)
3. [Eight CWAers Attend Candidate Training School with Goal of Reshaping Political Climate](#)
4. [CWA Testifies in Front of Privatization Task Force](#)
5. [Wear Red This Thursday and Every Thursday](#)
6. [CWA is on the Web!](#)

Save the Date: May 22 Set for Biggest Rally in New Jersey History

Thousands of CWA members and their families will join tens of thousands of other union members, students, veterans, civil rights advocates, retirees, concerned taxpayers and community activists for the largest rally in New Jersey's history on May 22, as concerned residents from all corners of New Jersey descend on the State House for a rally to oppose Chris Christie's disastrous budget priorities.

"Everyone from public workers to seniors to students to veterans are going to see their

We have Facebook Pages!



- All of the cool kids are using Facebook now.
- Get with it!
- Go to www.facebook.com
 - Fill in your email, your name and where you live and you're set
- Join our groups:
 - “CWA NJ Shop Stewards”
 - “Fight for NJ Public Services, Fight for NJ Public Workers!”