YES TO RENDELL & CASEY!

It’s official -- at the April meeting the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters endorsed Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell (D) for re-election to a second term, and current PA State Treasurer Bob Casey (D) in his bid for the U.S. Senate against current Sen. Rick Santorum (R).

Our endorsement means much more than a good sound bite for the evening news -- because we back up our words with volunteers and votes.

In November, all 92,000 PA Conf. members and their families will be urged to vote for our friends in Congress & the state govt. -- with Ed Rendell & Bob Casey at the top of the list!

ISSUE REPORT: MINIMUM WAGE VICTORY!

One big reason why the PA Conf. endorsed Ed Rendell happened on 7/9, when he signed Senate Bill 1090, giving PA workers the first increase in the minimum wage in 18 years. With SB 1090, Pennsylvania becomes the 22nd state to increase its state minimum wage since the last increase in the federal minimum wage (to the current $5.15 an hour) in 1997.

Election year momentum pushed SB 1090 through the PA State House on 6/30, and quickly through the PA Senate on 7/1, which endorsed it by a 38-12 vote. Under the new law, the PA minimum wage will be increased in stages:

- Employees of companies with more than ten full-time workers...
NEW OFFICERS APPOINTED -- Two longtime PA Conf. officers -- Secy.-Treas. Michael Yagercik and Director Donald DeVert -- retired recently, leading to several changes in the Conf.'s Executive Board. PA Conf. Trustee & JC 40 head Roy Marshall was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, while Douglas Robbins, head of LU #261 and a JC #40 Trustee, was appointed Director. Director Joseph Molinero was appointed to fill the Trustee slot left open by Roy Marshall's appointment.

The PA Conference congratulates our new officers, and extends its gratitude and appreciation to former Secy.-Treas. Yagercik for his years of dedication and service.

NEW AFFILIATES WELCOMED -- The following GCC/IBT Local Unions have affiliated with the PA Conf.:
- 4C, President James Cox
- 27th, President, Richard Bogaski
- 14M, President Kurt Freeman
- 16N, President Joseph Inemer
- 24M, President Chris Lang
- 329C, President David Roth

With the affiliation of these Local Unions, the PA Conf. now represents the interests of 92,000 Teamsters and their families in 48 Local Unions. It's a big THANKS and a hearty welcome to our new affiliates -- and, a reminder to our fellow Teamsters in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Way Employees Division that we enjoyed seeing their representatives at the Annual Meeting in Hershey earlier this year -- and that there's room for them in the PA Conf. as well.

YUENGLING BEER BOYCOTT CALLED -- For decades, Teamsters Local Union #830 in Philly has represented the workers at the D. G. Yuengling & Son brewery; yet, when their contract expired in March, Yuengling’s management withdrew recognition and declared it would no longer negotiate with Local 830, whose reps have been denied access to the facility. Local 830 has filed charges against Yuengling with the National Labor Relations Board, which are pending.

At the 2006 Annual Meeting in April, delegates approved a resolution calling on all PA Conf. members and their families to boycott Yuengling products until this situation is satisfactorily resolved. So, DO NOT BUY Yuengling Premium Beer, Lord Chesterfield Ale, Traditional Lager, Yuengling Light, Dark Brewed Porter, Light Lager and Black & Tan until further notice. Thanks for your support.

UPS CARD CHECK AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED -- At the IBT 27th International Convention, held in late June in Las Vegas, Gen. Pres. Jim Hoffa announced that we have won an agreement from UPS to open negotiations on a new contract and secured a card-check/neutrality agreement at UPS Freight (formerly Overnite).

“We have been working hard on winning UPS Freight workers a strong voice on the job,” Hoffa said. “UPS Freight workers all over the country are telling UPS and freight members that they want to be Teamsters.” The PA Conf. will be working closely with the IBT on future organizing efforts with the UPS Freight workers, as well as on the upcoming UPS contract negotiations.

ISSUE REPORT: MINIMUM WAGE VICTORY! (Continued from page 2)

Employers with less than ten full-time employees would be allowed to raise wages in three steps: to $5.65 on 1/1/07, $6.65 on 7/1/07, and to $7.15 on 7/1/08. However, franchises of larger chains would not qualify for this phase-in.

Under current federal guidelines, a family of four with an annual income of $20,000 is considered poor; a minimum wage worker now making $5.15 an hour makes almost 50% less than this amount. Any increase would be a plus for the estimated 423,000 PA workers now earning the minimum wage -- and for the roughly 20,000 PA families now living on the minimum wages of one family member.

Years of steady, persistent work by the PA Conf. and organized labor led to this victory. Kudos to the PA General Assembly and to Gov. Rendell for doing the right thing for PA's lowest paid workers.

Yet, while PA legislators gave hope to its lowest-paid workers & their families, Congress killed any chances of a minimum wage hike in late June, when the GOP-controlled Senate shot down Sen. Edward Kennedy’s (D-MA) bill. If enacted, Sen. Kennedy’s bill would have jumped the federal minimum wage from the current $5.15 /hr. to $7.25 over roughly three years.

What’s ironic about this defeat is that this is the ninth time a minimum wage hike bill was defeated in Congress since 1997 -- yet, since 1997 federal legislators have received about $30,000 in pay hikes, a figure that’s three times greater than an average minimum wage worker’s annuual wages. Something’s very wrong with this picture! Sen. Kennedy has vowed to re-introduce this bill -- and, when he does, we’ll be there, with the IBT, backing him up.
CRUNCH TIME!
FULL ENDORSEMENTS OF THE PA CONFERENCE, JC 40 & JC 53 WILL BE RELEASED AT A LATER DATE.

It's crunch time for the PA Conference, as we score big on two important bills and take aim at the upcoming elections in PA, NJ, DE & WV! First up is Pennsylvania, where two critical bills recently received some TLC, Teamster-style:

• HB #1215, the Independent Contractor Act -- This awful bill would have encouraged employers to misclassify employees as subcontractors to avoid paying Workers' Compensation, State and Federal Payroll Taxes and Unemployment Compensation. Not only would this put an unfair burden on legitimate employers, but it would also have allowed these unscrupulous employers to avoid paying Prevailing Wage on state-funded projects to trucking industry workers. And, the implications for the state’s health-care system, which would have to absorb the cost of treating more uninsured workers & their families, could be staggering.

In February, PA Conf. officials asked all PA state representatives to oppose HB 1215. We also joined with the PA Building & Trades Council to fight this legislation -- and, as a result, the bill has been stopped, and is dead for this session. Thanks to all our friends in the General Assembly who worked with us to ensure that HB 1215 never got to the House floor.

• HB #2254 -- This critical legislation calls on the PA Liquor Control Board to begin the process of importing wine and spirits from Europe through the Port of Philadelphia, instead of through the Port of New York. Introduced in April by longtime PA Conf. allies Reps. Bill Keller (D-Phila.) & Scott Petri (R-Bucks), HB 2254 has passed the House and is awaiting Senate action. PA Conf. officials are working with PLCB head Jonathan Newman and Reps. Keller & Petri to get this bill passed -- because it means more work in the docks & warehouses of the Philly waterfront. And, our thanks to Reps. Keller & Petri, and to PLCB chief Newman for their help.

PA Conf. Congratulations to: Local 500 VP John J. Schmitt on his appointment to the PA Workers Compensation Appeals Board by Gov. Rendell. And, kudos to 22-year Local 397 UPS member Patrick J. Harkins, who won the Democratic primary for the 1st Dist. (Erie) PA House seat by a big margin! Pat's candidacy has been endorsed by JC #40.

In New Jersey, Local 331 (Pleasantville) reports one of its Chief Shop Stewards, Nelson Geralds, has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Pleasantville (NJ) City Councilman Kenneth Prescott, and ran in the primary election to keep the seat. PA Conf. Trustee & 331 head Joseph Yeoman and fellow 331 member Norberto Ruiz also ran for County Committee in the primary and won -- only to lose their victory because of an allegedly improper absentee ballot campaign by non-Teamsters.

This incident is being investigated, and Local 331 officials are confident they can get the Primary results overturned. Meanwhile, they thank JC #53 and the other Local Unions who financially supported their campaigns. Good luck, guys!

Local 676 in Collingswood, NJ reports it has endorsed the following candidates, all Teamster allies, in the general election:
U.S. Senate -- Bob Menendez (D)
U.S. House Dist. 1 -- Rob Andrews (D)
U.S. House Dist. 2 -- Frank LoBiondo (R)

Delaware’s Local 326 is supporting Ed Doyle, a retired 326 member, in his bid for the 13th District seat in the DE House of Representatives. Ed is facing opposition from his own party (13th Dist. Democratic Committee), and Local 326 officials are actively working to further his candidacy.

A Teamster for more than 35 years, Ed Doyle served as a shop steward, and remains involved with Local 326’s PAC as an asst. lobbyist. He has also served as the Democratic Committee men for his district for more than three decades. We need more Teamsters like Ed Doyle in state government, that's for sure!

For more info on how your Local Union can help Brother Doyle, contact Local 326’s Vice Pres. & Legislative Rep. Mike Ciabattoni @ (302)328-2387.

And, West Virginia’s Local 697 announced it has endorsed two incumbents up for re-election, both longtime Teamster allies: Senator Robert C. Byrd (D) and U.S. Rep., 1st Dist. Alan B. Mollohan (D).
PA Conf Charity Golf Outing A Success

On May 2, 2006 the Annual “Freddy Baux” Charity Memorial Golf Outing was held as part of the Annual Meeting in Hershey, PA. And, like last year’s event, it was a smashing success, raising more than $8,500 for the American Cancer Society.

Held each year in memory of Fred Baux, a former Teamsters member and officer and one of the original organizers of the Charity Golf Outing who died in 2001 from lung cancer, the annual event has raised a total of $26,512.05 for the ACS since 2002. Congratulations to PA Conf. Secy.-Treas. & JC 40 Pres. Roy Marshall and his fellow volunteers on another great event!

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Then go to our website at www.pacteamsters.com and click on the Political Action Page. A common misperception is that jury lists are pulled from voter registration rolls. This is NOT CORRECT! The Dept. of Motor Vehicles is required by law to make lists available to the Federal and State Jury Services. You cannot avoid jury duty by not registering to vote -- so, do the right thing & REGISTER!

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Changing to Win!

Change to Win, the new labor coalition formed by the IBT, SEIU, UNITE HERE, UFCW, UFW, Laborers, & Carpenters Union earlier this year is moving ahead with an ambitious campaign to “Restore the American Dream” -- and the PA Conf. is playing an active role.

On June 14, 2006 PA Conf. Secy.-Treas. & JC 40 head Roy Marshall joined CTW Executive Director Greg Tarpinian and other IBT officials in a strategy planning meeting in Hershey, PA. While the action agenda for the fall is still in the planning stages, one early event happened in late April, when PA Conf. members joined in a protest march to the Norristown, PA County Courthouse in support of immigrant workers being exploited by nonunion contractors.

Watch for more info on future events on the PA Conf. website & the Conf. Report!

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The Conference Report

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