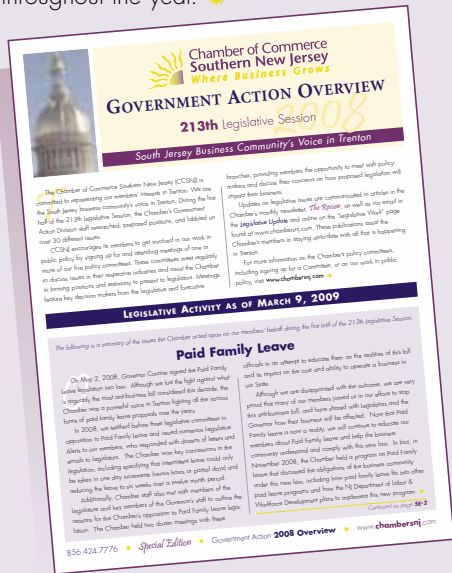


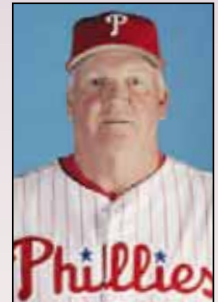
## Government Action Overview Enclosed in This Issue

Enclosed in this issue of *The Review* you will find a special edition insert: CCSNJ's *Government Action Overview*. This publication summarizes all of the legislation that the Chamber weighed in on in Trenton on your behalf during the first half of the 213th Legislative Session. Please save this important document to reference throughout the year. \*



## 15th Annual Pinnacle Awards to Honor Chamber Members

On Monday, May 11, Charlie Manuel, manager of the 2008 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies, will receive the Chairman's Award as the Chamber honors this year's winners at the 15th Annual Pinnacle Awards Dinner, sponsored by AmeriHealth New Jersey; Atlantic City Electric; Generate Revenue & Time Inc.; The Inquirer, Daily News, Philly.com/Monster; South Jersey Industries; TD Bank; and Virtua Health.



Charlie Manuel

- ▲ **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD:** Charlie Manuel, manager, 2008 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies
- ▲ **PRESIDENT'S AWARD:** New Jersey Casino Industry
- ▲ **WELLNESS AWARD:** Coriell Institute for Medical Research
- ▲ **EDUCATION AWARD:** Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors
- ▲ **GREEN AWARD:** PNC Bank
- ▲ **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:** Gene M. Principato, president, The Marketing Difference and chairman, Chamber's Ambassadors Committee
- ▲ **PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD:** The Honorable Pamela R. Lampitt, NJ Assembly, District 6, chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee

The festivities will begin at *Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill* with a cocktail reception sponsored by *New Jersey American Water*, at 6:00 p.m., followed by the dinner and program from 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. Register at [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com) \*

## Spring Golf Outing Planned at Woodcrest Country Club

Welcome spring on the greens at *Woodcrest Country Club* on *Tuesday, May 5*, at the Chamber's 35th Annual Spring Golf Outing, sponsored by *Citizens Bank*, *Cozen O'Connor*, and *Subaru of America Inc.* Spend a relaxing day networking with Chamber members while golfing at one of region's best private courses.

The tournament format for this year's outing will be a scramble. Prizes will be awarded for low calloway, closest to the pin, longest drive, straightest drive, and hole-in-one. Subaru of America will award a Subaru Forester to the player hitting a hole-in-one on the designated hole.

The Spring Golf Outing is a terrific opportunity to put your company's name

before a select business audience through hole sponsorship. For \$175, you'll get a sign displayed prominently at your sponsored hole, and you'll be recognized in *The Review*. When reserving a foursome, you may add a hole sponsorship for only \$150 — a \$25 savings. Call Blair at (856) 424-7776 x20 for details.

Registration fees are \$299 per player, which includes green fees, lunch, snacks on the course, cocktails, and the awards dinner. Register early, as the event is always a sell-out. Can't get away from the office for the full day? You may attend the cocktail reception and dinner only for \$75 per person.

Call the Chamber or register online at [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com). \*

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## Smoking Ban for Casinos Discussed

On March 10, the Chamber opposed **S-236 (TURNER/VITALE)**, which would eliminate the smoking ban exemption for casinos and simulcasting facilities. This bill was up for discussion only in the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

The casino industry, like many other industries involving the spending of discretionary income, has experienced unprecedented declines in revenues over the past two years and into this year to date. These declines are attributable to the global economic crisis and competition from Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, which are two of New Jersey's gaming industry's prime competitors, permit smoking in their casinos. If New Jersey were to ban smoking in its casinos, the state would find itself at significant competitive disadvantage.

The economic reality is that every other state that has enacted a smoking ban has suffered an immediate 15 to 20 percent of revenue decline. In Atlantic City, the Chamber fears this could mean that employees of the casino industry and of businesses that serve the casino industry may lose their jobs and benefits if New Jersey moves to a 100 percent smoking ban. The Chamber urged the Committee to withdraw consideration of S-236 (Turner/Vitale) at this time.

## Resolution to Allow Sports Betting in New Jersey Passes Senate

On February 23, the Chamber supported **SR-12 (LESNIAK/VAN DREW)**, which urged the United States Congress to lift the ban on sports bet wagering in New Jersey. Sports wagering is currently illegal under the "Professional and Amateur Sports

## Legislative Update

**AS OF MARCH 6, 2009**

Protection Act," 28 U.S.C.ss.3701 et seq. With current economic conditions impacting the gaming industry so significantly, the Chamber believes lifting the ban on sports wagering would provide a unique opportunity to jumpstart the casino industry in Atlantic City.

SR-12(Lesniak/Van Drew) passed the full Senate by a voice vote. A resolution reflecting the opinion of the New Jersey Senate will now be filed with the Secretary of Senate and a copy will be transmitted to Congress.

## Moratorium on Developers Fees Moves Forward

On February 26, the Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee considered **S-2485 (LESNIAK/BATEMAN)**, which would grant an 18-month moratorium on a 2.5 percent fee on construction projects. This fee was part of a measure signed into law in July 2008 that imposed a 2.5 percent fee on commercial and industrial projects in order to fund affordable housing obligations. Additionally, S-2485 (Lesniak/Bateman) entirely exempts projects from the 2.5 percent fee that received site approvals prior to the July 2008 bill signing.

The Chamber believes the suspension of the 2.5 percent fee will help will help encourage economic development at a time when New Jersey's economy is at a steep decline.

S-2485 (Lesniak/Bateman) passed through committee and now moves to the full Senate for consideration.

## Site Remediation and Licensee Site Professionals Legislative Reforms

On February 26, **S-1897 (SMITH) / A-2962 (MCKEON)** was heard during a joint meeting of the Senate Environment and Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committees. S-1897 (Smith) / A-2962 (McKeon) would overhaul New Jersey's current site remediation system and make drastic changes to how contaminated sites across New Jersey are cleaned-up and evaluated. This bill passed both Committees unanimously.

On March 16, S-1897 (Smith) / A-2962 (McKeon) was heard by both the full Senate and full Assembly in the last voting session before budget break. This bill passed their respective Houses and at press time, is awaiting signage into law by Governor Corzine.

The Chamber, with the leadership of the Chamber's Environment Committee Chairman, Bruce Katcher, Esq., gathered a small ad-hoc committee comprised of members who will be directly impacted by this bill to discuss the formulation of the Chamber's formal policy position. Ad-hoc Committee members included David Russell of Earth Tech, Inc. and Anne Davis and Deborah Spinella from South Jersey Industries. As a result, the Chamber drafted comments on S-1897 (Smith) / A-2962 (McKeon), which have been continuously updated and distributed to all the members of the Senate and Assembly Environment Committees and key New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection officials.

Originally, the Chamber was supportive of the creation of an LSP program, but had other concerns with the legislation. However, after several draft versions of the bill and months of retooling, the business community won many key concessions in this legislation and the Chamber was pleased to support S-1897 (Smith) / A-2962 (McKeon).\*

*More Gov't Action continued on page 13*



# From the President

## Honoring Members at the Pinnacle of Success

The Chamber will honor outstanding companies and individuals at our Pinnacle Awards Dinner on Monday, May 11 at Crowne Plaza in Cherry Hill.

We are pleased to welcome and honor the "Fightin Phils" Manger Charlie Manuel with our Chairman's Award. As you know, Charlie led the team to victory in the 2008 World Series – the Phillies first championship since 1980.

Our President's Award will honor the New Jersey Casino Industry for its profound positive impact on the regional and state economies.

Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems & Sensors will receive the Education Award for its outstanding and exemplary commitment to the teachers and students of our region. Under the leadership of Chamber Board member Kenneth Ross, Lockheed Martin has been a major supporter of the Chamber's South Jersey Summer Institute for Educators by sponsoring two teachers in the program and hosting a tour each year.

Coriell Institute for Medical Research will be honored with the Wellness Award. Its cutting-edge Personalized Medicine Project will fundamentally change medical practice, improving the effectiveness and lowering the cost of medical care for future generations.

PNC Bank, our Green Award recipient, has been nationally recognized for having more

certified, environmentally friendly buildings than any other company on earth. PNC's commitment to significantly reduce its impact on the environment has enabled the company to lower costs, increase efficiency and productivity.

Our Volunteer of the Year, Eugene Principato, president of The Marketing Difference LLC, has volunteered his time as chairman of the Chamber's Ambassador Committee for two years. In this role he leads a group of members that mentor new Chamber members.

We will present the Honorable Pamela R. Lampitt with our Public Service Award for making the Chamber, our members and the regional business community priorities on her agenda. Assemblywoman Lampitt represents the 6th Legislative District and serves as vice chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

We greatly appreciate the support of our award sponsors: *AmeriHealth New Jersey; Atlantic City Electric; Generate Revenue & Time, Inc.; The Inquirer, Daily News, Philly.com/Monster; South Jersey Industries, Inc.; TD Bank and Virtua Health, and our cocktail reception sponsor, New Jersey American Water.*

Please join us to congratulate this year's awardees and celebrate their achievements! I look forward to seeing you May 11! ✨



## The Review

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### Editor

Meredith Lorrilliere



January issue sponsored by

**Archer & Greiner, P.C.**

## Congressional Action Committee to Feature **Congressman Adler**

On Friday, April 17, the Chamber will host a Congressional Action Committee Meeting featuring Congressman John Adler from 7:45 to 9:45 a.m. at The Mansion on Main Street in Voorhees, sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Comcast.

In January, Congressman Adler began serving his first term representing the Third Congressional District, which includes Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties. Prior to his seat in Congress, Adler served for 16 years in the New Jersey State Senate, where he served as a chairman on the Senate Judiciary Committee. As a senator, Adler was a leader on environmental and health related issue, homeland security, ethics reform and reducing corporate taxes on small business.

Join us to hear about Congressman Adler's legislative priorities for his first year in Congress. To register for this event, visit [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com) ✨



**Congressman Adler**



# Special Events

## Rutgers Forum to Assess South Jersey Economy

**NEW LOCATION**  
Crowne Plaza  
Cherry Hill

Rutgers University School of Business-Camden will present its Quarterly Business Outlook, in partnership with *Flaster/Greenberg PC* and the Chamber, on *Tuesday, April 21st, 7:45 a.m.*, at the *Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill*.

The quarterly forum features area business leaders who assess the southern New Jersey economy and give their forecasts for the next quarter. This session's panel will be moderated by Rayman Solomon, dean of the Rutgers School of Business, and will consist of four experts in economics, commercial construction, banking, and restaurant industries that will discuss current and six-month outlooks in their respective fields:

- **ECONOMY** . . . . . **Joel Naroff, Ph.D.**, *economist*, TD Bank president, Naroff Economic Advisors
- **COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION** . . . **Irvin E. Richter**, *chairman and CEO*, Hill International
- **BANKING** . . . . . **Michael Carbone**, *metro president/metro Philadelphia market*, TD Bank
- **HOSPITALITY/RESTAURANT** . . . **Robert Minniti**, *president*, The South Jersey Independent Restaurant Association

Attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast at *7:45 a.m.* before the discussion at *8:30 a.m.* This event is complimentary, but requires pre-registration — seating is limited. Call the Chamber or register online at [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com). ✨

## Save the Date... Business After Business

Thursday, May 21, 2009  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

at  
South Jersey Technology Park at  
Rowan University. Sponsored by  
The Bank and Stradley, Ronon,  
Stevens, and Young, LLP. ✨

“ I have never worked with a group **more conscientious** and **concise** and that does a **better job** for the business community than **CCSNJ**. ✨  
— **ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH MALONE** ”

## Congressman Andrews Kicks off Congressional Action Meetings for 2009



On Monday, February 23, the Congressional Action Committee hosted its first meeting of the year with District 1 Congressman Rob Andrews. Congressman Andrews discussed the state of the region in trying economic times and possible resolutions to help turn the nation around. This meeting was sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Comcast. ✨

## Assemblyman Malone Discusses State's Fiscal Woes

On Wednesday, February 18, the State Affairs Committee hosted its first meeting of 2009 with District 30 Assemblyman Joseph Malone.

Assemblyman Malone, the Republican Budget Officer on the powerful Assembly Budget Committee, discussed his predictions for the FY2010 budget and different ways the state can reduce spending. This meeting was sponsored by Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Flaster/Greenberg P.C., South Jersey Industries, and Verizon. ✨





# GOVERNMENT ACTION OVERVIEW

## 213th Legislative Session

# 2008

*South Jersey Business Community's Voice in Trenton*

The Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ) is committed to representing our members' interests in Trenton. We are the South Jersey business community's voice in Trenton. During the first half of the 213th Legislative Session, the Chamber's Government Action Division staff researched, prepared positions, and lobbied on over 30 different issues.

CCSNJ encourages its members to get involved in our work in public policy by signing up for and attending meetings of one or more of our five policy committees. These committees meet regularly to discuss issues in their respective industries and assist the Chamber in forming positions and testimony to present to legislators. Meetings feature key decision makers from the Legislative and Executive

branches, providing members the opportunity to meet with policy-makers and discuss their concerns on how proposed legislation will impact their business.

Updates on legislative issues are communicated in articles in the Chamber's monthly newsletter, *The Review*, as well as via email in the *Legislative Update* and online on the "Legislative Work" page found at [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com). These publications assist the Chamber's members in staying up-to-date with all that is happening in Trenton.

For more information on the Chamber's policy committees, including signing up for a Committee, or on our work in public policy, visit [www.chambersnj.com](http://www.chambersnj.com). ✨

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AS OF MARCH 16, 2009

*The following is a summary of the issues the Chamber acted upon on our members' behalf during the first half of the 213th Legislative Session.*

### Paid Family Leave

On May 2, 2008, Governor Corzine signed the Paid Family Leave legislation into law. Although we lost the fight against what is arguably the most anti-business bill considered this decade, the Chamber was a powerful voice in Trenton fighting all the various forms of paid family leave proposals over the years.

In 2008, we testified before three legislative committees in opposition to Paid Family Leave and issued numerous Legislative Alerts to our members, who responded with dozens of letters and emails to Legislators. The Chamber won key concessions in the legislation, including specifying that intermittent leave could only be taken in one day increments (versus hours or partial days) and reducing the leave to six weeks over a twelve month period.

Additionally, Chamber staff also met with members of the Legislature and key members of the Governor's staff to outline the reasons for the Chamber's opposition to Paid Family Leave legislation. The Chamber held two dozen meetings with these

officials in an attempt to educate them on the realities of this bill and its impact on the cost and ability to operate a business in our State.

Although we are disappointed with the outcome, we are very proud that many of our members joined us in our efforts to stop this anti-business bill, and have shared with Legislators and the Governor how their business will be affected. Now that Paid Family Leave is now a reality, we will continue to educate our members about Paid Family Leave and help the business community understand and comply with this new law. In fact, in November 2008, the Chamber held a program on Paid Family Leave that discussed the obligations of the business community under this new law, including how paid family leave fits into other paid leave programs and how the NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development plans to implement this new program. ✨

*Continued on page SE-2*



The following is a summary of the issues the Chamber acted upon on our members' behalf during the first half of the 213th Legislative Session.

## Governor Corzine's Debt Restructuring Plan

In early 2008, the Governor outlined his Debt Restructuring Plan as a way to reduce the State's debt and fund certain transportation projects. The Restructuring Plan was heavily reliant on increased toll increases on the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and Atlantic City Expressway, calling for 50 percent tolls increases in January 2010, and 50 percent increases every four years thereafter through 2022.

On February 13, 2008, Governor Corzine addressed the members of the Chamber's Board of Directors to outline his proposal. In preparation for his visit, the Chamber undertook a great deal of research, including reviewing the proposed legislation and other materials distributed by the Governor's office on his plan.

Following the Governor's presentation, we surveyed our full Board as to the position our organization should take on the Debt Restructuring Plan. Overwhelmingly, our Board indicated that it was not willing to support the Debt Restructuring Plan until certain concerns were addressed. Some of the Boards' concerns were as follows: concerns that the \$600 million to \$1 billion of freed up money in the State budget would be spent responsibly; concerns over the governance structure of the Capital Solutions Corporation, Citizens Board and Public Benefit Corporation; concerns over the

track record of the Transportation Trust Fund Authority; concerns that the Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) would not be able to achieve efficiencies if it was not allowed to make any cuts in the workforce; and concerns as to what happens if the maximum toll increases established in the legislation fail to cover the cost of the bonds.

The Chamber's Board also had concerns regarding how the level of toll increases on the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and Atlantic City Expressway would impact South Jersey businesses, particularly the gaming & tourism industries. Further, the Board believed that any plan to get the State's financial house in order should contain the following elements: reducing or freezing State spending, especially recurring, "mandated" expenses related to State employee benefits; reducing the State government workforce through attrition; and implementing the recommendations contained in the Chamber's Board Council on Responsible Government Spending Reports – Phases I and II to achieve efficiencies in state government operations.

Although we did not support the proposal, the Chamber commends the Governor for his courage and vision in putting forth a bold, groundbreaking new idea, and holding meetings to gain input from the state's taxpayers and different interest groups. ✨

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY AS OF MARCH 16, 2009

### EDUCATION

**A-2897 (CRUZ-PEREZ/CRYAN/O'SCANLON/WEBBER/WOLFE/MALONE)**  
**S-1607 (LESNIAK/T.KEAN)**

*"Urban Enterprise Zone Jobs Scholarship Act"*

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill would give UEZ companies a 100 percent tax credit for contributions made to scholarship funds in low-income areas.

**STATUS:** Assembly Education Committee/Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

### ENVIRONMENT

**A-2962 (McKEON) / S-1897 (SMITH)**

Establishes licensed site professional program (LSP) for site remediation and makes various changes to site remediation laws.

**POSITION:** The Chamber is supportive of the LSP concept and the overhaul of the current site remediation program as outlined in this bill, although the Chamber would still like to see minor changes made before it is signed into law.

**STATUS:** Passed both houses on March 16, 2009. Awaits signage into law by Governor Corzine.

**A-2867 (GREENWALD/MALONE/CRYAN/BIONDI/McHOSE) / S-1919 (SARLO/VAN DREW)**

*The "Permit Extension Act of 2008."*

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill extends for 3.5 years all permits and approvals given to developers or builders by the state or local governments. The Chamber believes this will provide some relief to builders and developers that do business in New Jersey during our current economic crisis.

**STATUS:** Signed into law on September 6, 2008; P.L.2008, c.78.



Continued on page **SE-3**



## **GENERAL BUSINESS ISSUES**

### **A-832 (CHIVUKULA/SCHAER/FISHER/LOVE) / S-1793 (SARLO/GIRGENTI)**

Expands the scope of New Jersey Regulatory Flexibility Act dealing with economic impact of rules on small businesses.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** With small business accounting for a large percentage of any growth in our economy, it is imperative that state agencies continue to explore alternative regulatory approaches in order to minimize the economic impact of rules and regulations on small businesses, while still satisfying the regulatory objective.

**STATUS:** Passed the General Assembly 75-1 with one abstention. Passed the Senate Economic Growth Committee. Awaits a vote by the full Senate.



### **SCR-60 (SWEENEY/T.KEAN)**

Proposes constitutional amendment requiring contributions collected from assessments on wages to be used for employee benefits and prohibiting use of the contributions for any other purpose.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** We believe it is essential to keep the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust and the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) Funds solvent and to use monies in these funds only for the purposes for which they are intended – not to pay for other expenses during budget shortfalls

**STATUS:** Passed the Senate 38-0. Awaits consideration by the Assembly.



### **S-1698 (BUONO/S. KEAN) / A-2801 (GREENWALD/MILAM/SCHAER/CONTINHO)**

Revises the calculation of Unemployment Trust Fund Reserve Ratio for experience rating year beginning July 1, 2008 by temporarily changing the date on which the

fund balance calculation is made from March 31, 2008 to June 30, 2008; appropriates \$260,000,000 to unemployment compensation fund.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** If the UI fund was not replenished by the appropriation allocated in this bill, an automatic \$350 million tax increase would force employers and employees to pay a 20 percent to 50 percent higher tax rate.

**STATUS:** Signed into law on June 19, 2008; P.L.2008, c.20.



### **A-2292 (GREENSTEIN/SPENCER)**

Makes various changes to the "Law Against Discrimination"; repeals section 4 of P.L.1985, c.73.

**POSITION: OPPOSE.** This bill makes several changes to the Law Against Discrimination, which would increase the likelihood of employment litigation in New Jersey, leading to higher employer costs.

**STATUS:** Reported out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Awaits consideration by the full Assembly.



### **A-3818 (POU/VAINIERI HUTTLE/GUSCIORA) / S-2640 (MADDEN/T.KEAN)\***

Eliminates off-trigger for additional unemployment benefits during job training programs.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The passage of this bill would guarantee New Jersey's full share of federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) Stimulus funds.

**STATUS:** Passed both Houses on March 16, 2009. Awaits signage into law by Governor Corzine.



### **S-562 (SWEENEY/SARLO)**

Provides triggers for reductions of employer unemployment insurance taxes.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill provides a new, reduced unemployment insurance (UI) tax schedules when the reserve ratio of the State's UI trust fund exceeds 5.0 percent, so the fund's balance does not get too large. This will alleviate the possibility of diverting the extra money in the fund to pay for other expenses, and would reduce taxes for employers and employees.

**STATUS:** Passed the Senate 39-0. Referred to the Assembly Labor Committee.

## **HEALTH**

### **S-1940 (VITALE/SINGER)**

Requires health insurers and SHBP to provide certain mental health benefits for eating disorders under same terms and conditions as for other illnesses and diseases.

**POSITION:** The Chamber opposes any mandated benefit, as they contribute to health insurance premium increases.

**STATUS:** Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

## **LABOR**

### **S-667 (MADDEN)**

Creates the "New Jersey Security and Financial Empowerment Act," which would provide for 20 days of leave time during any 12-month period for an employee who is the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, or whose family or household member was the victim.

**POSITION: OPPOSE.** The Chamber recognizes that domestic violence is a very serious problem; however, employers cannot afford to provide an additional twenty days of leave, on top of an employee's other paid time off policies.

**STATUS:** Held in the Senate Labor Committee.





**A-873 (ALBANO, OLIVER, GREENSTEIN, DEANGELO) / S-786 (SWEENEY, BUONO)**

Extends Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) to provide family leave benefits for workers caring for sick family members, newborn and newly adopted children.

**POSITION: OPPOSE.** This issue is by far the most anti-business bill to be voted on by our legislature in decades. Paid Family Leave will increase the cost of doing business, make New Jersey an even less competitive environment for business and lead to lowered morale, decreased productivity, overtime costs and disruption in the workplace.

**STATUS:** Signed into law May 2, 2008; P.L.2008, c.17.



**A-638 (LAMPITT/GREENWALD/VAS)**

Prohibits a local government agency from employing a person on paid leave from another government agency.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes this bill will help curb potential abuse of the new paid family leave law.

**STATUS:** Passed the Assembly 79-0. Passed the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. Awaits consideration by the full Senate.



**A-2359 (GREENSTEIN)**

Requires contractors to provide Department of the Treasury with employment information about contracts with public bodies.

**POSITION:** Opposed in its original form. Initially, this bill would have required companies doing business with the state to provide a detailed report, which would be available to the public, including information on gender, ethnicity, salary, amount of paid sick and vacation time, pension and health benefits and employee union representation of each employee. The Chamber believed that this information would have been used

as a union organizing tool. Instead, several amendments were passed that removed this language from the bill.

**STATUS:** Amended and reported out of the Assembly Labor Committee. Awaits consideration by the Assembly.

**STATE GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**A-847 (CHIVUKULA/VAS)**

Provides for development of universal public procurement application for use by public entities at all levels of government; provides for collaboration to streamline procurement application process.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber's Board Council on Responsible Government Spending made a similar recommendation in its Phase I report, which was released in 2005, as a strategy to reduce state spending.

**STATUS:** Reported out of the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee. Awaits consideration by the full Assembly.



**A-2803 (SCHAER) / S-1979 (SWEENEY/O'TOOLE)**

Abolishes Department of Personnel, transfers the functions, powers, and duties primarily to new Civil Service Commission in but not of Department of Labor and Workforce Development and creates Civil Service Reform Task Force.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber's Board Council on Responsible Government Spending made a similar recommendation in its Phase III report, which was released in 2008.

**STATUS:** Signed into law June 30, 2008; P.L.2008, c.29.



**S-1962 (BUONO/SWEENEY/SCUTARI/T.KEAN) / A-2818 (ROBERTS)**

Makes changes to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) concerning retirement age eligibility, purchase of service credit; makes various changes to the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) administration; merges Washington and Lincoln holidays into one holiday, Presidents Day.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes this bill will help bring the spiraling public employee related costs under control and to do so in a way that does not impact the benefits of existing state employees.

**STATUS:** Signed into law September 29, 2008; P.L.2008, c. 89.



**S-1963 (CUNNINGHAM/BUCCO)**

Allows State to offer incentives to employees with non-SHBP health care coverage to waive SHBP benefits.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes that offering a monetary incentive to employees who have access to other coverage is in the best interest of the state and its taxpayers.

**STATUS:** Reported out of Senate State Government Committee.

Similar bill also supported by CCSNJ: **S-1483 (SWEENEY).**



**S-1964 (SWEENEY/O'TOOLE)**

Changes prospectively the definition of compensation used to calculate benefits in PERS and TPAF to average of five highest-paid years from average of three highest-paid years.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes that changing this calculation is a small step toward bringing the cost of public employee retirement benefits under control.



**STATUS:** Combine with S-1962. Signed into law on September 29, 2009; P.L.2008, c.89.

Similar bill also supported by CCSNJ: **S-1319 (O'TOOLE).**



**S-1965 (SCUTARI/KYRILLOS)**

Requires that new employees, appointees and elected officials work 35 or more hours per week to be eligible for SHBP benefits; maintains eligibility of persons with current and continuous SHBP coverage.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber's Board Council on Responsible Government Spending made a similar recommendation in its Phase II report, which was released in 2006, as a strategy to reduce the cost of public employee benefits.

**STATUS:** Combine with S-1962. Signed into law on September 29, 2009; P.L.2008, c.89.

Similar bills also supported by CCSNJ: **S-1394 (T. KEAN), A-3165 (JOHNSON), A-3301 (JOHNSON) / S-2099 (WEINBERG/ADLER) AND S-2090 (SCUTARI).**



**S-1966 (OROHO/SWEENEY)**

Prohibits use of purchased out-of-State service pension credit toward post-retirement health care benefits.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes this bill will help control the cost of taxpayer funded benefits for public employees.

**STATUS:** Reported out of the Senate State Government Committee.



**S-1969 (BUONO/BATEMAN)**

Requires employees holding more than one PERS covered employment position, or more than one TPAF position, to choose only one position as the basis of their pension.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber strongly believes that a public employee should only be allowed to earn pension credits for one job only, rather than allowing for the aggregation of several pensions for those who hold multiple publicly funded jobs.

**STATUS:** Combine with S-1962. Signed into law on September 29, 2009; P.L.2008, c.89.

Similar bill also supported by CCSNJ: **A-3255 (ALBANO/MILAM).**



**A-3076 (RUDDER/ADDIEGO) / S-2087 (HAINES)**

Requires person eligible for health care benefits from more than one public entity to choose coverage from only one.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes this measure makes sense and would undo an unnecessary and costly benefit that is funded by taxpayers.

**STATUS:** Reviewed by the Pension and Health Benefits Review Commission on November 7, 2008. Recommended to enact.

**TAXATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**A-2997 (VAS/COUTINHO/FISHER/LOVE/GREENSTEIN) / S-2114 (KYRILLOS/CUNNINGHAM)**

Revises certain eligibility requirements and employment incentive limitations and provides for extension of certain grant agreements under Business Employment Incentive Program (BEIP).

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill would strengthen BEIP by eliminating the \$50,000 statutory cap placed on grants awarded to businesses located in "designated urban centers," allows businesses to count "permitted contract workers" as new employees for purposes of incentive agreements and extending grant agreements for an

additional period not exceeding five years.

**STATUS:** Assembly Appropriations Committee / Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.



**S-2130 (CODEY, BUONO) / A-3124 (GREENWALD, McKEON, VAS, Pou)**

Increases carryover period of net operating loss deduction under corporation business tax.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The income averaging allowed in this legislation will permit businesses to recognize losses over a longer period of time, thereby freeing up capital that would have been paid in taxes to be used by the company to invest in its existing workers, hire new employees, purchase equipment, research and development activities, or simply to cover normal operating expenses.

**STATUS:** Signed into law November 24, 2008; P.L.2008, c.102.



**A-2720 (VAS/BURZICHELLI/POU/EVANS) / S-5 (STACK/TURNER)**

Broadens the definition of "small qualified business" under the UEZ sales tax rebate program to be any business with gross annual receipts of less than \$10 million.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** Although the Chamber believes that all businesses in UEZ zones should not be required to pay sales tax on purchases up front, we believe this bill is a step in the right direction towards widening the current UEZ qualifications.

**STATUS:** Signed into law December 17, 2008; P.L.2008, c. 118.





**A-2722 (VAS/GREENWALD/COUTINHO) / S-3 (CODEY/OROHO/SWEENEY) / S-1874 (OROHO/SWEENEY)**

Eliminates throw out of receipts in allocation of entire net income under the corporation business tax; eliminates "regular place of business" requirement to allocate less than 100 percent of income to New Jersey.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** Our Chamber has been in support of eliminating the "throw out" rule for a number of years. New Jersey is the only state other than West Virginia that has a throw out rule; that is, when allocating sales, our state excludes sales that companies make in other states that don't tax the company's net income. This "throw out" of sales in other states increases the sales fraction in the taxation formula, thereby increasing the portion of a business's net income.

**STATUS:** Sign into law December 19, 2008; P.L.2008, c. 120.



**A-3377 (SCHAER/FISHER/SPENCER/CONNERS) / S-4 (SARLO/TURNER)**

Establishes the "Main Street Business Assistance Program;" appropriates \$50 million.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This program would stimulate the economy and spur community investment during our current economic crisis by providing loans and guarantees to small and mid-sized businesses and non-profits.

**STATUS:** Signed into law December 16, 2008; P.L.2008, c. 117.



**S-265 (KYRILLOS/CUNNINGHAM) / A-3243 (VAS)**

Allows certain business employment incentives to be taken as a credit under the corporation business tax.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** Currently, BEIP grants are only provided as direct payments to businesses that meet their job creation

and retention commitments. By altering the program, it would allow businesses to credit the grant money against their tax obligation.

**STATUS:** Passed the Senate by a vote of 40-0. Referred to Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee.



**S-2213 (VAN DREW)**

Provides certain enhancements to Business Retention and Relocation Assistance Grant Program (BRRAG).

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber supports enhancing the current BRRAG program by providing tax credits to businesses that can prove they are a flight risk from the State and increasing the incentive amount from \$1,500 per full time job to \$4,000 per full time job if a business decides to move from outside a designated urban center to a location within a designated urban center.

**STATUS:** This bill was substituted for the InvestNJ Business Grant Program, created under Governor Corzine's Economic Assistance and Recovery Plan.



**A-3294 (MILAM/ALBANO/VAS) / S-6 (BUONO/TURNER/VAN DREW)**

Establishes the InvestNJ Business Grant Program in NJEDA to stimulate certain capital investment and job creation in New Jersey.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** InvestNJ makes available up to \$70 million for capital investment grants and also provides a \$3,000 incentive per full time job created. The bill requires that the full time job be retained for at least one year and includes health care benefits. The Chamber believes this program will provide a stimulus to the business community.

**STATUS:** Signed into law December 9, 2008; P.L.2008, c. 112.



**A-830 (CHIVUKULA/GREENSTEIN/LAMPITT)**

Establishes innovation zone program to stimulate technology industry clusters around New Jersey's research universities, colleges or research hospitals.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill promotes innovation and would assist in creating new jobs for New Jersey residents.

**STATUS:** Reported out of the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee. Awaits consideration by the full Assembly.



**A-3451 (GREEN/POU/EVANS/TUCKER/VAS)**

Makes several changes to the law governing urban enterprise zones (UEZ).

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** UEZs were established in 1984 to encourage businesses to stay in urban areas so that they can provide jobs, and promote and protect the historical manufacturing base of our state. The Chamber supports any changes that would enhance this program.

**STATUS:** Assembly Appropriations Committee.



**S-2485 (LESNIAK/BATEMAN)**

Modifies laws concerning affordable housing and makes an appropriation to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This legislation would impose a moratorium on the collection of the 2.5 percent non-residential development fee imposed by the revised affordable housing law for 18 months. The Chamber believes that the 2.5 percent fee acts as an impediment to the state's economic recovery.

**STATUS:** Passed in the Senate on March 16, 2009, by a vote of 35 - 0.



**TOURISM AND GAMING**

**A-2410 / S-1463 (WHELAN / GIRGENTI / BURZICHELLI / DANCER / MORIARTY)**

Provides that in the event a state of emergency is declared due to failure to enact an appropriation law casinos and racetracks may remain open under certain conditions.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill will ensure that there is no repeat of the 2006 closure of the state's casinos, which had a tremendously negative impact on the casinos, their employees, the businesses that support the industry, and their customers.

**STATUS:** Signed into law on June 27, 2008; P.L.2008, c.23.

Similar bills also supported by CCSNJ:

**ACR-155 (BURZICHELLI, DANCER, MORIARTY, MILAM) AND SCR-26 (ALLEN)**



**A-2011 (BURZICHELLI) / S-1393 (SARLO, WHELAN)**

Authorizes the transfer of the Atlantic City Convention Center project to the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Authority and renames that authority.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** The Chamber believes that the original purpose of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority oversight over the Convention Center is no longer necessary and places an unnecessary administrative burden on the operations of the Atlantic City Convention Center Authority.

**STATUS:** Signed into law on July 18, 2008; P.L.2008, c.47.



**S-1987 (WHELAN/VAN DREW)**

Permits casino employees to serve on Atlantic City governing body in certain circumstances.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** This bill would allow casino employees to serve on the

Atlantic City governing body, other than as the mayor, while continuing to hold their casino employment if they held that job upon taking public office.

**STATUS:** Passed the Senate 31-8. Awaits consideration by the Assembly.



**SR-12 (LESNIAK/VAN DREW)**

Urges the United States Congress to lift the ban on sports wagering.

**POSITION: SUPPORT.** With current economic conditions impacting the gaming industry so significantly, the Chamber believes lifting the ban on sports wagering would provide a unique opportunity to jumpstart the casino industry in Atlantic City.

**STATUS:** Passed the Senate by a voice vote on February 24, 2009. A resolution reflecting the opinion of the New Jersey Senate will now be filed with the Secretary of Senate and a copy will be transmitted to Congress. \*

Get Involved in **The Chamber's Public Policy Efforts**

Get involved in the Chamber's public policy efforts by joining one of our Government Action Committees. You will have the opportunity to meet key legislators and executive members of the Governor's administration and learn more about legislation that could impact your business.

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REVSNJ/090108

# CCSNJ Membership Walks to Washington with SJ Legislators

On Thursday, January 29, CCSNJ hosted a private VIP Reception with members and legislative leaders at the annual Walk to Washington at the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. Special thanks to our VIP Reception sponsors, Atlantic City Electric, and our supporting sponsor PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Right**, Pictured (left to right) ▶ are: Phil Passanante, Atlantic City Electric; Robert Revelle, Atlantic City Electric; Mack Wathen, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Ronnie Town, Atlantic City Electric; CCSNJ Executive Vice President & COO Kathleen A. Davis; Robert Marshall, Atlantic City Electric; Beverly Perry, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Paul Friel, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Susan Mora, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Bert Lopez, Atlantic City Electric; Kenneth Parker, Atlantic City Electric; Ernest Jenkins, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; CCSNJ President & CEO Debra P. DiLorenzo; Paul Barry, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; and Dr. Victor Udo, Pepco Holdings, Inc.



▲ **Above**, Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts (center) and other members of the South Jersey Legislative Delegation visited the Chamber's VIP reception to network with more than 100 CCSNJ members.

◀ **Left**, Congressman John Adler (third from left) speaks with (from left) Dennis Wrasse, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; Joseph Rigby, Pepco Holdings, Inc.; and Kenneth Parker, Atlantic City Electric. ✨

# New Members

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Six Flags Great Adventure  
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Theme Park, Safari and Water Park that offers group outings, discount ticket programs and private events to business/groups of all sizes.

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## COMPUTERS-NETWORKS

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Gibbsboro, NJ  
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[www.fisherbalancing.com](http://www.fisherbalancing.com)  
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# April Calendar of Events

\* Indicates Meeting held at Chamber Headquarters

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
For more information about <i>upcoming events</i> visit <a href="http://www.chambersnj.com">www.chambersnj.com</a>		Communications & Energy Committee: 11:30 a.m., The Mansion on Main Street, Voorhees 1	Network Connection Lunch: Noon, Caffe Aldo Lamberti, Cherry Hill 2	Ambassador Committee: 8:30 a.m.* 3
6	7	Network Connection Breakfast: 8:30 a.m., Adelphia Restaurant, Deptford 8	9	10
<i>Now is the time to lock in your booth location for 2009! Contact Blair Kindlich at (856) 424-7776 ext. 20, or bkindlich@chambersnj.com.</i>		14	15	17
20	Rutgers Quarterly Business Outlook: 7:45 a.m., Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill 21	State Affairs Committee Meeting: 8:15 a.m., The Mansion on Main Street, Voorhees 22	23	24
27	28	29	30	
			Network Connection Breakfast: 8:30 a.m., Heritage House, Millville	

ADVERTORIAL

## AmeriHealth: You Gotta Have (Healthy) Heart

Heart disease is the leading killer of both men and women in the United States. The disease also comes with devastating economic consequences: In 2009, heart disease is projected to cost more than \$304.6 billion in health care services, medications and lost productivity.

AmeriHealth New Jersey educates its members and community on heart health through several wellness-driven initiatives, including participation in the American Heart Association of Southern New Jersey's "Go Red for Women" luncheon, for which AmeriHealth President and CEO Judy Roman recently served as co-chairperson for the second consecutive year.

### Here are Five Strategies to Prevent Heart Disease:

- 1) **DON'T SMOKE OR USE TOBACCO PRODUCTS.** Smoking is the most powerful and preventable risk factor for heart disease. Tobacco smoke contains chemicals that are damaging to the heart and blood vessels.
- 2) **BE ACTIVE.** Regular participation in moderately vigorous

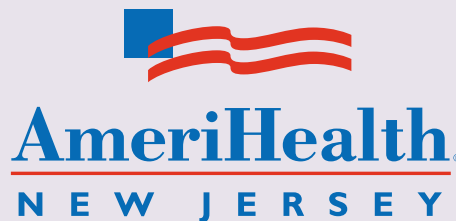
physical activity can reduce your risk of fatal heart disease by nearly 25 percent.

- 3) **EAT HEALTHY.** Modify your daily eating habits to include lots of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy products. Don't forget to limit saturated fats and trans fats.

4) **MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT.** As adults gain weight, we also increase our risk of heart disease. Calculate your body mass index (BMI) to gauge whether or not your current weight is healthy. Ask your doctor or health plan for help, or visit the National

- Institutes of Health website at [www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi](http://www.nhlbisupport.com/bmi).
- 5) **GET REGULAR HEALTH SCREENINGS.** High blood pressure and high cholesterol can cause great damage to your heart. Regular screenings can help keep them at bay.

Improving heart health is one of the underlying goals of AmeriHealth New Jersey's innovative and unique wellness programs for employers and individual employees. For more information, contact Beth Sweeney at [beth.sweeney@amerihealth.com](mailto:beth.sweeney@amerihealth.com). \*





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