



AFTNJ Insider

What's coming in 2012?

Hot-button issues

Prekindergarten-12: charters, vouchers and tenure.

Higher Ed: UMD/RU merger, enhanced powers for college/university management, privatization.

All: Contracts, contracts, contracts.



Donna M. Chiera

Thank you for joining your members to knock on doors, make phone calls and vote in November's General Election. While overall voter participation was down, we are confident that the numbers will show continued high levels of participation from AFTNJ members.

Now we need to leverage our visibility in the high-profile races as the lame-duck session in Trenton promises to be challenging for **our schools and kids** facing counter-productive vouchers, continued lack of accountability for charter schools and attacks on teacher tenure. For **higher education**, we see merger plans being made without public scrutiny and a power grab from college and university Presidents that threatens workers' rights and shared governance on campus. **And we all face difficult contract negotiations.**

Next month, we will be asking you—AFTNJ state and local leaders to help us set priorities for the coming year with a short survey. We have done so much together this past year, but we have lots of work to do and I am looking forward to a great year together. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Where we stand

- 1 Against untested, risky, discriminatory vouchers.
- 2 For public scrutiny and open discussions about mergers of public institutions.
- 3 For respect and dignity of all workers, including respecting the professional voices of teachers, professors and professional staff.

Labor Walks Reach out to Union Members

Final 'Get Out the Vote' Push Crew



Effort from AFTNJ staff and volunteers (with families) were credited in victories in Bergen (38th District) and Mercer-Middlesex (14th District). AFTNJ endorsed candidates (including some members) also won Freeholder, Mayoral and Council races throughout the state.

A total of 363 AFT volunteers phoned or door knocked 21,985 voters. Thanks to members who participated in a labor walk or a phone bank and talked with co-workers about why this election was so important for education and workers' rights and locals who hosted candidates forums and mobile phone banks.



AFTNJ Executive Officers:

Donna M. Chiera,
President

Dr. Susanna Tardi,
Exec. VP, Higher Ed

Cheryl Skeete,
Exec. VP, PreK-12

Joe Amabile,
Treasurer

Lucye Millerand,
Secretary

See list of Divisional Vice Presidents at www.aftnj.org

Are you ready for your close-up?

AFTNJ Communications has started videotaping brief interviews with members to tell how we are all "making a difference every day." The videos are intended to be one-minute opportunities for members at any of AFTNJ's 50-plus locals to talk about their work in the classroom, on campus and in the community. To discuss participating in the project, please contact Communications Director Nat Bender at 732-661-9393 or nbender@aftnj.org to say who from your local should be included and why their story is special.

We can then work out a date and location for taping and brainstorm ideas to make the segment unique. The finished videos will be used online and via email for both internal member communication as well as to help tell our stories to the media and legislators.

Connect to AFT @ LeaderNet

LeaderNet is a secure, registration-based Web site for AFT leaders, local and state federation staff and authorized volunteers and activists. LeaderNet serves as a common gateway to wide range of AFT resources and tools including: an online survey and form creators, newsletter templates, an ever-growing gallery of clip art and photos, information about AFT+ member benefit program and resources for collective bargaining.

If you have questions about LeaderNet email leadernet@aft.org or call Christine Teasdale at 202/393-4287

Tools for teachers: Bullying resources

Bullying is a community issue that extends beyond the school campus and is prevalent online. The American Federation of Teachers is partnering with educators, school leaders, community and advocacy groups to recognize, prevent and combat bullying.

The purpose of the AFT's campaign, "See a Bully, Stop a Bully: Make a Difference," is to raise awareness and provide resources to educators, students and parents.

Visit www.aftnj.org and click the "See a bully, stop a bully, make a difference" icon (shown on left).

Mark your 2012 calendar

Save the dates April 20-21 for the AFTNJ convention at the Seaview in Galloway Township. See <http://aftnj.org/calendar/> for more union and education events.

February 13	AFTNJ Executive Committee and Delegate Assembly
April 20-21	AFTNJ convention
June 5	NJ Primary election (includes Presidential and U.S. Senate)
July 27-30	AFT Convention, Detroit, MI
November 6	General Election Day

Go to www.aftnj.org:

