



Empire State Chapter

# ALBANY UPDATE

Statewide Edition  
March 28, 2008

## ABC Empire State Chapter

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## ***A FEW WORDS FROM ALBANY....***

By Scott Zylka, Government Affairs Director

There's a new sheriff in town – Governor David Paterson has taken over as previous Governor Eliot Spitzer steps down in disgrace after being caught up in a prostitution ring. That, of course, has been the Albany headline for the last several weeks. But despite all this, the Legislature is in session, working, and here's what you need to know about what's happening in Albany and what ABC is doing on your behalf.

### **WORKER TRAINING PRESENTATION TO REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE (RAC)**

On March 26 representatives from the Empire State Chapter addressed the members of the Republican Assembly Conference on the increasing occurrence of mandated apprenticeship language in legislation.

Rebecca Meinking, President, provided the assembly members a general overview of ABC's proactive role in employee training throughout the state and the importance ABC and our members place on craft training. ABC's presentation continued with Penny Hazer, VP Workforce Development and Training, detailing the type and the amount of training ABC and our members participate in throughout the year. Penny further detailed the partnerships ABC is forming with area BOCES facilities and local community colleges as we assist in developing and training tomorrow's construction workforce.

Overall, ABC emphasized the type, quality and amount of training that ABC's conducts and our members participate in and demonstrated that there are far more workforce development and career building opportunities other than the traditional and closed system of apprenticeship. Scott Zylka, Government Affairs Director, wrapped up the presentation asking the members to consider closely the negative impact of "apprenticeship only" language to workforce development, small companies and Women and Minority owned businesses.

### **SPEAKING OF WORKER TRAINING.....**

ABC recently received a letter from Bruce Herman, the Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Development at the New York State Department of Labor, stating that "it is the Department's expectation that the apprenticeship moratorium can be lifted during the spring of 2008 with the assistance of the apprenticeship community." That means the moratorium could be lifted within the next 30 to 60 days, so if you have been waiting to begin the process of making application to the NYSDOL to sponsor an apprenticeship program, now is the time to get your application started, and working with Penny Hazer, our Vice President of Workforce Development, get it fine tuned and ready to submit as soon as the moratorium is lifted. If you have questions or would like to discuss the possibility of sponsoring a program in your company, call your Regional VP or call Penny Hazer in the East Syracuse ABC office at 1-800-477-7743.

## **STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

Governor Paterson and the leadership from both state houses continue to meet as the April 1 deadline quickly approaches.

Among issues of discussion are the expansion of the STAR property tax program, business tax cuts and the project budget deficit. These are issue important to all sides and the leadership is working to cut the proposed spending increase – by former Governor Eliot Spitzer – from 5% down closer to the rate of inflation. The talk in the capitol hallways is that the legislature will work throughout the weekend to negotiate an on-time 2008-09 budget.

The Empire State Chapter has agreed to cosign an open letter to Governor Paterson, Speaker Silver and Majority Leader Bruno urging the leaders to reduce spending and eliminate the \$1.3 business tax and fee increases. To view a draft copy of the *Fighting New Taxes/Controlling Spending* letter, please visit [www.abcnys.org](http://www.abcnys.org) If you are interested in joining the growing list of groups and businesses signing this letter, please contact Maggie Moree, Business Council of New York State, at 518.465.7511.

## **NYS SENATE**

Senator Joe Robach (R) – Rochester – has been named the new Chair of the Senate Labor Committee and Past Chair Senator George Maziarz is now the heading up the Senate Energy Committee.

ABC has always had a good working relationship with Senator Maziarz and he was always been open to meeting with ABC and listening to our concerns on specific legislation and regulations. ABC wishes him luck with his new committee. ABC will be meeting with Senator Robach in the coming days to build a relationship similar to that we enjoyed with Senator Maziarz.

## **NEW LEGISLATION**

The first wave of anti-merit shop, anti-business legislation has been introduced and referred to Committee in the 2008 Legislative session. Here's a detailed list of some of the bills that we will be either advocating for or against on your behalf:

A9626 Heastie - Requires timely payments and interest in the event that payments are untimely to contractors.

A10164 Magee, W - Eliminates the delivery of fossil fuel from those building services for which municipalities are required to pay prevailing wage.

A10181 Young - Requires the use of identification numbers other than social security numbers on identification cards.

A10339 Colton - Requires state agencies and contractors to recycle 50% of the waste generated on public works construction and demolition sites.

S7235 Robach - Establishes a task force within the department of labor to study employment classification and misclassification.

S7238 Robach - Requires contractors and subcontractors who perform public work contracts to file certified payrolls with the Department of Labor.

S7239 Robach - Includes state and local agency and public authority (including IDAs) public work contracts within prevailing wage requirements.

S7274 Robach - Promotes fairness in competitive bidding by providing for enforcement of prevailing wage provisions applicable to public work construction projects through civil actions against low bidders who don't pay prevailing wage..

S7284 Alesi - Alters requirements applicable to health insurance secured by qualifying small businesses.

To view the text and justification memos for any of these bills, feel free to visit the New York State Assembly or Senate websites at <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/menuf.cgi>, type in the bill number exactly as it's shown above, and click the STATUS button. You can also contact Scott Zylka, Government Affairs Director, at [zylka@abcny.org](mailto:zylka@abcny.org) to learn more details about any of the bills listed above.

If you have any comments related to these or any other bills *PLEASE* forward them to Scott. Your comments help ABC draft its position papers to the Legislature!

## ***STATE PAC***

2008 is already busy for ABC's State PAC and will it play an important role in the 2008 state elections.

ABC PAC has already contributed to the Senate Republican Campaign Committee for the special election this past February and is awaiting the announcement for a second special election for the vacant assembly seat in the north country.

These special elections are proving to be costly as Republicans try to maintain the majority in the Senate and increase its membership in the Assembly. ABC State PAC has had great success with the candidates it has supported in the past 2 years and looks forward to future success with Senate and Assembly Leadership.

If you would like to help ABC PAC fight for open competition and free enterprise, please forward your \$500 contribution to:

**EMPIRE STATE ABC PAC**  
**2495 Main St, STE 413**  
**Buffalo, NY 14214**  
**ATT: Scott Zylka**

**REMEMBER CORPORATE CHECKS ARE WELCOMED!!!!**

PAC contributions are not tax deductible.