

Welcome to the weekly legislative update brought to you from the Arizona AFL-CIO. Your participation strengthens the union movement at the state legislature and beyond! This will be the last legislative update of the year, however our monthly newsletter will continue. The weekly legislative meetings have also concluded for the year.

### **The 2007 Legislative Session has Ended!**

An hour before the stroke of midnight from Wednesday to Thursday, the Legislature finished its work and adjourned for the year. The 164-day session ties last year's session for the fourth longest in state history.

### **HB 2195- Passes the House!- Yes!!!!**

This was the Arizona AFL-CIO's number one issue for the 2007 Legislative Session- staying focused has its rewards. This is a historic bill for injured workers. Following is a statement from Rebekah Friend.

Statement from Rebekah Friend, Secretary/Treasurer, Arizona AFL-CIO on the Passage of HB 2195 – Increase in Workers Compensation Benefits

We are very pleased with the passage of HB 2195 and appreciate all the hard work that was done in the Senate and the House to pass this bill. This is a historic day and the largest increase in workers compensation in Arizona. This improvement in Workers Compensation will assist the injured workers and their families and will ease some of the burden that occurs when a loved one is injured and unable to work. We are extremely pleased that Workers Compensation will now be indexed with a yearly increase so that this benefit continues to keep pace with inflation. We look forward to working on Unemployment Insurance next session with the intention of passing a bill that increases the weekly benefit amount and also indexes the benefit.

The cap on the average monthly wage increased from \$600.00 to \$3000 for employees injured in 2008.

The cap on the average monthly wage increases from \$600.00 to \$3600 for employees injured in 2009.

Beginning August 1, 2009 the Industrial Commission will adjust annually the cap to reflect the annual percentage increase in the Arizona mean wage.

Cannot be decreased and has a cap of 5%.

Increases compensation paid to the surviving children of a worker whose death is caused by an employment related injury under specified circumstances.

**The Budget is DONE!**

The House and Senate have come to a compromise on their dueling budget proposals. This means this year's legislative session has finally concluded. The budget now sits on the Governor's desk awaiting her signature.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Why we do what we do- Join us this Friday!**

Following is a Press Advisory on Worker Injustice.....

***Workers Get Soaked by Pulte Homes!***

***Water trucks douse workers repeatedly while picketing outside of Pulte construction site – all caught on video while supervisors look on!***

(Phoenix, AZ)—On Friday, June 22nd, a group of construction workers release shocking video footage of Phoenix's largest home builder hosing down picketers at a worksite in Florence, AZ. The video shows Pulte representatives out of control—frustrated at workers demonstrating at construction sites within their developments. Pulte Homes then assaults them with high-pressure water from Pulte water trucks. As the housing market continues to sink in Florence and the rest of the metropolitan area, Pulte Homes dropped its good guy image when it came to the workers who build their homes.

Workers demanding justice from Pulte Homes' construction subcontractors were shocked when the well-know homebuilder began directing its water truck drivers to repeatedly douse workers with high-pressure water. Workers, with dripping clothes and soggy shoes, maintained their calm and continued their peaceful demonstration even as they counted up to 16 separate water assaults in one day. Israel Hernandez, a painter who worked on hundreds of Pulte/Del Webb homes in the Phoenix area, paused while wiping water from the video camera lens, remarking, "This wasn't what we meant when we ask for drinking water on the job site."

The footage from Arizona shows the Pulte water truck beginning to spray water as it approaches workers and proceeds to soak them. Then, as soon as the truck passes, it goes into reverse to soak workers again with water, as they try to avoid the painful spray. Witnesses say Pulte staff and other construction supervisors stood by, laughing and pointing.

**Who: Construction workers who were hosed by Pulte Homes with water trucks, elected officials, and community leaders.**

**What: Release of video on YouTube of workers repeatedly being hosed by Pulte with water trucks**

**When: Friday, June 22nd @ 10:00 a.m.**

**Where: Arizona State Senate, First Floor Caucus Room, Capitol Complex at 1700 West Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007**