



# BOTTOMLINE

The Official Newsletter for the  
*Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization*  
 Division of the Federation of Physicians & Dentists / AHPE

## Bush OSHA Failure to Enforce Job Safety Law Cost Workers' Lives

(From *AFL-CIO Now Blog*, Posted by James Parks on 4/2/09)

With 5,680 workers dying on the job each year, a new report shows just how callous the Bush administration was when it came to protecting workers. A report released by the U.S. Department of Labor's *Office of the Inspector General (OIG)* reveals that the Bush administration's *Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)* systematically failed to perform follow-up inspections for employers who put workers in serious danger. That failure could have led to nearly 60 deaths on the job.

According to the report, OSHA failed to, or was deficient in, following up on 97% of the cases in its Enhanced Enforcement Program, which, ironically, was designed to step up enforcement against serious violations. The OIG found that at 45 worksites where OSHA oversight was

deficient, 58 workers subsequently were killed by job hazards.

In a statement, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney says there is "no excuse for OSHA's failure to properly designate and inspect dangerous worksites, conduct follow-up inspections and enforce enhanced settlement provisions."

This report is an indictment of the Bush administration's unwillingness to protect and safeguard America's working men and women. It also demonstrates that many employers, including some of the country's biggest companies, are failing to meet their responsibility to protect workers.

[To read the OIG's report or Sweeney's full statement, go to [PATCO1199.org](http://PATCO1199.org) and click on "The Hub" to find a link to the rest of this article.]

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

We have re-launched our website and have made it easier for you to go directly to your Division pages.

We realize that in this day and age, an up-to-date website is essential to the busy working professional. So we've given ourselves a facelift! We've also obtained additional domain names! So, in addition to going through our main FPD/AHPE web page at

[fpdunion.org](http://fpdunion.org)

you can NOW go directly to your Union Division pages at

[PATCO1199.org](http://PATCO1199.org)

Take full advantage of your membership - visit our new web site TODAY!

### PATCO/AFSCME Reach Agreement

On April 21, 2009, PATCO/AFSCME and RVA, Inc., through a federal mediator, reached a new tentative three-year collective bargaining agreement. The new Agreement provides for an increase in wages, health and welfare benefits, paid time off, guaranteed forty-hour week for full-time employees, Sunday Premium pay and beneficial, enforceable language changes. Additionally, the existing contract language, including that which deal with employee rights, remained intact and there were no concessions. As such, RVA withdrew all of its language change proposals.

All dues-paying members at the RVA facility have exercised their option to participate in the ratification process.

### **THIS JUST IN!**

**PATCO/AFSCME and RVA Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratified!**

In a near unanimous vote, PATCO/AFSCME members ratified a new three-year agreement with Robinson Aviation. The Agreement provides for re-openers each year of the Agreement with respect to all economic issues. Additionally, PATCO/AFSCME will not be prohibited from filing requests for reconsideration of any economic issue with the Department of Labor.

As you are aware, a request for proposals is being issued by the FAA and, if timely, the awards for the RFPs will require that a contractor assume responsibility for awarded facilities on October 1, 2009. If the current contractor does not receive the award, the successor contractor is obligated to honor the economic terms of the predecessor and, upon demand from the Union, commence negotiations.

Copies of the new Agreement with RVA will be forwarded to PATCO/AFSCME members as soon as they are printed. As always, feel free to call with any questions.

# 5 benefits union members can use - RIGHT NOW!

Union membership works for you everyday! Not only does membership get you an advantage at the bargaining table on the job, but off the job you and your family are automatically entitled to free benefits and special savings. **TAKE A LOOK!**

**1** Battling rising health care costs? Do you lack full coverage through your employee benefits? *Union Plus* programs can help you save by filling in benefit gaps, like discounts on services not covered by your insurance, and by encouraging healthier lifestyles, like discounts to health clubs. Learn more at [www.unionplus.org/health/health-savings](http://www.unionplus.org/health/health-savings).

**2** Are you struggling with debt? As a dues paying member, you have resources available to you that can help you manage your debt and take action. Simply go to [www.uniondebthelp.org](http://www.uniondebthelp.org) today.



**3**

Act now if you are facing mortgage payment problems. Get free and confidential advice personalized for your situation. Or if you're a first-time homebuyer, it's never been easier and more affordable. Check out the "Money & Credit" section of [www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm](http://www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm).

**4**

Union members can receive a special 10% discount on wireless service from AT&T (formerly Cingular) through [www.afscme.org/members/9640.cfm](http://www.afscme.org/members/9640.cfm). And whether you're a student, parent or retiree, get your tech savings at [www.afscme.org/members/1239.cfm](http://www.afscme.org/members/1239.cfm).

**5**

Only the *AFSCME Advantage MasterCard* offers you exclusive money-saving benefits and *Triple Plus Features* that no other card can equal. Apply directly at [www.afscmecard.com/1/2](http://www.afscmecard.com/1/2).

Questions? Visit [www.PATCO1199.org](http://www.PATCO1199.org) to find a link to your "Member Benefits" or go directly to [www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm](http://www.afscme.org/members/71.cfm) and start saving TODAY!

Please be sure to let us know if you do NOT have internet capabilities and need to receive your NEWS & UPDATES in printed form.

## OTHER NEWS & UPDATES:

### U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

On May 1, 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in *Laurel Baye Healthcare of Lake Lanier, Inc. v. the National Labor Relations Board* (NLRB) that the NLRB violated the Act when it rendered decisions without a quorum as required by the Act.

The Act requires that a quorum of the Board be, at a minimum, three members (NLRB has five eligible members). For a period of time from January 1, 2008 until at least December 2008, decisions were made by two members of the Board who claimed to represent a quorum. The D.C. Court of Appeals disagreed and has ordered all decisions made by the Board during that period be remanded for further proceedings before the Board at such time as it may once again consist of sufficient members to constitute a quorum.

While this decision is contrary to a decision made by the Seventh Circuit, the fact of the matter is, in all probability, the issue will be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In any event, unions and employers are likely to appeal any of the decisions that were rendered during the period stated, that is any determination made in regard to bargaining unit elections and unfair labor practices.

Please feel free to call for further details.

### AFL-CIO Has Launched Its 2009 Executive PayWatch Web Site

To shed light on executive pay, the AFL-CIO released **Executive PayWatch 2009**. A direct link to the **Executive PayWatch** web site can be found on our new web site at [PATCO1199.org](http://PATCO1199.org) and click on "The Hub." And if it gets you mad, do something about it. Tell your representatives that we need legislation that truly strengthens our financial regulations. Let's cure this disease of greed and corruption and fix our broken financial system.

## ANOTHER BENEFIT AVAILABLE TO YOU AS A MEMBER OF PATCO/AFSCME!



As a dues paying member, you can now purchase **Aflac™ Supplemental Insurance** policies at a special discounted rate! When you're out of work due to an illness or injury, there are two things that are increasingly hard to come by: piece of mind and cash. **Aflac™** provides both. Find out how by contacting our **Aflac™** agent, **Mary Remson** at [mary\\_remson@us.aflac.com](mailto:mary_remson@us.aflac.com).