

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, Inc.



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AFFILIATES: AFPH EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC., AFPH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN ENGINEERING, INC.  
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## To Secretaries

Central Labor Unions  
City Industrial Union Councils  
Federal Labor Unions and  
Local Unions of AFL and CIO affiliates

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

We were successful this year in our campaign to develop the AFPH-Labor Program of Rehabilitation and Employment of our 38,000,000 Handicapped and were primarily responsible for -

1. Amendments to Vocational Rehabilitation Act, increasing appropriations from present \$23,500,000 to \$65,000,000 in next three years.
2. Amendments to Wagner-Peyser Act, providing, over the run, some \$15,000,000 for the Federal-State Employment Services, so there will be Handicapped Placement Units in each of the 1,800 offices across country.
3. Labor-Handicapped representation in agencies having jurisdiction in Handicapped matters. (This has not yet materialized, owing to procrastination of these agencies.)
4. Amendments to Hill-Burton Hospital Survey and Construction Act, expanding appropriations so as to provide erection of Rehabilitation Facilities.
5. Social Security Amendments, permitting Handicapped, injured or diseased on the job, to utilize services of the States' Rehabilitation Agencies.

Potentially, these provide benefits of more than \$250,000,000.

As AFL, CIO, Brotherhoods, and United Mine Workers have endorsed AFPH by Convention action, and many eminent Labor leaders are National Officers of AFPH, and as the need for intensive local organizing and representation of Handicapped and their friends is imperative, we are now launching our NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN and ask your help to aid in covering the entire Nation.

First, we ask every Central Body and City Industrial Union Council to call upon its affiliates to get behind this, wholeheartedly. Next, we ask every Local Union, (since there is hardly a Local Union, anywhere, that does not have Handicapped members, or,



at least, members of families of members who are Handicapped,) to assist in organizing Lodges and gaining members.

Enclosed is a package of material to be used in organizing a Lodge in your area. Five persons are required to qualify a Lodge Charter application. Only Handicapped can be elective officers, but non-handicapped may join as Associate Members - serve on Committees, etc.

Labor has a great stake in this campaign. The writer - a Laborite for 42 years - has always desired and worked to see that AFPH has a strong Labor backbone, IN ITS LOCAL LODGES.

Benefits from this are clear.

Labor can, through AFPH Lodges, which operate as an ostensibly independent organization (although backed by Labor), develop and expand its own program for Handicapped on State and Local levels and be very potent in political and private activities pertaining to the welfare of Handicapped. AFPH potential Lodges, then, would be extensions of Labor's own program in this field, which, certainly, is a highly specialized problem, and should be handled in a specialized way.

Thus, we can go after support from individuals and groups NOT ORDINARILY ASSOCIATED WITH LABOR, such as Parent-Teachers, Educators, Civic, Fraternal, even Physicians and Surgeons, Farm and other organizations, and enlist their interest to advance a program which, basically, is in Labor's own interest.

We urge that you lend whole-hearted assistance to this campaign. We remind you that the present National Election is but prelude to the BIG PARTY, in 1956, when the interests of all working people will be at stake. We have proven that what we have outlined herein has been successful wherever tried, but we have never had money, facilities, or trained people enough to do this job, nationally, as it should and must be done.

Therefore, we call upon our friends and allies in Labor to lend their great strength to this movement, and in so doing, they will but be setting up Auxiliary Armies, to further their own program.

We will gladly answer any questions on AFPH, and hope to hear favorably from you, soon.

Fraternally,

PAUL A. STRACHAN

President

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