



FEWA Newsletter

August 2008

H2B Spring Renewal Time!

Time is running out! If you have not done so already, get your H2B renewal paperwork in for Spring 2009! We have sent the renewal letters and reminders out early to give you sufficient time to prepare. The sooner we receive your renewal letter, the faster we can review and complete preparation of your documents to send to your State Department of Labor exactly 120 days prior to need. Do Not Delay! Thanks for your cooperation.

President's Notes



Hopefully you are enjoying a great summer and the 2008 Olympics.

News of Todd Bachman's death in Beijing was a devastating way to start the Olympic games. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Bachman family. www.bachmans.com

NOW is the time to act to insure the program will suit your company for 2009. If you have not been actively responding to the FEWA alerts, get involved and do not think that the other FEWA members will make it happen for you.

Congratulations to the FEWA employer members who continually fight for the right of all FEWA members to participate in the Federal Government's existing foreign labor programs; all the hard work helps not only the FEWA employer members, but all FEWA worker members as well.

The true uniqueness of FEWA is that the employers and workers have banded together to the mutual benefit of each group, employers and workers.

A few more news items:

On September 10, 2008 a Call to Action H-2B Fly In is being organized as our last efforts to convince congress of the desperate need for H-2B returning worker exemption. Make your travel arrangements and appointments with your representatives and senators now. Click [here](#) to view the latest information on the Call to Action - H-2B Fly In.

On September 11, 2008 Immigration Works USA is hosting a Regional Summit bringing together members of our network to plan and build for the next phase of our push for Immigration Reform. It's time to take our efforts to the next level. For nearly two years now, employers of immigrant workers and those who represent them have been coming together in coalitions across the Southeast to work for better immigration law. They've won some critical battles, convincing law makers in several states to pass pragmatic enforcement measures that business owners can live with. But the fight is far from over. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Finally, your FEWA staff works for you and stands committed to doing what it takes to make you proud to be a FEWA member.

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Congressman

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Visit Our Homepage

www.fewaglobal.org

Working hard for you,

Scott Evans

2008 Legislative Day on the Hill

Dina Wiley, Director of Business Development of PLANET thanks FEWA for the sponsorship of the 2008 Legislative Day on the Hill and Renew al & Remembrance.

"The attendees do not pay a registration fee, so it is because of your organization's generosity that these events were possible and successful. Having a voice on Capitol Hill and "giving back" to the country are so important on so many levels."

FEWA is honored to be a part of such an appreciated and successful event.

Attendees dedicated many hours of manpower to honor our soldiers at Arlington Cemetery. Members joined forces to participate in "Day on the Hill" to meet with their legislative representative to address key initiatives in the industry such as the H2B visa cap. A total of 431 attendees from across the country participated at the Legislative Day on the Hill and Renew al & Remembrance.

A special thanks to Lobbyist Laurie-Ann Flanagan and PLANET Director of Government Affairs Tom Delaney for all the information and updates provided at the Government Affairs Committee meeting in Washington, DC.

Finally, PLANET offers PLANET member pricing to all FEWA Members for registration to the Green Industry Conference (GIC). You may take advantage of this offer by utilizing this [specific registration form](#). To access more information about the GIC show, please visit www.GreenIndustryConference.org



Recent Immigration Developments



by Wesley Mathis, Staff Attorney

DOL proposes new rules for H-2B Program

House passes bill to reauthorize E-Verify Program

On May 22, 2008, the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration proposed changes to modernize and streamline the H-2B program. Some of the more significant changes proposed include filing directly with the DOL rather than the state workforce agencies (SWAs) and the implementation of an attestation-based system in place of the current cumbersome process. To read FEWA's official comments on the proposed rules click [here](#).

It has been suggested that changes to the definition of the word "agent" in the

proposed rules could have an effect on FEWA's ability to assist FEWA members in the filing of their H-2B applications. This is simply not true. The DOL prohibits associations and other organizations of employers from filing applications on behalf of their members. We do not file applications as an association. We help you file your applications. Nothing contained in the proposed rules will limit our ability to do so.

Meanwhile, a bill ([H.R. 6633](#)) to reauthorize the E-Verify program for five years has passed in the house with a vote of 407-2. The bill would extend the basic pilot program for employment eligibility confirmation, which is currently set to expire in November 2008. The Senate is expected to consider the bill in September.

Consulate Corner

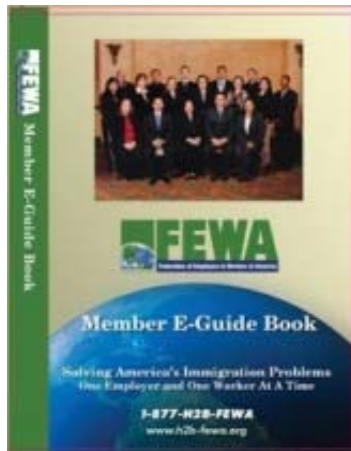


by Jarrod Sharp

The surveys are in! The overwhelming majority of surveys received from our worker members indicate that the new FEWA processes, specifically *ProcesoRapido™* and *MemberAdvantagePro™*, have enhanced the workers' experience at the FEWA offices in Mexico. In a time where Congress has failed to pass our returning worker exemption it's great to hear the workers' report that the FEWA process has never been better. If your workers have not sent in their surveys that were included in the worker new sletter, it's not too late. We would still like to hear from everyone in response to their individual experience.

On another note, I would like to inform you that the U.S. Consulates in Monterrey and Nuevo Laredo are considering making some procedural changes in the near future. FEWA will continue to monitor these changes and keep you abreast of any new developments. Any changes that occur will be reflected in your processing instructions, so read the instructions carefully as they may have changed from last year.

E-Guidebook



Please take a few minutes to browse through the information provided on your FEWA Electronic Guidebook (E-Guidebook) that was sent last year when you joined.

Simply insert the included disc into your CDROM drive on your computer, read the Terms of Use and click the Accept button. From the main menu you will be able to choose which section you would like to review.

The Employer Member and Appendix sections have the majority of the pertinent information that you will be looking for and are broken down into different categories for your convenience. The Worker section is in English and Spanish and covers information that you or your workers may find beneficial. The E-Guidebook is a resource at your fingertips that you can run anytime day or night to answer many of your H2 visa questions. It's a good idea to look through the E-Guidebook now and become familiar with it because you may be referred from time to time by FEWA staff as you progress throughout the 2009 season. If you misplaced your E-Guidebook FEWA will be sending your company another copy upon renewal. Also, if you have any questions about any of the material included in the E-Guidebook, don't hesitate to contact us.