



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

Volume 107 • No.12

Monthly Publication • Port Chester, New York

December 2008

With Your Vote and Your Volunteering

Labor Now Has a Friend in the White House



Local 1103 political activists bused to battleground state Pennsylvania to turn out the Labor vote for Barack Obama

What started out nearly two years ago when the Republican and Democratic candidates started jockeying for our votes in the nation's primaries and caucuses finally culminated last month – and the results were worth the efforts that many CWA men and women did across the country.

Barack Obama was elected and we now will see a definite change in the White House and how they treat working men and women. There is a lot to do to correct the years of worker abuse. The Employee Free Choice was and still is our litmus test. President-elect Obama promised that he would

sign it into law the minute it reached his desk. We believed him when he talked the talk, now we want to see him walk the walk. Our Senators from New York and Connecticut are co-sponsors of EFCA, but now we need it to pass where it was successfully filibustered before. Even if it did pass in the Senate, President Bush vowed to veto it anyway. Now, working men and women enjoy a filibuster proof Congress – the logjam has been cleared, and we will have a chance for respect and job security when the right to belong to a union becomes the law of the land.

A Reason To Believe



..... pg. 3

1103 ★ ★ ★
Campaign
Volunteers...pg. 4&5

Letters To
The
Local pg. 6



Local
Election
Results..... pg. 8

In My View . . .




In the center page of The Eagle is a collage of some of the campaign activity that our Local did in the last couple of months leading up to Election Day. On the right and left hand columns are the volunteers that did Labor to Labor Walks in Reading and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as well as in Danbury and New Milford, Connecticut. This was on top of the hand billing locally, manning phone banks at night and greeting commuters at train stations early in the A.M. Prior to this, many also donated their time and efforts during the primary campaign and you should be thanked for your efforts to help better our country and our way of life. This is why democracy is so wonderful and why so many countries wish they had it. We can disagree, but in the end, the majority rules and we still remain friends.

On behalf of the Officers and Executive Board, I want to thank everyone who gave up a Saturday to take a bus trip to Pennsylvania or go door to door in Connecticut or did any other GOTV activity. Your selfless volunteering paid off on November 4th when America elected Barack Obama. Take a look at the Honor Roll list on pages 4 and 5 of these 1103 men and women that gave up a Saturday or an evening of their time to work for CWA endorsed candidates and thank them when you see them at work tomorrow morning. They are the reason that we now have a friend in the White House, that we have Labor-friendly representatives in Congress and that we have a New York State Capitol that will finally stop the pork barreling and put some meat behind much needed worker legislation.

Finally, I want to notify everyone that the Local's newspaper will be returning to its original format starting next month. As president of our Local, it is my responsibility to insure that your dues money is used as efficiently as possible. In

an effort to cut costs but not diminish any services to the membership, we will be reassigning some committee work from the Steward body to your Executive Board and staff. I do believe that keeping everyone abreast of current events and politically astute is as important as ever and that is why the change in The Eagle will take place. On behalf of the Executive Board, I want to wish everyone a very joyous holiday season, a Merry Christmas, a happy Hanukah and a great and prosperous New Year.

JOSEPH A. BARCA, Jr.
President



THE EAGLE

Proud To Be 1103
Official Publication of the
Communications Workers of America Local 1103

OFFICERS / STEWARDS

Joseph A. Barca, Jr.	President
Kevin Sheil.....	Vice President
Douglas Sheahan	Secretary/Treasurer

BUSINESS AGENTS / STEWARDS

Mark Crumm	John Gentile	
Ron Mangeri	Joe Mayhew	Anthony Pugliese

STAFF

Christopher Cutter	Assistant to the President
Fran Gottron	Organizer
Anthony Masini	Office Administrator

Union Hall: 914-939-8203 Tape: 914-939-8205
website: www.cwa1103.org

EDITOR: Chris Cutter

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID (USPS 663-570)	AT PORT CHESTER, NY 10573 December 2008
--	--

The Eagle USPS 663-570 is published monthly, 12 times a year by CWA 1103, 345 Westchester Ave., Port Chester, NY 10573. Periodicals Postage is paid at Portchester NY 10573, USA. The Eagle. Postmaster: Please send address change to: The Eagle, 345 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, N.Y. 10573

Reason To Believe: A Political Hate Machine Rejected

Haven't you heard? The rain is falling down. The windows are boarded up. Things all around us have fallen apart. How do we begin again?

Under George W. Bush's leadership, labor policy, and vision, union members and working Americans have suffered and endured some of the harshest financial conditions in history as a consequence. Never before has the United States government worked so hard against its own citizens. The question of small government or big government is inconsequential. The answer is effective government – a government that works for the people. During the last eight years, with six of the last eight controlled by a Republican president, a Republican majority in the Senate and a Republican majority in the House of Representatives, it was their responsibility to make the rules and move the agenda. And boy, did they ever push! A radical program that consisted of tax cuts for the wealthy in a time of war, a failure to invest in our nation's infrastructure, corporate hatred and dogma that infiltrated the Department of Labor and anti-worker/anti-union court decisions that endeavored to set back the labor movement for decades.

The I-35W bridge falling down in Minnesota and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans were certainly symbolic of our nation's decay and served as ugly reminders of a domestic economic policy gone awry. The sight of Americans hanging from rooftops and living in trees as if we were some third-world country was an offset to our senses. The fact that our government didn't protect us, couldn't protect us, wouldn't protect us, said something

more to working class Americans than just simple incompetence. It screamed that we did not belong anymore. It was the administration's doctrine of You're all on your own, and the intentional implementation of domestic policies precisely carried out that ultimately resulted in the government's avid abandonment of us. We suspected that class warfare had been declared on us, even though it was never publicly announced, because we felt it and lived it. But it was there on our TV sets, playing out right in front of our disbelieving eyes. For many working class American, that was the moment of clarity that perhaps we were being left behind.

During Barack Obama's successful campaign for president of the United States, the financial meltdown had been touted as the turning point that put him in office. It can be argued that it was only part of the perfect storm, which included a 'collective awakening' that put him into office. The policies of the Bush administration and John McCain's willingness to support and continue them had by then been rejected. Working class Americans were living with daily doses of reality and faced obscene decision to either pay the medical insurance bill for a sick relative or pay the mortgage to keep a roof over their head. They understood the fundamentals of the economy were not sound. They understood that their jobs were being shipped to countries that we had free (not fair) trade agreements with. They understood that their salaries had remained stagnant or even diminished when adjusted for inflation. They understood that social security, overtime pay and pensions were all threatened. They understood all

the talk and foolishness about redistribution of wealth, because they witnessed the taxpayer money given to corporation and then redistributed to their own greedy executives. They knew the false outrage created by FAUX NEWS regarding social welfare or handouts to the "poor" or "lazy" was a ruse when "welfare for the wealthy" was already a way of life in America due to tax breaks for the rich and tax incentives to corporations that send American jobs overseas (a different form of handout). They knew the talk about socialism was a distraction because a month earlier the government essentially nationalized our banking system. George Bush and John McCain and their cronies have been redistributing wealth for years now; not to us but to their wealth friends. They understood that no matter how many times John McCain said "my friends", John McCain was not our friend because he didn't care about us. They understood that there were two Americas - one for the wealthy and one for everyone else.

But something amazing happened. Instead of just understanding and accepting our fate, CWA Members actually did something about it. They knocked on doors, made phone calls and spread Barack Obama's message of hope and change for "one American for all." Our Members knew that there was no good reason not to support Barack Obama, there was only one bad one. The Labor movement once again sacrificed blood, sweat and tears for this moment. Our moment! Our Members did what union members have been doing for years. They made a difference. That's how you begin again.

KEVIN SHEIL
Vice President



SAVE JOBS!

GIVE UNION MADE GIFTS

Dear Executive Board and Members of CWA Local 1103,

It is an honor to receive the Eugene J. Mays Memorial Scholarship. I am proud to receive a scholarship that is named after a man that was such a pioneer in the history of the union. On a personal note, Mr. Mays touched my life. During the longest strike in union history, Mr. Mays was Defense Fund agent when my father, Robert, was a Lineman. Thank you for helping me achieve my goals.

Yours Truly,
MARISA P. McCAULEY



To the Members of 1103,

I am writing to express my sincere thanks for being one of the recipients of the Executive Board scholarships. I am attending Caldwell College and have used it to help with some of my expenses. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
KEVIN SCROBOLA Jr.



Dear Chris,

Thank you for all your help during this campaign season. Individuals like you who care deeply about enhancing our communities, schools, and quality of life provide me with both the inspiration and ability to accomplish our shared goals.

Thank you again for your trust, friendship and confidence in me. As always, stay in touch and contact me at any time.

Truly yours,
Amy Paulin, N.Y.S. Assembly

LETTERS TO THE LOCAL



Dear Friends of Team Cleary,

On behalf of everyone involved with Tram Cleary and the Cleary family, we would like to thank you for all you did to help make this year's golf outing a success.

The continued support from people like you helps us to succeed in our goal to help the Cleary family. We are grateful for your generosity.

Please visit us online at www.teamclearyonline.org to read about Kevin's progress and to look for future events. Once Again, Thank You!

Sincerely,
/s/ RON LODI



Dear Joey,

Thanks so much for your letter. Your leadership is incredible. The Local 1103 Members riding to Reading and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to get out the vote is amazing.

Across the country CWAers are answering the call. Virginia, Missouri, Mississippi, Georgia, North Carolina, Nevada and Kentucky have all become battleground states, most with possible Senate pick-ups.

Bringing the discussion to the workplace and garages is fantastic and critical for all we do. Once again, Local 1103 leads.

In solidarity,
/s/ LARRY
Larry Cohen, President
Communications Workers of America

Dear Mr. Barca,

On behalf of the hospital patients in our community, please pass on our thanks to the Members of CWA Local 1103 for their commitment to the American Red Cross blood program. As dedicated blood donors, your participation will continue to prevent blood shortages.

Because of your commitment to the American Red Cross blood program the recent Verizon Union-Management blood donations will help 248 hospital patients in our area.

On behalf of everyone here, please pass on our appreciation and THANKS to everyone.

/s/ RED CROSS, White Plains



Dear Joe and Chris,

Thank you so much for your Local's participation in our Labor to Labor walks. Because of CWA and other unions we were able to reach out to thousands of union households to encourage them to vote for our labor endorsed candidates.

I am convinced that our grass roots activism helped turn around America on behalf of working families and because of CWA and other politically active unions we will now see a Congress that will finally work for Connecticut's working men and women.

Thank you for all of your time and efforts you did in Stamford, Danbury and New Milford.

In solidarity,
/s/ JOHN W. OLSEN, President
Connecticut State AFL-CIO



Did you participate in **RESCUE**, **RECOVERY** or **CLEANUP** after the **World Trade Center** collapse?

9/11 Workers and Volunteers! Register Now to Protect Your Right to Workers' Compensation Benefits

Go to WWW.NYCOSH.ORG

If you ^{WORK} did paid or unpaid rescue, recovery or cleanup work in Lower Manhattan during the year after 9/11, you may be eligible for medical and wage replacement benefits — but only if you register first with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board!

If you worked or volunteered:

- anywhere in Manhattan south of Canal or Pike Streets, or
- on the barge operation between Lower Manhattan and Staten Island, or
- at the Staten Island landfill, or
- at the New York City morgue; **AND**,
- you are currently sick, psychologically distressed and haven't filed a workers' compensation claim;
- you are not sick, but were exposed;
- you've filed and been denied;
- you have filed a successful claim but are concerned that you might develop a different illness in the future — you need to REGISTER!

Registering now will preserve your right to file a workers' compensation claim for a 9/11-related disorder — no matter when it develops in the future.

**You must
register by
September 11,
2010**

**Don't Delay —
Register Today!**

If you miss this deadline, you will **not be eligible** for lost wage benefits or free medical care provided by workers' compensation for 9/11 illnesses or conditions you may develop in the future!

For complete information, eligibility requirements and to obtain all the necessary forms for registration, visit www.nycosh.org or call **1-866-WTC-2556**

**Protect Your
Future —
Register NOW!**



NYCOSH

New York Committee for
Occupational Safety and Health

This project is conducted in coalition with BALCONY, the Business and Labor Coalition of New York; the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program; and The New York State AFL-CIO.

This fact sheet made possible by funding provided by the United Church of Christ Disaster Response Ministries, www.ucc.org/disaster and by a September 11 recovery grant from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.



**Local 1103
Secretary/Treasurer
Election Results**

These are the results from the Local 1103 Secretary/Treasurer election held on November 6, 2008. With 1508 Members, almost 50% voted

Douglas Sheahan = 463
Elizabeth Felicione = 266
Ineligible = 0
Blanks = 1
Challenged = 1
Void = 6
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST = 737

FRAN GOTTRON
Election Committee Chairman



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA - LOCAL 1103

(AFFILIATED WITH A.F.L.-C.I.O.-C.L.C.)

345 WESTCHESTER AVENUE • PORT CHESTER, NY 10573



PERIODICAL

***The Officers, Executive Board
and Staff of Local 1103
would like to wish everyone
and their families the very best
during this Holiday Season***