



# THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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December 2009

## CWA 1103 Puts Feet on the Street for 2009 Local Elections



In the past, CWA took on the fight for workers rights from the top down. From Washington to Albany we attempted to shape our destiny by appealing to the heads of the hydra instead of working the limbs closest to where we stood. In the 2009 elections, CWA Local 1103 shifted that strategy and sought to increase the volume of our voices by electing labor friendly candidates to local government.

The idea was simple, increase our circle of influence by getting local town councils and legislators to adopt and set resolutions that support CWA

& working family issues. To do so, we first had to become a force within the local political community. This couldn't be accomplished by just offering endorsements or donations to candidates; we had to do the hard work. The stakes were high especially at a time when companies and municipalities that we represent were sending clear signals that layoffs may occur. As in any layoff our Members face, a political campaign would be part of the fight to stop losses to employment. We could not afford to pass this opportunity up to gain political clout with local

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**CWA RALLY's to FIGHT LAYOFFS**



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Support Our Troops

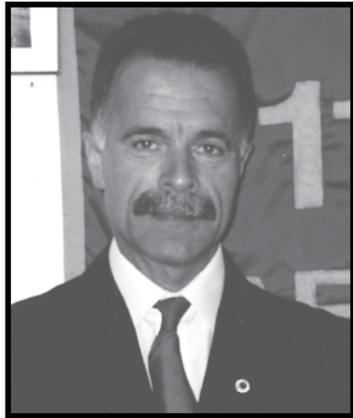
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# In My View . . .



May you all have a most joyous Holiday and prosperous New Year.

In Solidarity,

Joseph A. Barca, Jr.  
President

It's that time of the year again when friends and family get together for the Holidays. Many celebrate the meaning of their faith in God and Family. It is truly joyous for most.

Then there are those who will not have such a great Holiday Season. Those of you who don't have a job or maybe just recently laid off by a greedy employer just trying to capitalize on the weak economy excuse. Then there are the many young Women and Men of the United States Military, who are serving our Country around the World engaged in a fight for their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Please, when you think you have it bad, just think of those that have it a lot worse than you do and pray you may begin to see the light at the end of their tunnel.



## THE EAGLE

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*Local Elections ... continued from front cover*

candidates, but to achieve it; we would need significant member involvement.

While the Local carried endorsements from the Westchester AFL-CIO and Hudson Valley Labor Federation, it only provided endorsements to 7 specific candidates in the counties of Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess. Of those seven, the line in the sand would be drawn in the Town of Carmel Supervisors Race. Our issue was personal; when the leadership sought the consult of the Town Supervisor concerning a garage closing we were ignored. In answer to this disrespect, CWA Members put 38 pairs of boots on the street for Mark Wilson, an unknown candidate in a town deeply seated in party politics. We needed significant involvement and many Members answered the call.

CWA Members called hundreds of potential voters in phone banks and visited over 1000 homes in labor to neighbor walks and even took our message to the candidate's debate. Even though, we did not win this election, we did do what we set out to accomplish; to show that CWA Local 1103 is a political force in local politics. We did this by taking 34% of the overall vote with an unknown candidate in a deeply red town on a blue ticket.

In the other races that gained the Local's endorsement, our own Ron Mangeri (WFP) won the seat for Beekman Town Council by taking 25% of the vote in a 4-way race. Terrance Murphy (R) was elected to Yorktown Town Council in a 7-way race taking 29% of the vote. A Friend of Labor for years Assemblymen Adam Bradley (D) is now the White Plains Mayor with an impressive 82% of the vote. William Ryan, another labor friend, still remains at his post as District 5 Westchester Legislator by just 136 votes. Unfortunately Teacher's Union Member Mark Pekowski (D) lost his bid for Carmel Town Councilman.

The Executive Board would like to thank and recognize all the Members who participated and understood the importance of becoming involved. Politics have now become the job of keeping our jobs and that can only be accomplished with significant Member involvement. Going forward we will need more Members to turn out at political labor functions, for as this election has proven, significant Member turnout equals votes.

**Joe Mayhew  
Business Agent**

*Dennis Brady  
Robert Cheliotia  
Jimmy Ciaccio  
Vicky Ciafaglione  
Keith Clarkson  
Mark Crumm  
Caroline DiMezza  
Dom DiMezza  
Mike Farrell  
Jorge Fernandez  
Carol Finley  
John Gentile  
Garry Gordan  
Gerry Guarino  
Steve Howe & Wife*

*Jorge Fernandez  
Dennis Roach  
Rich Sillery  
Bob Rondash  
Caroline DiMezza  
Dom DiMezza*

*Steve Maher  
George Mallas  
Joe Mayhew  
Bobby McCormick  
Pat McDonnell  
Jeff McKay  
Kevin McNamara  
Dennis Roach & Son  
Bob Rondash  
Ken Ruda  
Kevin Scrobola  
Kevin Sheil  
Rich Sillery  
Tommy Vaughn  
Tony Venezia  
Bill Wilkens  
Ed Williams*

*George Mallas  
McNamara  
Jimmy Ciaccio  
Dennis Brady  
Robert Cheliotia*

*Keith Clarkson  
Ken Ruda  
Mike Farrell  
Pat McDonnell  
Gerry Guarino  
Bill Wilkens  
Steve Howe & Wife  
Vicky Cianfaglione  
Jeff McKay  
Ed Williams  
Bobby McCormick*

*Kevin Sheil  
Kevin Scrobola  
Mark Crumm  
John Gentile  
Joe Mayhew*

*Garry Gordan  
Carol Finley  
Steve Maher*

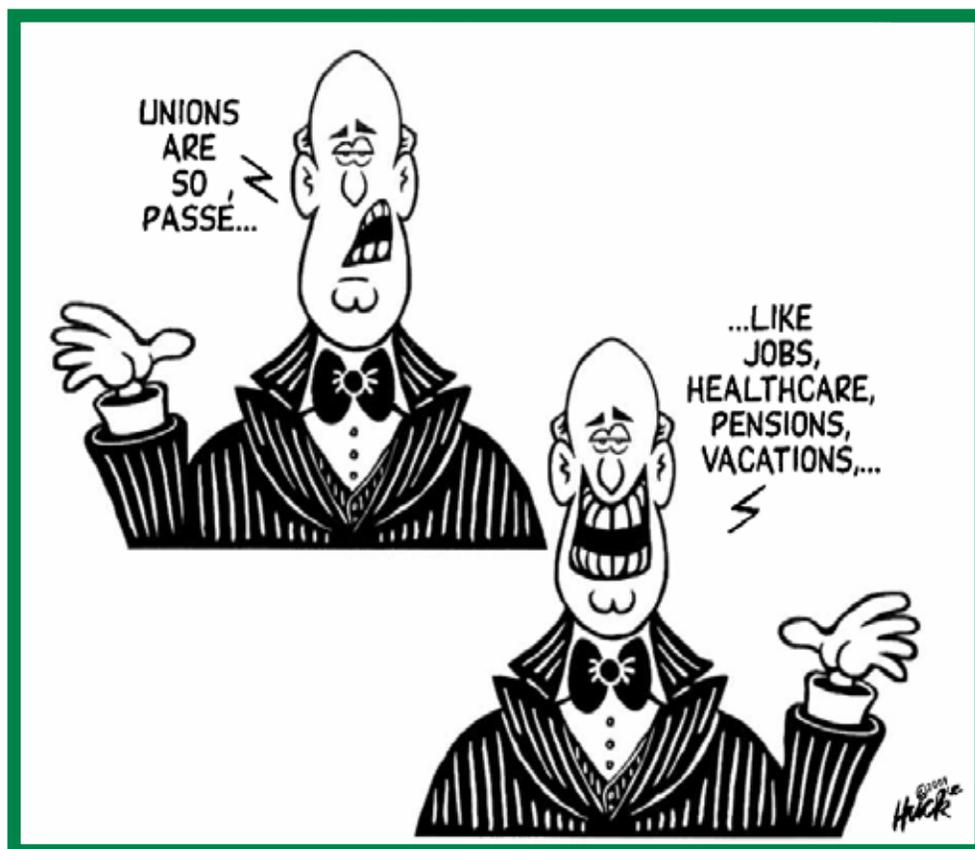




## CWA 1103 SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS

It's hard to believe that it's been 8 years since this country was thrust into a conflict we can't seem to shake. In 2001, Eric Molina was 15 years old and already knew he was going to join the army. His father was Special Forces and he knew he wanted to follow in the same tradition. He attended Binghamton University and received a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in Latin American studies. Today he is on the other side of the world defending this great country we call home. We will spend this holiday season with our loved ones in the safety of our homes and not give much thought to those overseas protecting the lifestyles we enjoy. Manuel Molina is a Delegate from the Westchester Putnam Labor Body and fights for the rights and principles that his son Eric fights to preserve in Afghanistan.

Some 7000 miles away our brothers and sisters are held up in tents without the simple things we enjoy such as shaving cream a toothbrush or just a bag of chips. On November 21 and 22, members from C.W.A. 1103 took the time from their families to provide the simplest things to a few that make the sacrifice everyday to ensure our lifestyles are not interrupted. We compiled six care packages consisting of things like candy, chips, vitamins, shampoo and other things we take for granted. Eric Molina is a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT of the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne, 2nd Battalion, and 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment. He has been serving in Afghanistan since August 2009, with an expected deployment of 12 to 15 months. He is in charge of 48 soldiers, 43 men, and 5 women. The platoon runs combat patrols and convoys to supply our troops in Afghanistan. We the Executive Board ask that this holiday season you remember those that protect and serve this country. Have a happy and safe Holiday Season.





## The Retiree's Corner..

Greetings Fellow Retirees,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

On November 10, 2009 we were privileged to have as guest speakers at our RMC meeting, Patrick Welsh and William (Bill) Gross. Patrick Welsh, District One President Retired Members Council urged all retired members to stay organized and continue to fight to maintain the benefits we have won over the years. He also explained that the Health Care Bill, once passed, will help us to maintain our benefits. Remember, when you receive a call, letter or email asking you to contact our legislators, do so immediately, to help maintain our benefits.

Bill Gross, CWA/Verizon Health Care Coordinator, was our featured speaker. He spoke about the changes that Verizon has suddenly implemented and how it would affect our Verizon retirees.

### **Points that Mr. Gross covered:**

- Verizon is eliminating a number of HMO's as a cost cutting move.
- Verizon is changing the default medical option from the Empire BC/BS PPO to the Anthem BC/BS EPO.
- EPO = in network providers only
- PPO= any provider
- CWA has filed charges against Verizon because they changed the plan without negotiating.
- Medicare eligible retirees must apply for the Medicare Plan B reimbursement. It is not automatic.
- Verizon retirees do not need Medicare Plan D, the prescription drug plan, as we already have coverage through our individual plans.
- When making any changes to your plans call into the 800 call center and document the date, time and person you spoke to. ALL CONVERSATIONS ARE TAPED! If you make changes online it is next to impossible to get any mistakes corrected.
- All VZ retirees should open every piece of mail they receive from VZ especially if they are currently enrolled in an HMO that was cut.

He also answered questions in regard to health care coverage in general. Mr. Gross is an excellent resource and he is available to us. If you have any questions and/or health care benefits problems, please refer them to him. Please be sure to have all documentation available.

**William Gross - CWA/Verizon Health Care Coordinator**

**William.G.Gross@verizon.com**

**Contact number 1-718-447-6870 or Toll Free: 1-888-253-3391**

Bill has agreed to return to address another one of our RMC meetings in the future. Watch for a future notice.

We have also secured the services of Marvin Anderman of Fine, Olin and Anderman, LLP to address our members at one of our upcoming RMC meetings in regard to legal issues retirees might encounter.

CWA Local 1103 RMC dues are **STILL ONLY \$20 per year**. However, we are offering a 2010 special membership package of a 3 year package for only \$ 55.

Dues for associate members and spouses are \$10 per year.

We are still offering the lottery at \$30 per year. If you have a special number that you want to reserve for 2010, please note that in the memo section of your check.

All checks should be made payable to:

**CWA Local 1103 RMC**

Please send your checks to:

Ed Christensen , 27 Friendship Lane, Milan, NY 12571-4640

Thank You, Fine, Olin and Anderman, LLP and 10-15 Associates, Financial Planners for the refreshments you provided at our November 10th meeting.

In conclusion we want to thank Holy Rosary Church, Hawthorne, NY, Mahopac Public Library and Grace Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, NY for the use of their facilities this past year.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy New Year to all! May your holidays be joyous and fun filled!

**Jeanette Spoor**  
***JSpoor@cwa1103.org***

# Holiday Greetings



**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**

A cartoon illustration by Jim Murphy. Santa Claus, with a large white beard and glasses, stands next to a reindeer. He is holding a book that says "REPAIR YOUR FOREIGN MADE SLED" with Chinese characters "澆有辣味" (read right to left) and "修理你的雪橇" (repair your sled) written on it. To the left, a sled is shown broken and overturned on the ground. In the background, there is a Christmas tree and the text "Happy Holiday Season". At the bottom, the text "Buy American Buy Union" is written. The artist's signature "JIM MURPHY" is visible in the bottom right corner of the illustration.

Happy Holiday Season

Buy American  
Buy Union

**I KNOW ... I should have bought American Made!**