



# THE EAGLE



LOCAL 1103

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October 2009

## Local 1103 “Presidents Softball Tournament” raises \$4,000 for “Toys for Tots” and “Blythedale Children’s Hospital”



*The Champions - Tournament Dir. Fran Gottron presents Team Manger Val Bilcik and the players from 999 Nepperhan with the 2009 Championship Trophy.*



*The Runners up - Team Manager Bill Nero, along with the rest of the New Rochelle players, accepts the 2nd place plaque.*

The annual Local 1103 “Presidents Softball Tournament” was played on Sunday August 23rd at Redmond Field in Yonkers. The tournament, the proceeds of which are donated to the Marine Corps League “Toys for Tots” program, successfully raised over \$4,000. More than 150 Local 1103 Members and their families came to play softball and enjoy the day’s festivities.

This year’s tournament featured 9 teams from throughout Local 1103. We also welcomed our Brothers and Sisters from Blythedale, who were made honorary 1103 Members for the day, and who also, entered a team for the first time.

The day started with the playing of the Star Spangled Banner (Instrumental) and those most famous

words – “Play Ball”. The teams then took to the fields and play began.

With the first round of play concluded, the bracket winners were set and the finals began, with powerhouse teams from Nepperhan (2004 & 2005 Champions) and New Rochelle (2000 & 2002 Champions) both returning.

In the finals New Rochelle eliminated the Sonotone team, managed by **Joe Mastro**, by a score of 13 to 3. Nepperhan eliminated the Arlo Lane team, managed by **Ed Caperna**, by a score of 10 to 4.

The Championship game lived up to the hype as New Rochelle, managed by **Bill Nero**, and Nepperhan,

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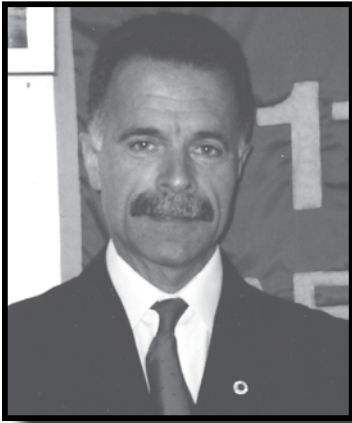
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# In My View . . .



Layoffs, a real bad thing to have happen to you. Whatever company you work for, it comes down to you being just a number on a balance sheet. The employer has certain rights and obligations that unfortunately come ahead and before you

and your own Families' Survival.

A few weeks ago, District One and the CWA Local Presidents met with high ranking company officials at 140 West Street in New York City. I asked the President of Verizon NY why he felt a layoff was necessary regarding the latest Surplus Declaration. His response was although he felt bad for those who may be laid off, if he did not follow through on it, the total health of Verizon could be in jeopardy. I'm sure you're not buying it because I'm not. Verizon is one the most financially sound corporations in the world.


Whether you believe his statement or not, the fact that you have certain rights and protections under our Contract and you stand a better chance of keeping your job as opposed to a worker that does not belong to a Union.

When we were first notified that Verizon declared a ridiculously high number of surplus Union Members in N. Y. State, the 1103 Executive Board immediately met to plan how we were going to help save JOBS. Reading all the applicable Contract Articles we felt that by identifying all the Contractors working for Verizon, what exactly they were doing and where, would give us what we needed to start the dialogue with Management. Just a couple of days later our own District One Vice President Chris Shelton called for a Presidents Meeting and I'm proud to say he asked all of us to adopt this same strategy STATEWIDE along with taking a complete inventory of all Verizon equipment. Within days of asking all 1103 Chiefs, Stewards, and Members to collect this information, they did, and are continuing to do so. This information was then

relayed down to District One. As of this writing you have helped us identify hundreds of Contractor Jobs and as many pieces of specialized equipment. The challenge is to convince Verizon to release the Contractors and give those jobs identified to our Members in job jeopardy. If that doesn't work we in the Local and in the National are prepared to utilize every weapon in our arsenal to secure your JOBS. The road ahead will be difficult and we have been there before and WON, so have Faith in us.

In Solidarity,

**Joseph A. Barca, Jr.**  
**President**



## THE EAGLE

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## 1103 Attends Public Healthcare & Education Workers "Taking Back Our Future" Conference

On Friday September 11th, public sector representatives from across the country met at the CWA Public Healthcare & Education Workers "Taking back Our Future" conference.

Brooks Sunkett, PHEW Sector Vice President, opened the conference by boldly stating "Some will say you are fighting for your own contract, yet when we as public sector workers deliver services we raise the standards of living for all" The conference took place in District 9 (California) where 25% of the CWA Membership are public sector workers.

A high priority was the severity of how the current fiscal crisis has affected our home states and our jobs. In a meeting with Jon Shure, Deputy Director of State Fiscal Project Center on Budget Policy Priorities, the topic included how state and municipal employers have responded and what solutions would help to move us forward. The problem is states must balance their budgets every year; they can't borrow or print money like the federal government. So generally the first response in a recession is to cut spending.

Today there are record declines in state revenues because people are either afraid to spend money which results in fewer sale taxes collected or are unemployed reducing the number of tax payers in the pool. The problem is, states are in the business of providing services and the need for services goes up when people are either unemployed or underemployed. The cycle is vicious.

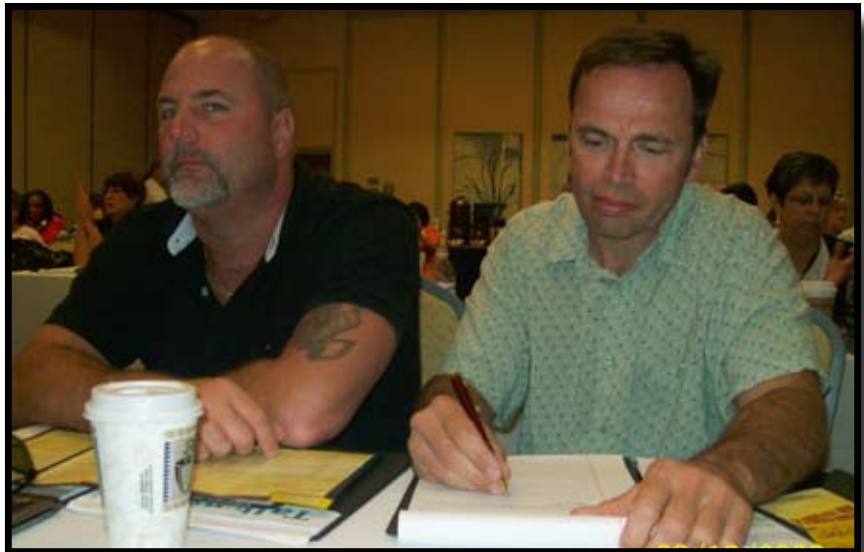
Shure was clear; all the money that states take in as taxes is spent very close to home on programs and salaries. When local governments spend money it is put back into the system and has the effect of stimulus, therefore cuts hurt the economy. In essence, taxes are neither good nor bad they are tools that must be wielded properly. New York, New

Jersey and Oregon have learned this by cutting fewer services and raising revenues by modestly increasing taxes to the highest income earners (\$500,000 and above in NY). Shure concluded the program by making the point that the states with the biggest fiscal problems are the ones that gave the biggest tax cuts during the previous administration.

Nelson Lichtenstein a notable historian led a discussion on how we can apply the rebirth of the American Trade Union in the Great Depression to win workers rights today. We are in the same chasm that the U.S. was in during the 1930s. Just like then, our wages are not keeping up with

were workshops on organizing, collective bargaining law and state tax systems. Local 1103 representatives brought their public sector bargaining experiences to assist in a workshop on negotiating basics in difficult times with PHEW staff member Chris Kennedy.

On the first day of the conference, CWA President, Larry Cohen, welcomed us with words of encouragement. "You can hear the roar from those who think they have the answer to solve our fiscal problems. It's the drumbeat of CUT, CUT, CUT; yet in the public sector we have grown." However, Pres. Cohen was quick to remind us that even with



*Business Agents Kevin Scrobola and Joe Mayhew attend Public Sector Conference*

our increased productivity. Simply put, if Wal-Mart, Target, and the Home Depots of the United States increased their workers wages by just \$2.00 an hour it would have the effect of putting 100 billion dollars of new purchasing power into the economy each year. That is a better stimulus package than the government could ever offer us. In fact, this is very much like what pulled us out of the Great Depression through the New Deal and the empowerment of the American Labor Movement.

During the conference there

growth we cannot bargain our way out of today's economic problems. I am encouraged by the speech that President Obama made to the AFL-CIO on Labor Day Cohen declared. President Obama affirmed that, "Every American owes something to the American Labor Movement". President Cohen stated, "Our job is to remember that and to go forward."

*Joe Mayhew, Business Agent  
Kevin Scrobola, Business Agent*

# CWA Women Building for the Future

"Every American owes something to the labor movement even if they are not a union member." CWA President Larry Cohen opened the CWA National Women's conference with this quote from President Obama. The plenary session began at 7:00PM on Thursday September 9th with the introduction of the staff of the CWA National Women's Committee. President Cohen was introduced and spoke about the spirit of the conference, CWA women building for the future. He reminded us about the low percentage of workers who have bargaining rights and the much higher percentage that don't. He said we must fight to hold onto union jobs. We can do that by insuring the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. President Cohen then briefly described some of the struggles so many others in different sectors are facing, for example the union busting campaign being waged at Delta Airlines. He declared that we must fight to hold onto union jobs. No matter what we face we must keep the hope of jobs with justice alive. He energized the attendees with his speech about the Employee Free Choice Act and Health Care Reform. He finished up by telling us again how important the CWA triangle is. Organizing rights and union rights are the future in which together we can make a difference.

Next up was District 3's Organizing Coordinator, Liz Roberson, who believed that an injustice to one is an injustice to all. We then did an ice breaking exercise in which we discovered a little something about each member at the conference.

The next morning began with a plenary session where we were introduced to the Dress for Success Program. It is a program which helps women to become self sufficient. We all brought an article of clothing or handbag to donate. "To some it's just a suit, to others it's a life jacket." The program offers hope and an end to isolation. It is a community based organization and the web site is [dressforsuccess.org](http://dressforsuccess.org).

The next speaker was Kevin Kujawa, President of

CWA Local 6300. He reminded us that as a union we must organize or we will die. We face many challenges ahead in order to secure a better future for the middle class. Next up was Andy Milburn, Vice President of District 6. He spoke about the purpose of the conference to involve women in the CWA Triangle and how important it is to encourage women to become leaders. Again he reminded us of the need to grow our union membership.

The keynote speaker was Annie Hill, Executive Vice President CWA. Annie talked on two key issues, the Employee Free Choice Act and Health Care Reform. She began by explaining how important the CWA triangle is to achieving our goals. We must grow the

union or we will not survive. Labor unions built the middle class and it is shrinking. There will be greater opportunities once the Employee Free choice Act is passed. She then spoke on the issue of health care reform and why we must care about reform. We are the only country, who does not have a comprehensive health care system, what we have is sick care. As a country we have the highest cost of care but it is not the best. We are

paying more and getting less for our money. Health care costs are rising 3 to 4 % more than wages. We are struggling to maintain our standard of living and we are losing ground at the bargaining table. If health care costs are not controlled they can not be sustained. Health care reform will help working families. The issue speaks to the moral values of our country. All Americans have a right to affordable health care. She explained some of the key issues of the reform bills now being considered and some of the misconceptions surrounding those bills. She discussed the issue of Employer Mandate which would require employers to provide affordable health care coverage and pre Medicare benefits to retirees until they reach 65. Medicare would stay intact. It would provide savings for employees and would remove the



*Carol Finley and Caroline DiMezza flank Kathy Hernandez at the CWA Women's Conference*

*continued on page 5*



*“CWA Women”... continued from page 4*

cost of health care from the bargaining table. She then discussed the Public Plan Option with the key word being option. It is one of several plans being offered for those who do not have health care from an employer. Her closing comments on the subject dealt with taxing the benefit. Working families should not be penalized by taxing their health care benefit. There should be no tax on health care benefits.

Next there was a panel discussion about the Women’s Committee and how the members became involved. It was very interesting to hear about the different stories and backgrounds that led to these women to become leaders in their locals and activists in the union.

We next attended the first workshop of the conference. It was given by Beth Allen. It was titled “How to use Technology to Engage Younger Union Activists.” Beth described web sites and emails as a basic step in using technology. She gave us some good pointers about what the content of web sites and emails should be in order to have the most impact. She then went on to explain about social networking using Twitter and Facebook. Some of us became a bit confused and overwhelmed with the information about social networking but saw the tremendous possibilities it could offer. Beth was very patient with all the questions that were asked.

The afternoon opened with another panel discussion about the political side of the CWA triangle and the panelists’ experiences in politics. The panelists shared their knowledge about working on political campaigns and the reasons why they became involved. One knew that change was needed and it would take all to get it done. Another got involved because of issues close to her heart and she wanted to make the future better for all families. Another was involved since she was a child; her whole family was involved in politics. They all have heard that unions should not be involved in politics, but just imagine if the unions weren’t involved who would we be forced to elect?

After the panel discussion we attended a workshop titled “Journey to a Healthier You” given by Lieutenant Commander Tracy Branch. She discussed some of the major health issues impacting women. She described the risk factors and ways in which to prevent the majority of diseases affecting women.

Our last speaker of the day was Cindy Chavez.

She explained her thoughts on “Becoming a Person of Influence.” She described how her unusual childhood led her into politics. She was elected Mayor of San Jose and was a member of the city council for many years. She talked about the essential element of leadership and the components that make a good leader. Her closing comment to us was “Do not be afraid because you are righteous, be bold because nothing changes without kicking the stuffing out of it.”

Our last workshop was titled “Planning your Future in Uncertain Economic Times.” We were given some helpful information in order to be prepared for financial emergencies and insured for the unexpected.

The following morning we were treated to a visit from some of histories most influential women. The committee members donned period dress and gave us the biographies of such labor and human rights pioneers as Mother Jones, Shirley Chisholm, Kate Mahoney, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Stanton, Amelia Earhart, Frances



*Mother Jones, Shirley Chisholm, Kate Mahoney, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Stanton, Amelia Earhart, Frances Perkins and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor are women of the labor movement represented during this exercise at the CWA National Women’s Conference.*

Perkins and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. It was inspiring to learn about these women who had come before us and hear their stories of struggle and hardship. It was the perfect way to end an exceptional conference. We want to thank CWA Local 1103’s Executive Board for giving us this opportunity to attend the National Women’s’ Conference.

**Caroline Di Mezza  
Carol Finley**

# Young workers feel the pinch, but have a vision for the future

America used to be the land of a brighter future. That may still hold true for those at the top, but a growing population is expressing doubt about their possibilities — those in our workforce who are younger than 35.

In 1999 more than 77 percent of these young workers felt hopeful and confident that over their next five years on the job they would achieve economic and financial goals. The same demographic today dropped 22 points on the hopeful scale. Only 20 percent of that workforce had worries about their prospects 10 years ago. Now, their future is a troubling concern for 41 percent of the group.

That should be a cause of concern for all of us. What will America be like if its youth gives up?

These results come from a Peter D. Hart Research poll initiated by the AFL-CIO and its community affiliate, Working America. Among the findings:

- *Young workers are having trouble getting ahead financially.*
- *They are significantly less covered by health insurance or retirement plans.*
- *Most are earning less than \$30,000 a year.*
- *The majority, 58 percent, don't have enough savings to pay bills for more than 2 months. Consequently they are deferring further education, starting families later, and 35 percent of them live at home.*

Our nation has been through many waves of worry and discontent. Most of what sparked organized labor's initiatives to push for better wages, hours, and

working conditions arose from the initiative of those who were ready to fight for an opportunity for a better future.

The poll showed signs of hope though. Young workers have a clear vision for reinvigorating the economy with job creation. Health care and education are top issues for our future leaders. And, they are highly skeptical of corporate America and blame greedy Wall Street, banks, and corporate CEOs for their stress.

Right now, as everyone is stressed by the economy and asking what the future holds, the national AFL-CIO is ending its convention in Pittsburgh. Unions representing more than 11 million workers mapped an economic recovery strategy that puts people back to work, creates good-paying jobs, guarantees health care, and invests in infrastructure to rebuild programs that have been laid to waste as a consequence of the biggest money grab and subsequent economic failure since the Great Depression.

A key part of the agenda includes boosting union membership. The Employee Free Choice Act will guarantee an employee's right to choose whether or not to be in a union without being intimidated or harassed by pressure or threats from the boss.

Most Americans are in a union — or would like to be in one, if they could. Obviously the unionized group is smaller now, but the people who want a union have a good clue about how much better their middle-class lives would be with a union contract. They have figured out, just like worried young workers, that trusting the boss with your economic future is not the wisest move.

Union workers are: 52 percent more likely to have job-provided health care; almost three times more likely to have recession-proof defined benefit pensions; 50 percent more likely to have paid personal time off and average about 15 days of paid vacation per year than the nonunion workforce. Pay is better for everyone, and women and minorities are less disadvantaged when a fair, inclusive, and responsive collective-bargaining process sets the standards

All these things used to be in the American dream but are now fading recollections and what younger workers can only wish for.

More people are beginning to see the wisdom in advancing a system where the middle class is rebuilt with unions playing a key role in creating a more secure economic future.

AFL-CIO unions are mapping the plan to organize around important social and economic issues. Young workers are becoming engaged in labor, community, and political organizations to move an agenda for a better future.

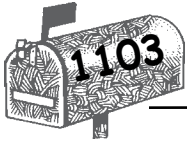
President Barack Obama, when he addressed the AFL-CIO, said, "When hardworking Americans succeed — that's when organized labor succeeds. And when organized labor succeeds — that's when our middle class succeeds. And when our middle class succeeds — that's when the United States of America succeeds."

They all get it. All that's left is to get it done.

*Leo Canty is a labor and political activist who lives in Windsor.*

**CT@Work**

**By Leo Canty**



## LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

Hi All,

I just wanted to thank you for posting the Gerry Horgan video on the website. I remember when Jim, Mike and Jane (who went to the dark side) were working on it, oh so many years ago. A truly fine piece of work and a great remembrance of unionism. I hope all the members, new and old, take the time to see this and reflect on how important it is to come together for a common goal. There is truly strength in unity!

*Peace,  
Jennifer Jukich  
Horgan Garage*

\*\*\*

Just wanted to say hello to CWA Local 1103, I viewed the video and it was a very nice tribute to Mr. Horgan and family. Hard to believe it is 20 years since that horrible day.

It was 7 years in April that Tommy is gone, my family and I still miss him all the time.

There are 7 grandchildren now, the youngest, age 2 and the oldest is 26. She starts Physician Assistant School this month and takes after her Uncle Michael and his wife, who are both physician's. Two other daughters work in the health care system. One is an RN and the other as a Director in a stop smoking program. The other daughter and son went in different directions but are doing well in their chosen careers. One Grandson begins college as a football player going for a degree in the health care field also.

So that is all of the news from a former CWA family who thanks the union for the benefits I receive.

*Sincerely,  
Patricia A. Tierney*

\*\*\*

It will be 20 years this coming Saturday that Gerry Horgan was struck down on a picket line by the scab Trish McNamara in Valhalla, NY. Like each of us at that time, we were forced out of work for four months by the greedy and profitable corporation, NYNEX who wanted to shift cost for healthcare onto the backs of it's worker's. We prevented that from occurring with the sacrifices we all made but Gerry and his family lost

more than most.

I will always remember our departed brother and the sacrifice he made on our behalf to retain the medical coverage we fought for.

*Steve Carney*

\*\*\*

The video of Gerry was so moving and showed what the Union is all about that I sat and cried while watching it. It is now in My Favorites and I plan to watch it when I need inspiration. I will always love CWA and remain loyal to CWA. This video has truly touched my heart.

*Ann McQueary*

\*\*\*

Dear 1103,

Thank you so "very much" for sharing that story of the man Gerry Horgan! What an excellent tribute to this gentleman.

During negotiations I found the article of why we were red and posted on our local blog. I will post this video as well and urge my members to view it.

I sometimes forget to wear red on Thursday's but now, knowing why, there's no forgetting!

*Tony Boles  
Area Representative  
Division 2, Area 1  
CWA4900*

\*\*\*

To my FRIENDS at 1103,

Great job with the tribute to Gerry Horgan!!!! I never had the opportunity to meet Gerry, but I always appreciate anyone that has a tendency to be loud every now and then. Like everything else you do in your Local, you did a fine job in putting this video together. Twenty years may have gone by since the Strike in "89" but it will NEVER be forgotten. Once again, nice job!!!

*T.V. Lane  
President  
CWA Local 1395*

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

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## PERIODICAL

### **President's Softball Tournament . . .** *continued from front cover*

managed by **Val Bilcik**, battled for seven innings. With Nepperhan leading 10 to 7 in the seventh inning New Rochelle came up to bat. After scoring one run to make it 10-8, New Rochelle had a runner on second with only one out and the heart of their line-up coming up. However, their hopes of a come from behind victory were squashed when the Nepperhan defense took over and got the last two outs of the game. Leaving a runner stranded at second base New Rochelle could only watch as the Nepperhan players celebrated their third "Presidents Tournament" Championship. Congratulations to 999 Nepperhan, the 2009 Local 1103 "Presidents Tournament" Champions.

On behalf of the Marine Corps League and Blythedale Childrens Hospital I would like to thank everyone that participated or helped make this worthwhile fundraiser a

success. Thanks to Tournament Co-Director **John Gallagher**, this years recipient of the "Special Recognition Award," for all of his years of dedication and work on this tournament. Also, to **Regis Gmitter, Ralph Saragiotas** and all the other umpires, to **Lisa Mckay of the Yonkers Parks and Recreation**; to **Area Chief Steward Pete Scala** (who is still alive at the printing of this article) and **John Brems** of 999 Nepperhan for arranging for the park; to **Gene Lauer of Ad Apparel** for the shirts; to **Maileen from Crown Trophy**; to **Paul Rao from Rao Insurance Agency**; to **Tom from St. Lawrence Offset** for the raffle tickets, to **Donnie DiLorenzo of The Cozy Corner Deli** in Valhalla for all the days food; to the **Members from the Horgan Garage** who bought the most t-shirts; to the Tournament Coordinators **Bob McCormack, John Gentile** and **Bob Reilly, Deputy Adjunct of the**

**Marine Corps League**, who slaved over hot coals and smoke all day to cook us hamburgers and hotdogs. They ensure that nobody is hungry at this tournament; and all the **Members** who either participated, bought a shirt or purchased a raffle ticket that helped raise \$4,000 for the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots program.

The proceeds from this tournament will be used to purchase toys and necessary equipment for the **Blythedale Children's Hospital** and the **Pediatric Wing** of the **Westchester Medical Center**.

Every Team has committed to come back next year and bring the trophy home. Everyone had a good time with good friends for a good cause. I can honestly say that we were all **PROUD TO BE - 1103**.

**Fran Gottron**  
*Tournament Director*