



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

Volume 109 • No.10

Monthly Publication • Port Chester, New York

October 2010

VOTE AGAIN IN 2010



Do not stay at home on Election Day; your vote will make a difference. This election cycle is extremely important. If we turn out to vote, our impact will be felt even though Fox News has been reporting that voter interest is down. They don't want you to vote. We must stand up against the strategy to have you believe the notion that the election results are a foregone conclusion. They are not!

Middle Class Americans are hurting. Home market values have decreased, jobs are disappearing and federal deficits are rising. But those deficits did not happen overnight. They are the result of two wars and unprecedented tax cuts during a time of war. Only arrogant, wealthy political leaders like G.W. Bush and Dick Cheney could decide to go

continued on page 3



**Vote Again
in 2010**

..... pg. 1 & 3



**1103
Endorsements**

..... pg. 4 & 5

**LOCAL MEMBERS
IN ACTION**

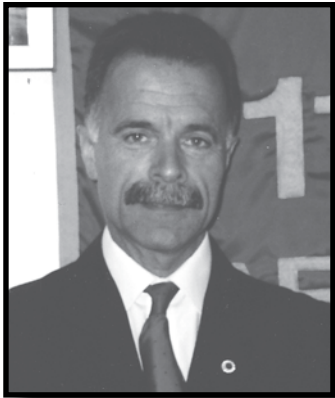
..... pg. 6 & 7

**Retiree's
Corner**



..... pg. 8

In My View . . .



My message this month is a collective one from the Executive Board and our Labor Community. For those of you, who took the time to attend and participate at the September General Membership Meeting,

thank you very much. Due to the fact that many were unable to come and be engaged in the process I along with the Board have an obligation to reach you with every venue at our disposal. Hopefully this Eagle reaches you in time to make a difference. That said, it is of the utmost importance to vote for the Candidates that we and the AFL-CIO have interviewed and endorsed on your behalf. The list of Candidates can be found on our Web Site and they have given us very strong commitments in helping us attain greater job security for you.


By the time you read this the Board and concerned Members would have already traveled to Washington D.C. on October 2, to take part in an Historic "One Nation March". We sent a loud and clear message on your behalf for America to see. What you should be asking yourself if you weren't on the Bus is why not. You must choose weather to get involved or sit on the sidelines and watch the Republican Party of "No" along with those far Right Wing Whack Jobs steal your job and our Union way of Life.

It's never too late to jump into the Union Movement. You should join COPE, and become a Legislative Political Action Team Member, (LPAT). This would put you on the front lines for phone banking, labor walks, and hand billing Union Members as well as the general electorate. You are the bread-

winner in your Household and with that comes an awesome responsibility to your Family so I hope you take what I am giving you as great advice. I have a short time left in my career but for many of you the road is long so give this the important consideration it deserves and get involved.

In Solidarity,

**Joey 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
Joe Mayhew Anthony Pugliese Kevin Scrobola

STAFF

Fran GottronOrganizer
Anthony Masini.....Office Administrator

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

EDITOR: Kevin Sheil

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
(USPS 663-570)

AT PORT CHESTER, NY 10573
October 2010

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

to war and not pay for it. They perpetrated an immoral scam on Americans, not only were their children not going to die in the war, they would make sure their wealthy friends would not have to pay for it either. And now after causing the crisis, their political allies argue against legitimate government spending which would stimulate our economy by screaming that any federal spending must be paid for as we go, just like American families sitting around the kitchen table paying their bills. Except that American families don't pay as they go. A truer analogy would be to argue that the government needs to borrow and invest now for a brighter future, just like American families who have mortgages, student loans, credit card debt, and car loans.

We can be angry with the direction of the country, but it is dangerous to be apathetic when it comes Election Day. Sure we can blame the party in power, that is easy, but in today's polarized congress, it takes 60 votes, not a simple majority of 51 to pass anything. Due to the filibuster, which has blocked progressive legislation, and the Zoo TV sound bites of angry tea-baggers, there is an unfair, anti- incumbent fervor that has taken hold which threatens our future.

The party of "No" is the party that does not care for you.

They have no understanding for the families of the unemployed; they have no understanding for the thousands of innocent American victims killed fighting in a Iraqi War of choice; they have no understanding for the millions of Americans who live in poverty; they have no understanding for the millions who couldn't afford health insurance; they have no understanding for the children who have been denied medical coverage and treatment due to preexisting conditions; and they have no understanding for the working people that will depend on social security to pay their bills in retirement.

When you enter a voting booth, it's critical to assess honestly who you are and what you do for a living. Members of CWA Local 1103 are not rich; we are middle class working people. We are not rich just because we own a boat, have a nice home, or drive a Cadillac. We are not wealthy because we may have a stock portfolio or a 401k plan. It should not matter to us if there is a miniscule tax on capital gains for investments. We are not rich money managers, investment bankers, real estate tycoons or CEO's, and we do not share the same fate as them. We are in two different boats even though come election time they want you to believe we are in the same one. We are Paraprofessionals, 911 Telecommunicators, Telephone Workers, Librarians,

Radiology Technicians, Mechanics, City Supervisors, and Board of Education employees. It must matter much more to us to know which candidate is more likely to preserve our social security; who would fight against social security privatization; which candidate will fight to have social security funded properly by eliminating the tax cap on salaries above \$106,000.00; which candidate will fight to secure pensions for public employees; who is going cut our taxes, but still hold the wealthy accountable to pay their fair share; who is going to support our veterans when they return from war; who is going to extend unemployment benefits in the event of job loss; who is going to support trade policies that have labor and environmental safeguards to stop worker and natural resource exploitation. We are the working, middle class. We must vote for people who share our ideals and will support our way of life. The day does not belong to those that yell the loudest; it belongs to us, the working class. But only if we vote.

VOTE AGAIN IN 2010

**Kevin Sheil,
Vice President**

U.S. Congressman John Hall Earns Local 1103's Endorsement

Labor endorsements are earned; they are not given out as gifts. Just because a candidate belongs to a certain party or make promises (especially ones they never intended to keep) doesn't earn them a CWA endorsement. CWA Local 1103 takes its endorsement process very seriously and only gives its nod to a candidate after an investigation of their voting record and a review of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council vetting process. This year among other endorsements, we are proud to endorse Congressman John Hall of the 19th district.

At the NYS AFL-CIO COPE Convention, Congressmen Hall received Labor's endorsement on a grand scale. The AFL-CIO's endorsement process, rates all candidates based on specific votes taken in Washington during the current congressional session. There were 21 votes reviewed in the 1st session and 6 in the second session of the 111th congress. Congressmen John Hall had a perfect, 100% voting record on labor's important issues! One of these votes was crucial to our laid off Verizon Members. H.R. 3548 extended unemployment insurance benefits through a 4 tier system for Americans who cannot find work, it is by no means the windfall or welfare that many Senate Republicans claim unemployment insurance to be; rather it is the saving grace that is helping to provide sustenance to families in this worst of times. When it came to protecting jobs, Hall was a leader for CWA telecom workers in passing H.R. 4849 that included an amendment to close the Reverse Morris Trust Tax Loophole that has been used in many of the recent landline sell offs across the country.

1103 is a diverse group; we are public and private employees, we are retirees, veterans of the military, junior and senior members. So we decided to ask Congressmen Hall a series of questions on how he feels and what he has done to support the concerns of all CWA members. The following is that interview:

1. CWA- Telecom Workers over the last three years have seen the sales of landlines in 17 states using a tax loophole called the Reverse Morris Trust. In the case of the Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine sales, Verizon sold its landlines to a small rural telecom provider using this loophole. That company is now in danger of bankruptcy due to it being over burdened with debt. Can you address your concerns over the Reverse Morris Trust and tax loopholes of similar nature?

Hall: I believe that job-killing corporate giveaways in our tax code, like the Reverse Morris Trust, are exactly the type of problem Congress needs to focus on to protect American jobs and reduce the deficit. I am proud to say that I have voted to eliminate the Reverse Morris Trust in March 2010 as part of H.R. 4849, the Small Business Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act.

2. CWA- 250 CWA Members were laid off by Verizon in 2009, most have not found sustainable work, please tell us what you have done and what you will continue to do to bring jobs to NY?

Hall: Many large corporations look out for their bottom line and are solely focused on increasing profits. As a Member of Congress, I believe it is my responsibility to make sure that corporations do not sacrifice American jobs to make a profit. Closing tax loopholes that allow corporations to move jobs overseas is a big step in the right direction, which is why I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1874, the Patriot Corporations of America Act. This bill provides tax benefits and preference in federal contracting to companies that meet a number of standards, including avoiding outsourcing, paying equitable wages, contributing to employee pension/health insurance plans, and following federal regulations on the environment, workplace safety, labor relations, and consumer protections.

3. CWA- Many CWA Members are Veterans or have children in the armed services, what can you tell our members about your record on Veteran issues?

Answer: As the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Disability Affairs and Memorial Assistance, I take my responsibility to our nation's veterans very seriously. The men and women who risk their lives for our country deserve the best medical care and benefits we can provide. I have taken the lead on the issue of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder introducing the COMBAT PTSD Act (H.R. 952), which focused on creating a presumption of service connected disability for veterans diagnosed with PTSD. I discussed the issue with President Obama and at several meetings with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. In July of this year, the VA made this rule change official. In today's modern conflicts, everyone serves on the front lines. Our veterans who fight to defend our freedom overseas shouldn't face another battle when they return home. I am tremendously proud that during my time in Congress I have been able to support historic increases in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the new Post 9/11 GI Bill which offers veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan the promise of a quality education to prepare them for good jobs and many critical reforms to improve the delivery of VA healthcare and benefits.

4. CWA - We pride ourselves on our active CWA Retiree Council, in fact in CWA we don't have retired members we have life members. Social Security is a big concern for current and future retirees; can you discuss your views on how you will fight to protect this most important benefit?

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Hall: Social Security is one of the most important programs in the United States. More than 50 million Americans rely on Social Security's guaranteed benefits for retirement security or to make ends meet, put food on the table and stay in their homes. Without this critical safety net, many would fall into poverty. I am committed to protecting Social Security, and will fight against those who want to dismantle it. Instead, we must do more to strengthen Social Security so that our nation's seniors can make ends meet.

5. CWA- Unions are the builders of the middle class. Through collective bargaining we have not only raised wages and benefits for our Members, but have set the standard for other industries. However, our numbers are shrinking because of the unfair advantage employers have during organizing drives. Please discuss your views on the Employee Free Choice Act?

Hall: I am a co-sponsor of this important legislation. We need to pass the Employee Free Choice Act to strengthen workers' rights to organize. The decision to join a union should rest in the hands of individual workers, not their employer.

6. CWA - The Bush Tax cuts are set to expire at the end of the year. President Obama has stated that he would like to see the tax cuts continue for those making less than 250,000 a year, but end them for wealthy Americans making over this amount thus saving over 700 billion dollar over a ten-year period. CWA agrees with the President, what are your views and how would this savings help middle class Americans?

Hall: The Bush Tax Cuts of 2001 and 2003 marked the beginning of the most misguided fiscal policy in generations and turned a record budget surplus into an unnecessary record deficit. However, many of these tax cuts benefit middle class households, and we cannot afford to let those tax cuts expire in an economic recession. I believe that the financial collapse of 2008 is proof that tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans are not smart long term economic policy. The wealthiest Americans should pay their fair share, while middle class families deserve lower taxes.

Members who live in Orange County, Putnam County, Dutchess County (from Poughkeepsie across to Dover Plains), and Westchester County (from Scotts Corners to Croton-on-Hudson), are all in the 19th congressional district. It is with extreme pride that CWA Local 1103 grants its endorsement to Congressmen John Hall. Your Local 1103 Executive Board requests that you and your family, living in the 19th congressional district, vote for John Hall.

*Joe Mayhew
Business Agent*

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

U.S. House of Representatives

New York

John Hall (D-WF)	District 19
Nita Lowery (D-WF)	District 18
Eliot Engel (D-L-WF)	District 17

Connecticut

Chris Murphy (D)	District 5
Jim Himes (D)	District 4
Rosa DeLauro (D)	District 3

U.S. Senate

New York

Kirstin Gillibrand (D)

Connecticut

Richard Blumenthal (D)

STATE ELECTIONS

New York State Governor

Andrew Cuomo (D-WFP) Vote on Row E
the Working Families Party

New York State Comptroller

Kevin Lembo (D)

NYS Assembly

Gary Pretlow (D,I) District 87
Amy Paulin (D-I-WF) District 88
Tom Roach (D) District 89
Sandy Galef (D-I) District 90
George Latimer (D) District 91
Tom Abinanti (D) District 92
Mike Spano (D-C-WF) District 93
Kenneth Zebrowski (D-I-WF) District 94
Brendan Tully (D) District 99

NYS Senate

Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-WF) Dist 35
Ruth Hassel-Thomson (D-WF) Dist 36
Suzi Oppenheimer (D-WF) Dist 37
David Carlucci (D) Dist 38
Mike Kaplowitz (D) Dist 40

Judges

Anthony A. Scarpino(D- WFP) Westchester
County Surrogate Court.

Susan Kettner (D-WFP) New Rochelle
City Court.

Lawrence H. Ecker (D, WFP, I & Conservative)
NY State Supreme Court.

CWA LOCAL 1103 MEMBERS IN ACTION

Volunteers call fellow Union Members reminding them to vote during recent primary election.



UNIONS & COMMUNITY - PERFECT SENSE

We thank the following Members for sacrificing their time and appreciate their effort in helping to elect worker friendly candidates;

*Diane Gwara
Gregg Wolf
Pat McDonnell
Will Chapman
Robert Chiarello
Jeff McKay
Domenico DImezza
Pat Gillespie
Keith Clarkson
Bobby McCormick
Ron Mangeri
Fred Velotti
Mike Neggie
Jack Callanan
Bill Mattson
Mike Farrell
Jeanette Spoor
Doug Anderson
Vicky Cianfaglion
Mike Bellanco
Bill Huntley
Kevin Campo
Don Angela
Frank Bevilacqua
Bill Barry
Bill Jakinovich
Pete Scala
Joe Buser
Gerry Frieri
Anthony Pugliese
Kevin Scrobola
Mark Crumm
John Gentile
Joe Mayhew
Doug Sheahan
Kevin Sheil
Joe Barca*

According to Department of Labor statistics there are 153,560,000 civilian working Americans. Of that number, only 19,041,440 are Union members. Those numbers clearly show that Union workers are the minority. The fact is only a small percentage of the United States workforce has a collective bargaining agreement. In other words, only 12.4% of all working Americans have the privilege of being part of a group Fox News describes as being the biggest problem in America, while at the same time erroneously calling us BIG LABOR. The fact is by the numbers we are anything but big.

Yet, up until the recent past, Labor has been conducting business as if we were still BIG. We have attacked our enemies with a silo mentality. Using only our own Members and resources we packed all our ammunition into a single silo, took aim, and hoped for the best. The truth is we are too few to go it alone. Just in 2009 alone we lost 30,000 CWA jobs. While we are getting smaller, Corporate America and the Ultra-Wealthy are filling their anti-labor political war chests with 400 million dollars for the mid-term election. They are channeling an unheard of amount of money for a midterm election for one single purpose; crushing labor. Our problem is we can never match them dollar for dollar, however; we can beat them with our votes if we become bigger. Nevertheless we cannot become bigger on our own; we must join our silos together with other progressive groups to further our common, although not always recognizable agendas.

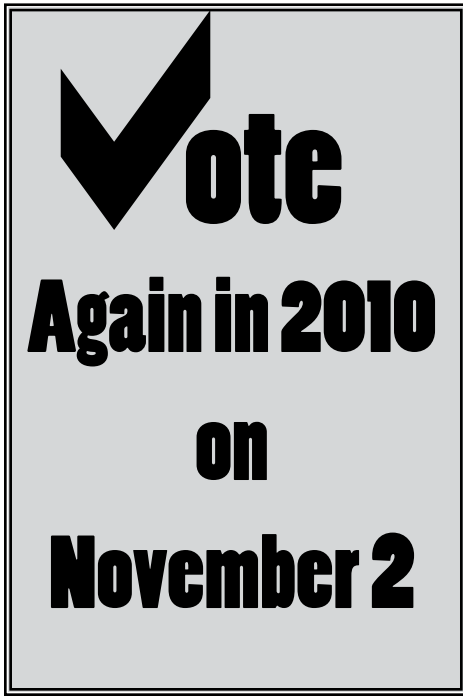
The Blue/Green Alliance unites two of the largest environmental groups (Sierra Club and the National Resource Defense Council) with eight of the most influential Unions (CWA, AFT, SEIU, ATU, Sheet Metal Workers, Utility Workers, Laborers & the United Steelworkers of America) in the country for the purpose of a shared agenda. While many may think of the Sierra Club and the NRDC as tree huggers with little to do with Labor's agenda, a closer look reveals that we are not so far apart.

The Sierra Club has been credited as the environmental group having the longest running lobbying campaign for workers rights and economic issues. They have fought side-by-side with Organized Labor against bad trade deals, such as CAFTA and NAFTA, which have affected American jobs in a negative way. They have also joined Labor in dozens of campaigns demanding safety and protection for workers' rights across the country. Of most importance to every Union Member, the Sierra Club made passing the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) their top legislative priority last year. They committed 11 paid full time workers in 2009 to reach 200,000 environmentalists in targets states to lobby congress to support EFCA.

So why are the Sierra Club and the NRDC using the vital resources of their silos to help Union workers? The simple answer is that our jobs are hitched to their causes. Case in point, CWA-IUE Members in Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio work on green manufacturing of Hybrid Buses, new cleaner diesel engines, and solar/wind components which reduce green house emissions. Clean air is a key principle for environmentalists. In fact, the build-out of broadband coast to coast will cut CO2 emissions by thirteen to twenty-two percent by 2020, and reduce one billion tons of green house gases. It is estimated that a net saving of 11% of US oil imports will be achieved over a 10-year period due to the build-out of High Speed Internet to every community in the United States. So by pulling our silos together and collectively taking aim we have a better chance of creating these manufacturing jobs in America.

We will not be BIG LABOR we will be BIG AMERICA because we will gather our silos together and will be stronger than ever. As Founder of the Sierra Club John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it is hitched to everything else in the universe." That's why it makes perfect sense.

*Joe Mayhew
Business Agent*



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

Retiree's Corner ...

Greetings Fellow Retirees,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year. It is time to be thankful for and celebrate the benefits that we are fortunate to have. It is comforting to know that our National and Local Unions are actively protecting those benefits. Please make every effort to attend our upcoming events.

RMC Membership Meeting
Tuesday, November 9th, 2010 10a.m.
Location: TBA

Christmas Luncheon
Tuesday, December 14th, 2010 12 noon – 3 p.m.
Antun's of Westchester
35 Valley Avenue * Elmsford, New York
Price: TBA

Our membership meetings are planned to keep our retirees abreast of any pertinent issues affecting our lives. We encourage your support and participation at these meetings. We meet four (4) times a year. It is a great time to fellowship with your fellow retirees.

Please be advised that we are the only sanctioned, CWA Local 1103 Retiree Members Chapter. All correspondence and communications should be directed to the Chapter (CWA Local 1103 RMC) at the Horgan Hall at 345 Westchester Avenue, Port Chester, New York 10573.

Yours in Solidarity,
Jeanette Spoor
JSpoor@cwa1103.org