



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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Occupy America



"Why occupy Wall Street?" "The 99% have no clear direction." "The movement has no leaders." "The movement has no end goal or game plan." (As Sung by the FOX Noise choir.)

This type of analysis, all too common in certain circles, is missing the point. The complaints are really

a rather weak attempt to undermine the strength of the movement, to discredit it. The Occupy Wall Street movement is not a single issue trip. It is an idea that there is something wrong in America, that the deck is stacked. That ordinary people, the 99% of us, who are playing by the rules aren't getting a fair shake. The beauty of

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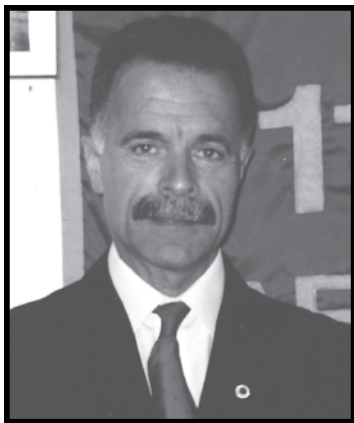
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In My View . . .



It is with a great deal of emotion that I write this last article as your President. This month I have reached a plateau that not many have the good fortune of duplicating.

Forty-two years and six months of serving this great membership of CWA Local 1103, CWA District One, and the CWA National Union. It has been an

unbelievable journey from serving as an 1103 Job Steward; Chief Steward; Business Agent; Vice President and now as your President, retiring December 31, 2011.

As the 5th President of 1103, I have always endeavored to represent you to do the best of my ability.

When I was appointed as Job Steward back in 1969 by Danny Keenan (then 1103's 2nd President), I felt proud to be the one who would represent the Fleetwood Garage in Mount Vernon, New York. After a few years of dealing with Garage issues, and my Chief Steward, along with New York Tel Mgt, my Business Agent, John Black, and the 1103 Executive Board voted to make me Chief Steward. As the years past with many successful battles against New York Telephone, AT&T, and many other employers, I was voted by my peers to Area Chief Steward. In 1989, I ran with the McCracken Team and the entire slate of us were voted into office with over 85% of the Local voting in that election. We all won, 5 to 1.

1989 was met with mixed emotion, as good as it was, it was also devastating when we lost Gerry Horgan on that Valhalla picket line. Gerry's death was historic where by he was the 1st CWA'er to be killed on the picket line. His death would not be in vain and the Strike of '89 was won, and every negotiation we have had since then has been won by this Union.

I was, and continue to be proud of the way we have cared for Gerry's family along with the Borella family through the Horgan/Borella Golf Outings since 1990. Thanks in large part to the unselfish work of the Horgan/Borella Golf Committee.

I'm especially proud of our Keith Eldridge, Jr. Memorial Blood Program, and Committee, along with the Friends of Phyllis Cole-Hollis Bone Marrow Foundation, and Committee that has served our community for over 35 years, even when the telephone company illegally took this most needed program from us, we still ran drives out of mobile Blood Bank trucks in the backyard of the Union Hall for the five years until we successfully beat the Company in three (3) rounds of Federal Court.

After being a Business Agent for many years, I ran for the office of Vice President in which my main responsibilities were 3rd Steps of the Grievances Procedure, Blood Drive Director, Horgan/Borella Memorial Golf Outing and Mobilization. When Bob McCracken decided to retire I ran for and was elected to the Office of President. Now as my CWA career winds down I will complete this, my last assignment. Looking back I can say without equivocation, my greatest accomplishment was waking up everyday to make a difference in the life of a Union Member, and then being successful in effecting that change.

In ending, I can honestly say that representing you was not only a pleasure, it was an honor to do so, from Steward to President. I leave you with this little "Tid Bit" when ever you hear the phrase "PROUD TO BE 1103", or see it on our official letter head, think of me, because I coined that slogan for our Local many years ago.

Good Luck to the Executive Board, God Bless You and God Bless the Union!!!!

In Solidarity,

Joey Barca Jr.,
President



THE EAGLE

Proud To Be 1103

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VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day, we say thank-you to the brave men and women who serve or who have served to protect our freedom and country.

But frankly it is not enough to just say thank you.

Gulf War Era II Veterans, or those defined as having served since 2001, have a 12.1% unemployment rate. In actual numbers, 240,000 Gulf War Era II vets are unemployed. And as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan end or are drawn down, the number of unemployed Veterans will only increase.

There is an unfair burden placed on military families that simply is not shared by everyone else. It should be objectionable that in a time of two wars you can turn on the news and not see one story about the brave men and women fighting for us on foreign soil. That somehow it is more important to hear about a stupid divorce or the vapid escapades of some drunken celebrity.

Equally abhorrent is that while American corporations are making incredible profits and stashing record cash on the sideline, they are still refusing to hire American workers, including Veterans. These corporations and CEO's are more loyal to their boardroom and stockholders than they are to the American flag. These are the same "patriotic" American corporations that avoid paying federal income taxes and have no problem wrapping themselves with the American flag, while VA hospitals close and our Veterans continue to experience cuts in job training programs and other support services. In fact, these are the same corporations that you work for, where in bargaining, one even demanded to take the Veterans Day holiday away from Veterans during a time of war.

So this year don't just say thank you, support our Veterans by putting a priority on the things that matter to them. Support the services which help Veterans get jobs, healthcare, and therapy. Support legislation which mandates and pays for these types of programs. Volunteer to do something for our Veterans. Contact a legitimate Veterans organization and ask them if there is anything you can do?

As a nation, we will and should be judged by how we treat our Veterans.

Employers and corporations in America...they, too, will be judged by what they do and how they act during recession and war. Will they take their massive profits, which were only earned because they have been allowed to prosper in a free market society, out of America? Or will they reward the sacrifice by our Veterans and invest the profits in America and American jobs?

America's so called "job creators" don't need to just thank vets, they need to hire them.

*Kevin Sheil,
Vice President*

Occupy Wall Street or any movement this important and varied it need not be a monolith.

The 99% of us, which include you and me, are under attack in ways that have never been seen before. And it defies all of our beliefs that we hold to be true: our belief in equal rights, our belief in civil rights, our belief in workers' rights, our belief that corporations are not individuals, our belief that in America everyone is entitled to have healthcare.

The radical right and their wealthy backers are shouting that "we are privileged, we are greedy, and we are lazy." And with a straight face, they dare insinuate that Policemen, Firemen, Teachers, Emergency Dispatchers, and other unionized public workers have caused the nations budget problem. That's the big lie! The big lie among a litany of lies being told as a way to justify layoffs, collective bargaining attacks and tax breaks for millionaires.

And worse, our tone deaf politicians and nobles like Chris Christie, Scott Walker, John Kasich, John Boehner, and the rest of the Republican congress perpetuate these talking points and then want us to believe that the answer lies on the backs of these dedicated public servants only. The truth is that tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy in a time of war, corporate tax loopholes, falling home prices, and a high unemployment rate caused this revenue problem.

It's not just state public workers; its federal workers as well, a case in point is the scare tactics being employed by management at the US Postal Service. You have probably heard the story that the postal service is operating over-budget and that because of this, Saturday delivery needs to be eliminated and hundreds of thousands of postal workers ought to be laid off. But if congress would only eliminate the Postal Service's \$5.5 billion dollar yearly mandate to pre-fund their pension system, there would be no deficit at all at the postal service. And this financial burden that congress is imposing on the postal service is a mandate that NO other American governmental agency, company or corporation has to endure.

But understand that the crippling financial obligation that congress is mandating onto the postal service is being done on purpose, and with malice. It is an

attempt, through fuzzy math, to have you draw the one and only conclusion that can be made, which is that the private sector can manage the post office more efficiently because government is an institution filled with bumbling idiots.

This attempt toward privatizing our public institutions is all part of the class war that's already been declared on you and me, the 99%. Even our prison systems are not immune to For-Profit opportunities and schemes that involve our tax money filtering down into the pockets of politically connected cronies. Recently in Pennsylvania, some of the youth offender prisons had been privatized, and a judge who received major campaign contributions from wealthy, corporate backers during his campaign to be elected judge, was arrested and prosecuted for handing out sentences to innocent children, as young as 12 years old, which were considered harsh and extreme forms of punishment. Often the length of the sentence was much longer than it should have been, too. During the investigation, it was revealed that the judge sentenced these children, sometimes completely innocent, to jail as payback for the campaign donations he had received. And, of course, it was very profitable for the private company managing the prison and tied to those contributions to have a full prison. More inmates...more money they could charge the state... more money they could charge the state...more profit.

We need to stand in the way of privatization. We need to oppose this idea that everything in society



SAVE JOBS!

GIVE UNION MADE GIFTS

needs to be viewed as an opportunity to make a profit. Think about it: Should our public schools, prisons and hospitals exist for private industry's benefit to squeeze profits from? How about this crazy idea? Let's worry about providing proper health care to patients rather than making money off them.

We need to support our government institutions and public servants. Government has a role in our society. Government is the only entity large enough to counter the growing power of corporate America. Public sector workers have a purpose; they save lives and make the rest of our lives easier by providing services that we all depend on.

But these attacks being waged on the 99% are not exclusive to the public sector... in the private sector they are just as mean spirited, hurtful and wrong. The men and women of CWA Local 1103, working for Verizon, are facing a contract battle against a very wealthy corporation in not only one of the toughest economic times, but also in an environment that's toxic and filled with entrenched, polarizing positions.

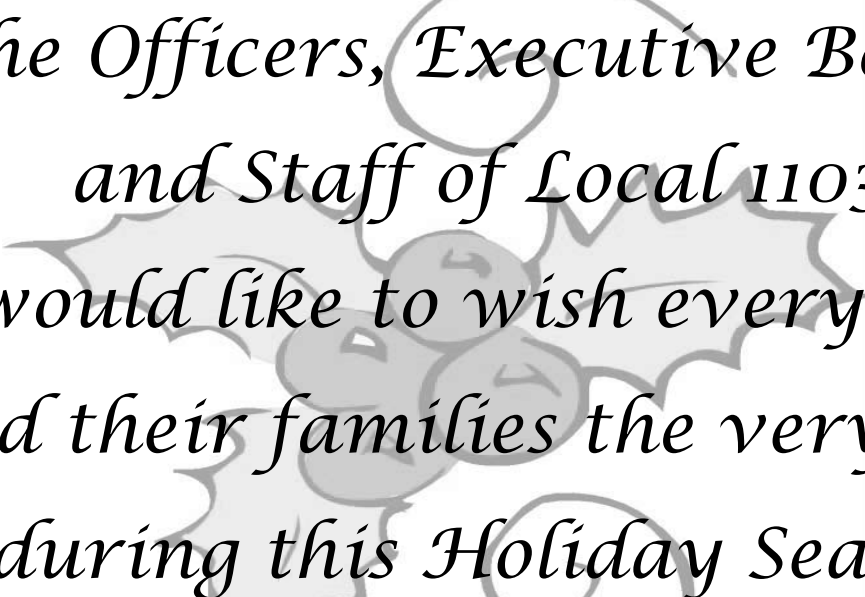
Verizon has portrayed us as greedy fat cats, hoping to form and sway public opinion against middle class workers, which is no different than what the corporate backed politicians are doing to our public workers.

Verizon is a company that wants to break the union and they have isolated the union from non-unionized portions of the business, denying non-union workers an opportunity to raise their standard of living. But they also contract out union jobs and layoff employees, which has a devastating effect on our communities.

Corporations hurt communities when they union bust, and they hurt communities when they continue shipping our jobs overseas while avoiding taxes. Tax dodging companies have an obligation to America. Our tax system must encourage job creation and investment in America and end incentives for exporting jobs. They can't have all of the benefits of a global economy but share none of the sacrifices.

The Occupy movement is not a single issue battle, there doesn't need to be an endgame. What is happening here is that there is an awakening, an understanding that America is tilted against the 99% of us. In order to fight for the changes that are needed so that the 99% of us actually got a fair deal, we should support and join the Occupy Movement. But don't stop at Wall Street... Occupy America.

**Kevin Sheil,
Vice President**



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

CWA Local 1103 Election Results *(At time of Printing)*

CWA Local 1103

President: Kevin Sheil 513- 5

Vice President: John Gentile 260 - Pete Innes 180 - Pete Scala 146

Secretary Treasurer: Doug Sheahan 351 - Elizabeth Felicione 247

Business Agent: Anthony Pugliese 501-1

Business Agent: Mark Crumm 285- Kevin Campo 306

Business Agent: Joe Mayhew 488-5

Business Agent: Kevin Scrobola 478-4

The Local 1103 elections have now been certified.

The runoff election for the office of 1103 Vice President and Convention Delegate will now be conducted. The ballots will be mailed to Members homes on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 and must be received at the designated location by 9:00 am on December 21, 2011 in order to be counted.

This information was posted to our website and Facebook page. It was also announced on CWA's Local 1103 Union tape.

www.cwa1103.org/

www.facebook.com/pages/CWA-LOCAL-1103

(914)-939-8205



LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

Dear Doug Sheahan:

On behalf of the New York Blood Center, I would like to thank you for sponsoring a blood drive at CWA Local 1103 /Verizon.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with you and your organization to produce such a successful drive. The event collected 62 lifesaving units of blood, which have since been separated into their components and distributed to patients throughout the area.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Sabrina Juarez*

To the Executive Board:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the scholarship that you recently awarded me.

I am in my first year studying at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. College is an expensive endeavor to say the least, so this scholarship will enable me to purchase the essentials I need well into next year. I have found that living away from home along with books needed for class can be quite costly.

It was such a nice surprise and much, much appreciated. Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Brian Hinchey*



The Retiree's Corner..

What a year it has been! The August strike, the picket lines, informational hand billing at Verizon's Wireless stores, letter writing campaigns, to our elected officials and local newspapers, rallies and Occupy Wall Street. Who would have thought that retirement could be this much fun?

On November 11th, we celebrated Veterans Day honoring all our past and present veterans. At our November 15th general membership meeting, chapter elections were held for all positions on the Executive Board. We like to thank Fran Gotttron for his guidance, our Election Committee for their hard work and diligence and our members for their support. All of the 1103 RMC Executive Board officers were overwhelmingly reelected for a second term of office.

On November 13th, 14th, and 15th, your Executive Board and fellow chapter members attended three different rally's in Wappingers, Arlo Lane in Peekskill and Tarrytown to show support for the 12 CWA members who volunteered, using their vacation time, to walk from Albany to Verizon headquarters in New York City a distance of 125 miles to show Union solidarity for the 99%. We were very proud and inspired by these CWA members. Finally after all this, it was time to kick back and enjoy the holiday. We hope that all our members had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their love ones.

We like to thank our District 1 Council RMC President Patrick Welsh for his support in helping us become one of the most active retiree chapter's in CWA. We also like to thank the CWA Local 1103 Executive Board for all their hard work and dedication to the 1103 members and their unwavering support for our retiree chapter. Our Executive Board would like to wish outgoing President Joey Barca a much-deserved happy retirement and to

thank him for all he has done and will continue to do for all our CWA brothers and sisters. Congratulations to the newly elected Executive Board of Local 1103 especially to their new President, Kevin Sheil. Under Kevin's leadership 1103 will continue grow and become, if it is not already, one of the most vocal and politically active locals in CWA. In conclusion, we like to thank our RMC members for their continued support and ask other retirees out there to come join us by visiting our website below.

Our Holiday Luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 15th, at The Travelers Rest in Millwood. We all had a great time and the crowd just keeps on getting bigger. What a way to start the Holiday Season!

Remember, January will be rolling around before you know it and it's time for your 2012 dues. Your dues check can be sent directly to the union hall or you can use PayPal by visiting our website. Please note on your check or PayPal that payment is for 2012 dues. Visit us on our website: cwalocal1103rmc.org and on Facebook at cwalocal1103rmc.

May all 1103 members both active and retired have a Merry Christmas, a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Jeanette Spoor,

President CWA Local 1103 RMC

Holiday Greetings



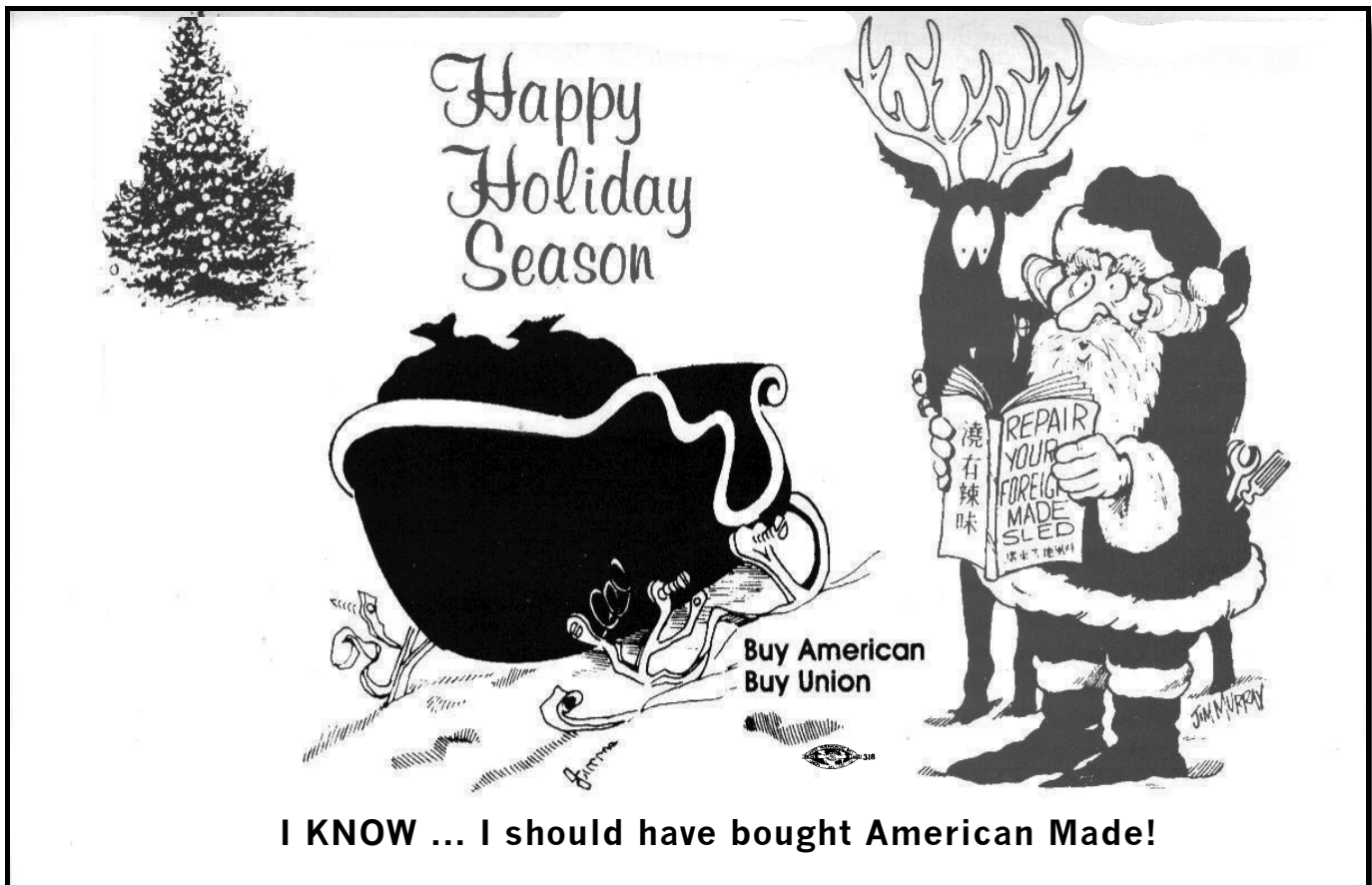
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I KNOW ... I should have bought American Made!