



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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Don't Blame Us! Exposing the Myths about Public Sector Workers



West Haven Bargaining Unit United

The West Haven Supervisors have been bargaining for a contract for over 6 months. They are doing this in one of the worst negotiating environments for public workers since the Great Depression. They are facing demands to pay more for healthcare and threats of erosion to retiree

healthcare benefits. Contrary to popular belief they do not have a pension and must survive on only a 401k when they retire, making any retiree healthcare premium increase much more demanding on a very limited budget.

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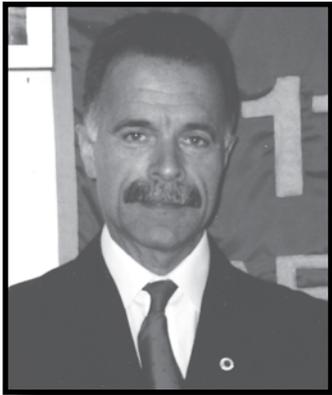
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In My View . . .



A survey of recent strike activity reveals employers are taking advantage of the greatest economic crisis in decades. According to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in August of 2010 there were only 41 Strikes or lockouts.

Some were relatively large high profile disputes, such as the strike against the Mott's apple sauce company in upstate New York in which Motts despite being profitable demanded givebacks on health care, pension, and wages. Most, however, were small local disputes, involving fewer than 100 workers.

The all too common theme: employer demands concessions. For example 400 Teamsters struck Aggregate Industries in New England where a chief demand of the company was changes in the work rules, including ceasing to guarantee a full days work. The strike ended after 8 days and although wages and benefits were maintained, there were unspecified changes in the work rules.

The American Labor Movement has long resisted the notion that workers be treated as commodities. As the founder of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers said in 1891; "You cannot weigh the heart and soul of a child with the same scale upon what you weigh any commodity."

The employers blunt weapon, the lockout. Some disputes were short lasting only days, while others went on for months such as the Spectrum workers nursing home strike in Massachusetts that lasted four months. The Union, SEIU, wanted the employer to agree to the same contract provisions as other nursing home operators did in the state. As it turned out Spectrum would not, even after the Union made an unconditional offer to return to work. In the end Spectrum only hired 9 original Union workers then replaced the remaining union positions with SCABS. This should be reversed by a combination of National Labor Relations Board charges, and pressure from the community.

I could go on and give many more examples of Employers using hurtful tactics against there Unionized workforces to gain the upper hand in disputes but I wont. The only way to win is to FIGHT and we

must and we will. The one thing you should be asking yourself right now is, are you really ready to fight and go on strike if need be? In order to answer that there are a few things you must do in preparing for a strike. You should now be saving as much extra money as you can, lining up another job, and making childcare contingency plans. These are just the basics, because being active during our "Mobilization Period" is crucial if were going to be successful. As we get closer to our "Mobilization Activities" you and everyone at your work location should be working on the weaker links in our chain of Solidarity to ensure that they are unbreakable.

In Solidarity,

Joey Barca, Jr.
President



THE EAGLE

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Don't Blame Us ... continued from page 1

Adding insult to injury, during these trying bargaining sessions there is a growing trend to scapegoat the public employee for the current fiscal atmosphere. There is an up swelling of lies being shouted from radical talking heads blaming this finance crisis on state and municipal workers. These lies are manifesting themselves in attacks on badly needed jobs in America. Public sectors jobs provide valuable services to residents that make our lives easier and safer. Imagine a day when you couldn't get to work because the roads were not plowed, or had to miss work because you had no safe place to leave and care for an elderly parent. What would you do if you or your family were trapped in a building because the exits were blocked when a fire broke out? How would you feel if you found out it was because of a lack of proper code inspection and a failure to license competent contractors? Today, many US citizens have to wonder and worry about these things because they live in states and municipalities that have chosen to cut services to the bare bones and ignore the real problem.

To date:

-26 states have laid off public workers

-22 states have furloughed public workers

-19 states have cut wages of public workers

-9 states have cut benefits

-28 states have made public worker cuts

across the board.

The fact is State and Municipal workers make 11 – 12% less than private sector workers with comparable skills. We are not the problem. The real culprit is a winner-take-all mentality that has existed in American politics for over 30 years and has finally reached critical mass. To determine who the winners are, all we have to do is look at the statistics. From 1979 to 2006 the top 1 percent earner's after-tax income increased a staggering 256% while the working middle-class rose only 32%. It's important to note, that the middle-class's rise in after-tax income has more to do with us working longer hours

than increases in our wages. To get a clearer view of how far behind we have fallen, consider that during this time the cost of living increased 185%. So, for every dollar in wages we earned in "79," we now have to spend \$1.85 more to buy the same product. We lost income!

Now put this crime together with the final piece of evidence -- unfair and slanted tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy that have spanned 4 White House administrations and have dwindled the resources necessary to maintain a society worth living in. The dirty secret is that during a time when income for the ultra wealthy skyrocketed past the working middle-class, taxes for

the well-off have fallen dramatically. Federal tax rates for the super rich fell from 76% in 1970 to 32% in 2004 -- at a time when their income went up 256%.

So here we are, when we compare taxes to income, the ultra-wealthy pay very little for the cost of maintaining America's vast and crumbling infrastructure, its educational needs and protection of its citizens.

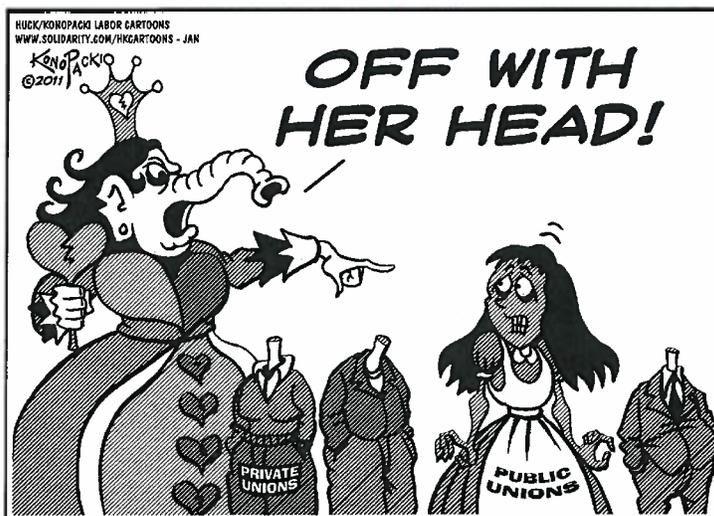
As bargaining continues in West Haven and the Mayor demands cuts in

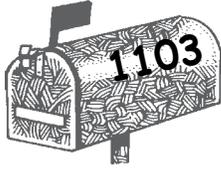
medical, little to no increases in wages and givebacks to 30 years of promises for healthcare in retirement, Washington passes more tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires. Clearly we live in a society of economic inequality that, while hurting public workers today, will turn its attentions on all workers tomorrow, if we do nothing.

The West Haven Supervisors will continue to think outside of the box, provide alternatives to cuts in benefits and fight for a fair contract. Yet, we cannot sustain this for long as a society if we allow the few, most fortunate to have a free ride at the expense of the struggling many. To win, we must denounce the lies and put the responsibility and solution where it belongs; on those who can afford it.

For more information on STOP THE LIES, go to cwa1103.org and view the video in the action center.

**Joe Mayhew,
Business Agent**





LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

To all my family at Local 1103,

Thank you for all your support, friendship and love upon the death of my mother Audrey Horgan.

The floral arrangements sent by the Local and by the members of the Horgan Garage were deeply appreciated. We were deeply moved by Joe Barca's tribute to Mom on the Local's tape. The presence and kind words from so many Local 1103 Members and retirees helped us all through a difficult time.

Mom, as do all the Horgan's, considers you all family, and we will never forget all you've done for us.

Mom was buried with three special things---her membership pin as an Associate Member of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, her cover from the Marine Corps League, and an 1103 Horgan Garage T-shirt. She'll be watching over us all.

Brian Horgan and the entire Horgan Family
* * *

To Business Agent Anthony Pugliese:

Thank you, for the hard work you did for the Facilities Specialist group. Thank you to the Union that we were able to retire with dignity in October with the Enhanced Income Protection Plan. Thank you for the service gift award, too.

Lloyd D. Stansbury
* * *

Dear Kevin Sheil:

Thank you and CWA Local 1103 for hosting Westchester for Change's workshop on the New York State budget. We appreciate your opening the union hall to us and your warm hospitality.

These are challenging times for working people, and we are very excited to have CWA as a partner in the effort to ensure federal, state and municipal budgets

are not balanced on the backs of working people. We look forward to collaborating with you in 2011 and beyond.

Happy holidays to you and all the members of CWA Local 1103.

Sincerely,
Rachel Estroff, Ph.D.
Lead Organizer, Westchester for Change
* * *

Dear Joe Mayhew,

I am sorry that I did not see you after the bus stopped in Port Chester on Saturday evening. My car was parked in the back of your building and it was blocking others from leaving, so I thought it better to get out of the way by moving on.

My sincere thanks to you, your board, and the CWA for the hospitality extended to me in providing the ride to and from Washington D.C. for the One Nation Rally, the food, the cooler and most of all the great company that Saturday.

Patrick J. Hart
* * *

1103 Executive Board and Staff:

I just wanted to let you know that the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer took place on October 16th and 17th. Thanks to your generous contribution I was awarded a top fundraiser medal for the occasion. Obviously, this medal belongs to you, your members and all the other contributors to this worthy cause.

Thank you again for your contribution and support.

Peace,
Kathy Clinton
* * *



THE FINEST VEHICLES IN THE WORLD MADE BY UAW MEMBERS

Now more than ever: Buy union-made cars and trucks **The UAW's 2011 Vehicles Guide**



JIM WEST

These vehicles are made in the United States or Canada by members of the UAW and Canadian Auto Workers (CAW).

Because of the integration of United States and Canadian vehicle production, all the vehicles listed that are made in Canada include significant UAW-made content and support the jobs of UAW members.

However, those marked with an asterisk (*) are produced in the United States and another country. The light-duty (LD) crew cab versions of the vehicles marked with a double asterisk (**) are manufactured only in Mexico; other models are made in the United States. When purchasing one of these models, check the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). A VIN beginning with "1," "4" or "5" identifies a U.S.-made vehicle; "2" identifies a Canadian-made vehicle.

Not all vehicles made in the United States or Canada are built by union-represented workers. Vehicles not listed here, even if produced in the United States or Canada, are not union made.

UAW CARS

- Buick Lacrosse
- Buick Lucerne
- Cadillac CTS
- Cadillac DTS
- Cadillac STS
- Chevrolet Corvette
- Chevrolet Cruze
- Chevrolet Malibu
- Chevrolet Volt
- Chrysler Sebring
- Dodge Avenger
- Dodge Caliber
- Dodge Viper
- Ford Focus
- Ford Mustang

- Ford Taurus
- Lincoln MKS
- Mazda6
- Mitsubishi Eclipse
- Mitsubishi Eclipse Spyder
- Mitsubishi Galant

UAW VANS

- Chevrolet Express
- Ford Econoline
- GMC Savana

CAW CARS

- Chevrolet Camaro
- Chevrolet Impala
- Chrysler 300
- Dodge Challenger

- Dodge Charger
- Ford Crown Victoria
- Lincoln Town Car
- Mercury Grand Marquis

CAW SUVs/CUVs

- Chevrolet Equinox
- Ford Edge
- Ford Flex
- GMC Terrain
- Lincoln MKT
- Lincoln MKX

UAW SUVs/CUVs

- Buick Enclave
- Cadillac Escalade ESV
- Cadillac Escalade/Hybrid
- Chevrolet Suburban
- Chevrolet Tahoe /Hybrid
- Chevrolet Traverse
- Dodge Durango
- Dodge Nitro
- Ford Escape/Hybrid
- Ford Expedition
- Ford Explorer
- Ford Explorer Sport Trac
- GMC Acadia
- GMC Yukon/Hybrid
- Jeep Compass
- Jeep Grand Cherokee
- Jeep Liberty
- Jeep Patriot
- Jeep Wrangler
- Lincoln Navigator
- Mazda Tribute/Hybrid
- Mercury Mariner/Hybrid
- Mercury Mountaineer
- Mitsubishi Endeavor

CAW VANS

- Chrysler Town & Country
- Dodge Grand Caravan
- Volkswagen Routan

UAW TRUCKS

- Chevrolet Colorado
- Chevrolet Silverado**
- Dodge Dakota Dodge Ram Pickup*
- Ford F Series
- Ford Ranger
- GMC Canyon
- GMC Sierra**
- Mazda B-series

To see other UAW-Made products check out the UAW's consumer buying guide: www.uaw.org

Have a Drug,
Alcohol or
Gambling Problem ?

Call
Headquarters
939-8203 or 8204

Ask to be put in
contact with
Tom O'Halloran



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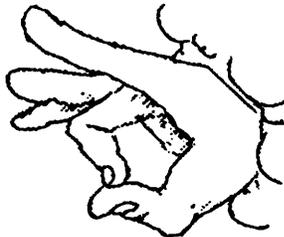


PERIODICAL

If It's Thursday . . .

THEN YOU MUST BE WEARING RED

IF NOT...



IT'S TIME FOR
A WAKE UP CALL!



Bargaining a Contract is Never Over.
It is Always an Ongoing Process Between Agreements.
Show Your Solidarity Every THURSDAY!