



# THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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## CWA 1103 Fighting the Attack on Labor



*CWA Local 1103 Members join other progressive groups on Tax Day to protest against corporations that do not pay federal taxes.*

## The Politics of Economic Injustice - The Attack on Labor

Labor is the muscle that built the middle class, but it could not do it alone. It needed a supportive government to provide the power to get it done. The rise of the middle class began between 1933 and 1935 with Franklin D. Roosevelt's series of economic programs called the New Deal. Roosevelt's legislative platform put an end to the wild speculation of the ultra-wealthy that caused the 1929 crash of the stock market and led to the Great Depression. Due to Roosevelt's supportive government, the middle class grew for five decades with Union membership holding 1 out of every 3 jobs in the United States. Specifically it was the treatment of Unions that changed under FDR's New Deal that gave rise to Union membership and the middle class. Prior to the

New Deal it took the great national strikes of the late 1800s and early 1900s with much bloodshed on Labor's side of the argument to achieve any significant change. After the New Deal organized labor brought workers to the political table like never before. Labor mobilized their forces to:

- *Press members demands in political debates*
- *Reach out to citizens outside their organizations*
- *Use TV and Radio to communicate to masses*
- *Push voter registration*
- *Mobilize the community at large*

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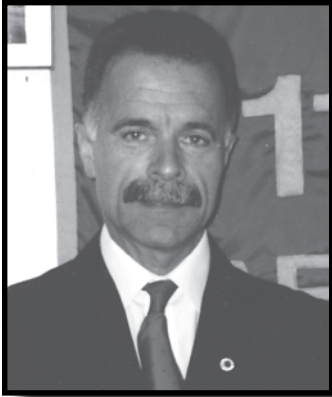
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# In My View . . .



Republican lawmakers in more than a quarter of the United States are launching one of their most vicious attacks on working Men and Women in generations. They are involved in a coordinated effort to break the backs of Unions in both the private and public sectors.

The good news is their efforts, for the most part, are failing as of the writing of this article. Workers have finally realized and have started to push back in a very big way. In addition, even some moderate Republicans have chosen to join in with the workers.


In Indiana, which has been hailed as the best hope for right-to-work advocates, Republican Governor, Mitch Daniels demanded his GOP lawmakers back off their anti-union measures over fears that it would derail his agenda.

Mark Mix, president of the National Right-to-Work Committee, said the time is right to pass a law that would make Missouri the twenty-fourth to become a right-to-work state when he visited that body of legislators in March. A few days later, with scores of Union Members watching from the galleries, the Missouri State Senate decided not to act on that bill after a heated three hour debate and with many Republicans vowing to join in with the Democrats in a filibuster. You should know that there are twenty-three right-to-work states, with nineteen of them adopting that status in 1947 by

a Republican dominated Congress. Since then, in 1976 Louisiana, in 1985 Idaho, 2001 Oklahoma, and New Hampshire in 2011 all followed suit. We as workers should do everything we possibly can to prevent another state from falling down to right-to-work status. This can only hurt us in the long run. Big Business has been dictating the agenda, and we must fight them. We have a huge job ahead of us that is very difficult, but not impossible. Remember there are more of us than there are of them. So, come off the sidelines and join in with us and together WE WILL WIN !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In Solidarity,

*Joey Barca Jr.,  
President*



## THE EAGLE

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# LPAT Conference

On the weekend of February 25, 2011 Business Agent Joe Mayhew and Chief Steward Caroline Dimezza attended the CWA District One Political Action Retreat. The retreat was held at the Heldrich Hotel and Conference Center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Bob Master, CWA District 1 Legislature/Political & Mobilization Director presided over the program. The retreat overview was called Moving Forward in Challenging Times.

The first guest speaker was Frances Fox Piven. Ms. Piven is a distinguished professor of political science and sociology at the City University of New York. She spoke of the current social movement and how the tide is turning because of people like us (working class). One of her more notable statements was "Once the stock market pulled out of its crisis, corporations started paying out bonuses again at the same time they were getting even more tax breaks with the Bush tax cuts. This was all going on while the working class was still suffering." Much of Ms. Piven time was spent on the spontaneous social movement supporting the middle class taking place in Wisconsin.

including people that want to enrich themselves." In his speech he encouraged us by stating, "We need to awaken our brother and sisters because nothing can stop a sleeping giant once woken." He ended with "Our greatest enemy is our own complacency," something that every CWA Member must understand.



*Local 1103 Members participating in Legislative Political Activities*



The next speaker we heard was Larry Hamm. He is the president of People Organized for Progress (POP) out of Newark N.J. He opened with a very motivating speech. The progressive activist declared, "If there is no struggle there is no progress because power concedes nothing." He reminded us of our distant labor history, when he stated, "We had to fight and lay down our lives for every benefit we take for granted today. We need a movement, not just one of labor, but a broad movement

After a short break Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-Brooklyn) stopped by in route from a rally in Wisconsin. He said we need to shake people up that are not used to being shaken. Weiner reported, "That the only reason health care was out of control because so many were not offered it at work." Other notable speakers were John Liu Comptroller of the City of N.Y. and Michael Mulgrew President of the UFT, NYC. Lastly we heard from our own CWA District 1 President Chris Shelton. He asked us to support our brothers and sisters in other Unions, saying "everyone has to come together to save the middle class." He implored us to write letters, march and rally. President Shelton reminded us that this is our time and supporting our Legislative Political Action Team (LPAT) members is one of our most important things we do.

The CWA Local 1103 Executive Board believes in this mantra and has created an LPAT program that is second to none. I walked away from the retreat with the understanding that if we cannot negotiate we must legislate, and that each and every one of us have to band together because our families and our livelihood depend on it.

*Caroline Dimezza,  
Chief Steward*

## The Attack on Labor... continued from front cover

Labor's influence was astounding. It's almost hard to believe today that a renowned Republican once wrote this quote in 1952:

“Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance, and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things. Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid.”

*President Dwight D. Eisenhower 1952*

In a short period of time, and over the next few decades, Labor became very successful, so successful that we became a target in a 30-year plan to eliminate us as a force to be reckoned with. Unlike the general strikes of the late 1890s, it would be a bloodless war funded with mega-dollars by the ultra-rich and American Corporations.

Most Labor activists consider Ronald Reagan's firing of the Air Traffic Controllers to be the beginning of the attack on Labor. Yet as we have seen in part II of this series, it began much sooner with Big Business's build-up of its political machine in the mid 1970s. Years before Reagan was elected, we had already begun to lose ground due to the unprecedented mobilization of Big Business in the political arena. As despicable as firing the Air Traffic Controllers was, Reagan had a much broader agenda that would have a lasting effect on Labor's decline in power. He was to take the first steps to drastically change the tax code to favor the rich and then begin the process to take down the only group powerful enough to stand in their way; organized Labor.

Reagan accomplished his first task very handily, the wealthy received the largest tax break since the pre-depression. Taxes for the rich dropped sharply and generous new depreciation rules and tax loopholes for corporations reduced overall revenues. The top rate of estate taxes went from 70 to 50 percent, benefiting only the wealthy. He convinced many that if the rich had more money to spend it would have a trickle down effect on prosperity for all Americans. By accepting this fraud, we began the funding for the war that the rich and powerful would use to reduce Labor's influence on maintaining the middle class. With the funding for his

allies completed, he then began to rewrite the rules of FDR's New Deal. Key to his efforts would be to change the treatment of Unions. This was done with a notable shift in policy regarding regulation. Targeted areas were transportation, communications, and energy. Not surprisingly the areas of work where union density was the highest. From 1980 to 1990 illegal union avoidance acts in organizational drives increased astronomically. Beginning with Reagan, and over the next 30 years, Union density would decline. The Union's numbers were vital because its power never rested in the money they spent on elections; Big Business had been outspending Labor since the 1970s. Labor's real power rested in its ability to turn out members to the polls and put boots on the street in local communities to fight for candidates who supported labor issues. With the engineered declines over the next three decades to the unionized workforce, the middle class lost its most powerful champion on wage and benefit issues.

The decline in Union power is directly proportionate to its declining membership. Voter turnout in the 1980's dropped as a direct result of lower union density created by an unfriendly administration that would be in power for 12 years. Yet, it wouldn't end there, although labor had a brief hiatus during the Clinton administration when tax rates for the rich would go slightly up, labor would still suffer under political “drift.” Drift is the systematic and prolonged failure of government to respond to the shifting realities of a dynamic economy, and in this case, to enact protections for its working class citizens. Simply put, with a loss of Union members to hold Washington's feet to the fire on Labor issues, Democrats like Clinton moved right of center. Drift, while not as damaging to Labor as the overt attacks from the Reagan and Bush administrations, still caused the middleclass to slide downward.

We have to recognize that the change in treatment to Labor didn't just happen; it was a 30-year plan. That plan was carefully engineered to raise funds through limited taxation of the wealthy and Corporate America, which then was used to contain and marginalize the only group strong enough to stand up for the middleclass.

Reagan said, “Government is the problem.” He could not have been more wrong for the working middle class. Government is the only entity powerful enough to level the playing field by passing laws and regulations

*Continued on page 5*

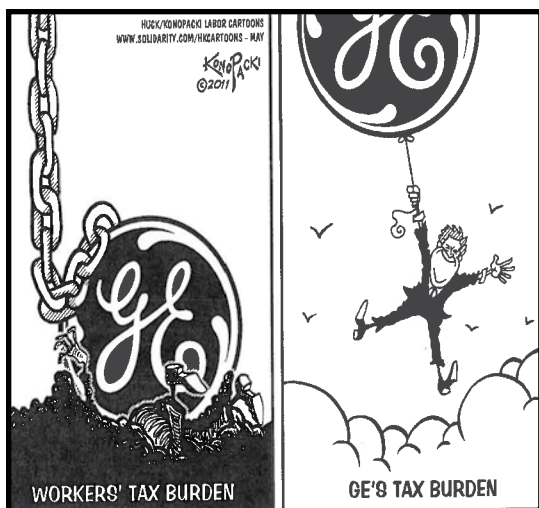
## Politics of Economic Injustice... continued from page 4

to protect its citizens against the unfairness of economic inequality. With government as a partner, Unions can provide the muscle that we once did when FDR used the role of government to give workingmen and women a fair chance at prosperity. However, we must first reclaim effective democratic governance or else continue to lose to the economic aristocracy that has been created over the last 30 years. The good news is, as the attacks from the right become more open, our resistance gains greater support. Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana are lessons calling to us. Our contracts will only protect us for so long; the attacks on the public sector prove this true. If we sit this one out, it will only catch up to us in a matter of time. While the sky is not falling on many CWA members yet, it is much closer to our heads than ever before. We can break this cycle, if we understand that what we do today has lasting effects on tomorrow. We need to create our own long-term program by first maintaining political power, creating true economic equality and regaining a sustainable middle-class agenda.

**Joe Mayhew**  
**Business Agent**

*The research for the majority of this series came from Winner-Take-All Politics, Jacob S. Hacker & Paul Pierson*

## 1103 Members Politically Active



# The Retiree's Corner..

As you know the Verizon contract expires on August 6, 2011. As always everything will be on the table including retiree benefits. It is expected that negotiations will be difficult. Verizon wants concessions despite being quite profitable during the present economic crisis.

CWA has been holding mobilization workshops to educate, inform and mobilize their active members and retirees.

One such workshop was held May 11, 2011 for the 1103 retirees. Patrick Welsh, our District 1 RMC President, conducted the workshop. He went over our past history of bargaining and many of the gains in wages, benefits and working conditions we retirees have achieved over the years and currently enjoy because of the collective bargaining agreements that were negotiated. He pointed out changes at Verizon since the last round of negotiations in 2008 and asked us to consider how Verizon's bargaining strategy will affect us this time around. Plain and simple, Verizon is out to eliminate the union.

What can we do? More importantly, what will you do to help our union achieve success at the bargaining table?

In order to gain a realistic understanding of both our strengths and our challenges, we need to stay informed, keep in touch with our local and work together with our active union members to insure good wages, working conditions, benefits and job security for them.

Our active support for our brothers and sisters can help make the difference. Retirees have the experience and know how to help the active members maintain their solidarity. They will certainly appreciate our participation.

Power is the bottom line. Everything we ever got was through hard fought negotiations backed up by strong mobilization.

We need to reach out to those who can help us in our struggle: consumers, communities, other unions, and politicians who care about working people and broadband.

Finally don't let Verizon divide and conquer us. They will try to pit active and retired members against each other.

When we stand together nothing can stop us!

Keep in touch with the chapter on our website: <http://cwalocal1103rmc.org/> Contact us at: [cwa1103mc@comcast.net](mailto:cwa1103mc@comcast.net)

Jeanette Spoor – President  
CWA Local 1103 RMC

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## Elections Have Consequences

Medicare & FiOS Deployment two very important job issues in politics

### Medicare

Republican Congress members have had their hands full with angry constituents over Wisconsin (R) House Representative Paul Ryan's "Road to Prosperity" Federal budget. Because his Republican endorsed budget would kill Medicare and replace it with an under-funded voucher system. For Verizon retirees, this Republican plan that District 19 Congresswoman Nan Hayworth (R) voted for would be a disaster.

Because as retirees, once we reach 65 years of age, Medicare becomes our primary medical insurance and Verizon becomes secondary. This saves Verizon a bundle in medical costs and is one of the key reasons we have been able to retain retiree medical plans. Because during the time when our medical bills tend to go up due to our age, Verizon becomes our secondary plan and only has to pick up what Medicare does not pay. Since Verizon is self-insured this saves a huge amount of money for the Company.

The question is what would Verizon do if Medicare became a voucher system and thereby a secondary plan. Would Verizon agree to continue to offer retiree medical, if it had to be the primary plan for the rest of our lives, or would they refuse to provide

coverage due to a tremendous increase in expense? Clearly Congresswoman and doctor Nan Hayworth wasn't thinking about our health when she raised her hand to likely end our retiree medical.

### NYS FiOS Build Deployment Bill

CWA unveiled its job saving FiOS legislation this month and it didn't take long for the Company's lobbyists to react in opposition to it. This bill would simply require a study be completed showing the locations where fiber optic networks are being deployed.

### ***Where does the NYS Senators in CWA Local 1103 jurisdiction stand on this bill?***

Ruth Hassell-Thompson (D) - Co Sponsor  
Suzi Oppernheimer (D)– Co Sponsor  
Steward-Cousins (D) – indicated will support/ awaiting her to co-sponsor  
Greg Ball (R) – No commitment / Staff indicated he would not be interested.

### Update Millionaire Surcharge

Senator Greg Ball finally commits and refuses to support Millionaires Surcharge hurting tens of thousands of public sector workers for the love of giving tax breaks to millionaires.

# 2011 CWA Local 1103 Scholarship Program

We are proud to announce the opening of our 37th Annual Local 1103 Scholarship Program. Since its inception in 1973, \$213,751.00 in cash grants have been awarded to the sons and daughters of Local 1103 Members in good standing to help enable the continuance of their education. The eight scholarships offered are as follows:

## 22st Annual E. Gerald Horgan Memorial Scholarship \$2,000.00

Honoring the memory of our late Brother and Chief Steward; Edward "Gerry" Horgan who made the supreme sacrifice on the picket line fighting for us.

## 33rd Annual Daniel L. Keenan Memorial Scholarship \$2,000.00

Respecting the memory of our late President, who served in that office from 1964 to 1979.

## 38th Annual Eugene J. Mays Memorial Scholarship \$1,500.00

In remembrance of our late District One A.V.P., who served as Defense Fund Director during the 1971-72 N.Y. Telephone strike.

## 28th Annual Howard T. Miles Memorial Scholarship \$1,500.00

In tribute to our late Brother who helped found the Local 1103 Substance Abuse Committee.

## Local 1103 Executive Board Scholarships \$1,000.00

Two additional \$1000 scholarships authorized by the members of your Executive Board.

## Thomas J. Wonsor Memorial Scholarships - \$500

Two \$500 awards are presented by the Local in memory of the 1103 Life Members Club first President Tom Wonsor. These two scholarships awards are only for students currently in their 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of college and who will be continuing on.

### PURPOSE

These grants are intended to give those first-year college students an extra helping hand during those crucial first months in a new academic world. There are no restrictions upon expenditure. The money may be applied toward tuition, books, clothing, or whatever else best helps the student to embark upon his/her academic new life.

### ELIGIBILITY

All high school seniors who are the son or daughter of a Member, retired Member or deceased Member in good standing of Local 1103 and who are proceeding to an institution of higher academic or professional training.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Complete and return the Scholarship application below to Local 1103 Headquarters on or before June 30, 2011.

### METHOD OF SELECTION

The eight winners will be determined by random drawing in early July. The checks will be presented to the Scholarship winners and/or their parents in the work location. We wish everyone good luck in the drawings and hope you all do well in your scholastic endeavors.

*Douglas Sheahan,  
Secretary/Treasurer*

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## C.W.A. LOCAL 1103 - 2011 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION *(Please Print)*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Soc. Sec. # \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title (if active Member) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location (if active Member) \_\_\_\_\_

I herewith apply for inclusion in the July 2011 drawing of the Local 1103 Scholarship Program. I certify that I meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the Local Executive Board as follows: I am the \_\_\_ son \_\_\_ daughter of a Member, retired Member or deceased Member in good standing of Local 1103 and either:

(1) A High School senior intending to continue my education at \_\_\_\_\_; or (2) A college Student entering my \_\_\_\_\_ year at \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Note: If your son or daughter is a 1st, 2nd or 3rd year college student and is applying for one of the Thomas J. Wonsor Memorial Scholarship awards. A transcript of last semester's grades must be attached to confirm eligibility.)

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(Scholarship applications must be returned to Local 1103 headquarters no later than June 30, 2011.)

Have a Drug,  
Alcohol or  
Gambling Problem?

Call  
**Headquarters**  
**939-8203 or 8204**

Ask to be put in contact  
with Tom O'Halloran



All Information is Confidential



**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

CWA Report to Verizon's Real Stakeholders: Workers, Customers, and Communities

# You Paid Federal Income Taxes. Why Didn't Verizon?

**VERIZON U.S. TAX RETURN**  
2009-2010

INCOME \$24,200,000,000  
TAXES PAID \$ 0  
REFUND \$ 1,300,000,000

Sources: *Washington Times*, 4/10/11;  
*Institute for Policy Studies*, 3/23/11

Verizon reported **\$24.2 billion in pre-tax income** for 2009 and 2010, yet paid **\$0 in federal income tax**.

In addition, Verizon actually claimed a **refund of \$1.3 billion**, earning it a place on what the *Washington Times* calls the "Tax Evaders' Wall of Shame."

What's really incredible is that Verizon's actions are perfectly legal. The company is exploiting tax loopholes to get the maximum reward.

Despite huge profits and a free ride on taxes, Verizon has slashed union jobs, pulled back on FiOS, and neglected copper lines.

Verizon sends our jobs to lower paid contractors who get only a fraction of our benefits.

Verizon continues to move work to non-union and lower tier Verizon Wireless while fighting unionization there.

Verizon should pay its fair share of the taxes that fund programs like schools, roads, public safety, and job training, and it should invest in good jobs, quality service, and broadband buildout.

**Verizon Has Slashed 80,000 Wireline Jobs in 5 Years**

