



# THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

Volume 111 • No.04

Monthly Publication • Port Chester, New York

June 2012

## The 99% Spring



### CWA 1103 Members come out to Fight for the 99%.

WHITE PLAINS- On May 1st over 250 CWA Local 1103 Members joined with community groups and organized labor to support the 99% Spring. The event was hosted and organized by CWA Local 1103. The Local 1103 Executive Board did an unbelievable job of coordinating and planning the rally. Without

the Business Agents participation and leadership, there would have been no rally.

A major goal of the rally was to send a clear message that we will promote the interests of all workers and protect our communities by coming together to save the 99% of us.

*Continued on page 3*

President's  
column



..... pg. 2 & 3

Elections Have  
Consequences!



..... pg. 4

CWA Scholarship  
Program \$\$\$

..... pg. 5

Retiree's  
Corner



.... pg. 7



## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recently one night as I was tossing and turning in bed, restless, no differently than anyone else, historical events that took place during my lifetime were entering and leaving my head at ridiculous speed. Memories, which mostly included episodes of universal events, popped in and out. These memories were probably triggered by watching something on TV earlier that evening, but who knows?

Not to sound like a Billy Joel song, but memories of the Iran Hostage situation, Ronald Reagan, Beirut, the USA Hockey Team winning the gold medal, the Berlin Wall falling, the Challenger exploding, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, earthquakes in California, Kuwait and the Iraq Invasion, PATCO, OJ, Odd/Even gas days, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Japan's Tsunami, and of course 9-11, all snuck in there.

With the mind racing I then thought of the Wisconsin protests that sparked up spontaneously last year. Public sector workers along with private sector workers, students and community leaders, all coming together to stand up against Scott Walker's lies and his radical legislative agenda. The 99%, gathering at the capitol in the middle of winter and protesting with raw emotion, cold day after cold day. The protests were truly remarkable because they weren't hate filled or remotely manufactured. It was the coming together of the people, and it was inspirational. Samson vs. Goliath. There is something pure and noble when people from across all different backgrounds realize on their own that they have a common cause and then fight together for it. It is how movements are born. Wisconsin needed this, but we needed Wisconsin.

I kept thinking about the protests in snowy Madison, and the commitment needed to carry out that type of public rejection of the policies being deliberated. And it led me to ask my own question that I wanted to answer, which was, can the Republican Party really be that bad for American workers? Despite what I had heard or what I thought I believed through my own experience, was I overlooking something? Was I not being fair? Surely I thought I can cite some examples of where the Republican Party stood up for me, as a worker.

And then I tried to think of examples of Republicans standing up for workers. I couldn't think of one. But I thought there must be many examples. It must be that I was tired and couldn't think straight. I'll Google it tomorrow morning, I thought. And I did.

The examples that I found of the Republican Party standing up for workers in the last 30 years, amounted to this: ZERO.

Think about that. Better yet, research it.

Not one example of the Republican Party on its own, being on the right side of an issue, standing with the American worker. PATCO? NO! Minimum Wage laws? NO! Pension protection for workers? NOPE! The Employee Free Choice Act? NOT a CHANCE! The 9-11 Fund to care for our first responders who are ill and will die because they worked near or at ground zero? NO WAY! Strengthening OSHA? NOPE! Extending unemployment benefits? NO! The Call Center Bill? NO! Steel Tariff laws? NOPE! Miner protection? NO! As a party, the answer the Republicans always give to American workers is NO. Always!

*Continued on page 3*



# THE EAGLE

Proud To Be 1103

**Official Publication of the  
Communications Workers of America Local 1103**

## OFFICERS / STEWARDS

Kevin Sheil.....President  
John Gentile.....Vice President  
Douglas Sheahan.....Secretary/Treasurer

## BUSINESS AGENTS / STEWARDS

Kevin Campo	Joe Mayhew
Anthony Pugliese	Kevin Scrobola

## STAFF

Fran Gottron.....Assistant. to the President

**Union Hall: 914-939-8203 Tape: 914-939-8205**  
**website: [www.cwa1103.org](http://www.cwa1103.org)**

**EDITOR: Kevin Sheil**

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
(USPS 663-570)

AT PORT CHESTER, NY 10573  
June 2012

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



## Continued from Front Cover

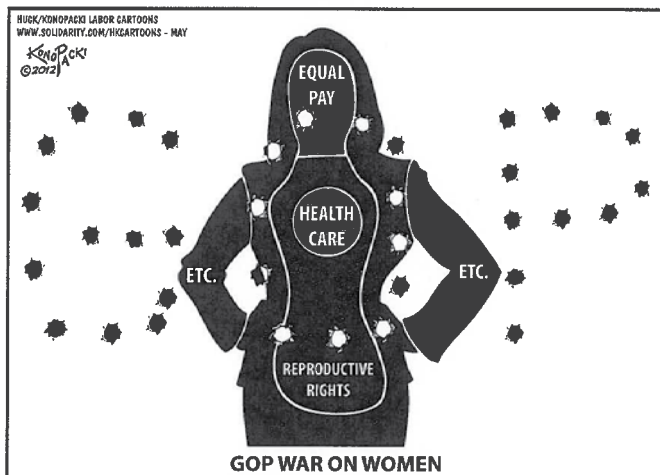
Kevin Sheil, President CWA Local 1103, said that there are two Americas; one for the 1% and one for the 99%. “Our fight at Verizon is a microcosm of the 1% against the 99%,” Sheil said. He added, “We must challenge those class collaborationists who sell the glories of the free market, the incompetence of government, while trying to convince the 99% of us to be resentful of each other.”

“There is an ill wind blowing,” said Chris Shelton, Vice President CWA District One. “And that ill wind is corporate greed, that ill wind became a gale when the Supreme Court decided that corporations were people.”

“Across the country we are facing unprecedented and well funded attacks on our civil rights,” said Lena Anderson, of the NAACP. “Martin Luther King Jr. preached that civil rights and worker rights are indivisible.”

“We must demand economic policies and budgets that work for all Americans,” said Dr. Rachel Estroff of Westchester for Change. “We have workers being asked to make wage and benefits cuts undermining collective bargaining rights, while corporations make profits hand over fist.”

This event was part of a nationwide movement which resulted from the spontaneous occupy movement last fall. The 99% of us are under attack and being blamed for economic problems that we did not cause. Stay tuned for future events and wake up...



## President's Article .... continued from page 2

To be sure, the American worker has been sold out at times by Democrats, too. But to not be able to cite one example of the Republican Party siding with the American worker is pretty pathetic and should tell you all you need to know about the predicament we are in as workers as it relates to bargaining contracts and other workplace conditions.

Assumingly armed with that information, the CWA National Executive Board, with Membership input, has endorsed President Obama for re-election. In addition, the CWA Local 1103 Executive Board has a political and legislative plan in place for 2012, which will give us the best chance to fight for candidates at all levels who will support workers.

### What Can We Do?

At the end of the day, we have the two things that can trump their money: truth and our vote. Brothers and Sisters, we have a choice. We can vote for candidates who will stand with us as workers, or we can vote against our own self-interest as a working class. Only one major party screws the worker every time.

For me, it took a restless night to confirm what I thought I already knew. What will it take for you?

*Kevin Sheil,  
President*



## ***Elections have Consequences: Win Back the 19th District***

The United States House of Representative New York 19th district is within CWA Local 1103, 1107 and 1120 members' residential jurisdiction. Prior to re-districting the 19th was comprised of parts of southern Dutchess, most of Orange, a small portion of northern Rockland and a third of Westchester counties in addition to all of Putnam County. This year re-districting has given the 19th a new name and a face lift: it is now the "new" 18th district with thousands of more democrats within its borders.

Due to the horrendous voting record of the present representative the "new" 18th is of particular interest to Union workers. Congresswoman Hayworth has a 100% perfect voting record -- against Labor. To make matters worse, that terrible record also spills over to vulnerable senior citizens to include CWA retirees.

### **Votes that Hayworth made that hurt Labor**

She voted for HR 3094: A bill that would increase the time for employers to identify union supporters to harass and even fire them in order to kill a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) election to join a Union.

She refused to co-sponsor HR 2604 to repeal the Reverse Morris Trust tax loophole. Over the last, several years, Verizon has used this method to sell off telephone plants in many states. This is exactly the same type of sale that led to the Fairpoint bankruptcy in New England.

She voted for an FAA re-authorization that included a reversal of the NLRB ruling to bring fairness in elections to join a Union in the Airline industry. Hayworth's endorsement of this bill would allow an Airline company to count people who didn't vote in an election to be counted as a "No" vote to join the Union. Hayworth and the Republicans held the safety of airline passengers up as they virtually shut down the FAA for two weeks as this republican majority congress play games with jobs and lives.

She refused to Co-sponsor the Call Center Bill that would take federal tax breaks, subsidies and most importantly contracts from companies that move call center jobs overseas. Hayworth stated on WPDH that

she did not want to make these companies that move jobs overseas "uncompetitive" by taking away their tax breaks. At her Somers Town Hall, she stated that this would put "Shackles" on American companies and create "Interference". Currently Verizon has an estimated 2600 DSL call center jobs in India and has moved bi-lingual work to Mexico and based on bargaining proposal would like to move more. Hayworth's so-called "shackles" and "interference" argument have done nothing more than allowed our middle-class job work to be moved overseas.

She retaliated against the National Labor Relations Board for making the proper and good decision to go after Boeing for illegally attempting to move work from a Union Shop in Washington State to the "Right to Work" State of North Carolina. Boeing announced they were moving the work because the Union had the audacity to hold strikes in the past for a good contract. Hayworth proudly proclaim at the Somers Town Hall she supported a bill to rein back the powers of the NLRB for helping Union workers keep their work.

### **Hayworth Votes that Hurt Seniors and Americans**

Congresswoman Hayworth voted for Republican Paul Ryan's budget of 2011. That budget would have reduced Medicare to a voucher system. This is a huge problem for CWA Verizon Retirees as when they reach 65 years old Medicare becomes their primary insurance. If Medicare became the voucher system Hayworth wants it to be, how long before Verizon would step up its cuts to its already terrible bargaining position on retiree healthcare. In fact, if Hayworth's position ever became the law of the land, would Verizon even continue to offer retiree benefits as more and more costs were shifted to them from a gutted Hayworth Medicare program.

You might think, Hayworth would learn from last year's failure to shove that budget down our throats. Not so much, as her party compatriot Ryan is offering pretty much the same republican budget this year and Hayworth is once again its cheerleader. If current retirees feel they have an uncertain faith with Hayworth, those of us who are under 55 years old can be assured that we are losers in the Hayworth rah, rah chant. Because she has made

*Continued on Back Cover*



# 2012 CWA Local 1103 Scholarship Program

We are proud to announce the opening of our 39th Annual Local 1103 Scholarship Program. Since its inception in 1973, \$223,751.00 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:

## 23rd 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.

## 34th 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.

## 39th 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.

## 29th 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 July 15th, 2012.

### METHOD OF SELECTION

The eight winners will be determined by random drawing at a future General Membership meeting. The checks will either be mailed or presented to the Scholarship winners at a date and location to be determined. We wish everyone good luck in the drawings and hope you all do well in your scholastic endeavors.

*Douglas Sheahan,  
Secretary/Treasurer*

---

## **C.W.A. LOCAL 1103 - 2012 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 2012 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 July 15, 2012.)



## **Transervice Bargaining**

This past January, CWA 1103 started bargaining the Transervice contract. Their contract was set to expire on April 30, 2012. The bargaining team represents members from Queens, Staten Island, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties. From the onset, Transervice placed retrogressive demands on the table. These demands included rolling back wages and a significant increase in the medical plan premium.

There were numerous bargaining sessions that at times became contentious. The attacks on the middle class seem to be the mindset at all bargaining tables and it was no different when this round of contract negotiations started. The message we sent was clear. The bargaining team was not interested in going backwards. We reminded the company of the commitment and longevity of their employees.

We are pleased to announce that a tentative 2 year agreement was reached in April which consisted of NO ROLLBACKS to our members. In fact, some gains were made including a company paid education system. This system will allow our members to get trained for any and all A.S.E certifications to rise to the level of Master Mechanic. Every time a member completes a course and becomes state certified, that member will receive a monetary bonus.

This contract was overwhelmingly ratified by the members. We want to congratulate our Transervice members on a two year agreement. We would also like to thank CWA District One Staff Representative Billy Gallagher for his hard work on helping us secure this contract.

***Anthony Pugliese,  
Business Agent***



## **MOBILIZATION MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Mobilization is one of the most important activities that every member must be involved in. Union power is impossible without the full participation of an organized, educated and mobilized membership. Mobilization efforts bring members together with a common goal. For the past, present, and future Verizon worker, that goal is a good contract. The best negotiators in the world cannot bring in a contract without membership participation through mobilization. It will mean the difference in obtaining a good versus a bad contract.

We mobilize for many reasons. We mobilize to build public support. We mobilize to pressure the company. We mobilize to demonstrate workers' solidarity. Our efforts highlight Verizon's greed and its threat to hometown jobs and quality service.

However, this is not just a fight with Verizon. It's a fight against one of the many greedy corporations trying to destroy the middle class way of life. They are trying to ride the union busting wave. We must do everything in our power to let them know the ride is coming to an end. So, are we going to help turn the union movement around? Or, are we going to let the Verizon big wigs toast our defeat in their fancy boardrooms, and signal a further decline for unions. Enough is enough. Unions have to stand their ground and fight.

We know that our union is battle tested. Since 1971, our past and current CWA members have been on strike for a total of 396 days. Our opponents name has changed a few times, but the fight is still the same. It's a greedy, profitable company that is trying to take away what we have earned. Our mobilization efforts worked then, and they will work now.

Remember, YOU are the union. Not the Executive Board or the Bargaining Team. It is YOU, the member that gives us our strength. Only with a collective mobilization effort, can we ensure victory.

***Kevin Campo,  
Business Agent***





# The Retiree's Corner..

Fellow Retirees,

Here it is June and still no new contract and if that's not bad enough, we also have to worry about the new revised budget that Republican Rep. Paul Ryan has presented to Congress. His budget calls for increasing the retirement age for Social Security beneficiaries from age 65 to 67 and to also raise Medicare eligibility from age 65 to 67 while increasing out of pocket health care costs associated with Medicare.

Couple this with the inactivity at the bargaining table and the egregious list of give backs Verizon is demanding from our fellow CWA members, the future as they say does not seem bright! In fact the bleakness of our futures is downright frightening!

Perhaps you don't think you need to be concerned about the current turn of events. I can assure you nothing is further from the truth!

With the decline of traditional union bargained for benefits, loss of home equity, and the increase of health care costs, retirees are facing a bleak future if the Republican led congress is allowed to cut our Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Are you willing to join the fight to save your Social Security and Medicare benefits? Or, are you going to let these politicians and Verizon fat cats lower your standard of living while their earnings and benefits grow exponentially on our burdened backs? Are you willing to take to the streets and show the Verizon corporate executives that we will not go gently into the night? And, will you continue fighting for the benefits we won over many, many years of contract negotiations and strikes?

This is what needs to happen. Retirees need to get out and stand, literally stand with their active brothers and sisters otherwise we all lose!

What will it take for retirees to finally realize the full extent of how their lives will forever change if Verizon coupled with the Republican dominated congress gets their way?

The 1103 RMC board has been looking for ways to motivate retirees to participate in protecting their benefits. We have attended and addressed several rallies and participated in mobilization efforts by our active 1103 members. It was great to look out into the crowd and see retirees who took the time to come out and show their support. In March I attended a CWA Political Retreat in upstate NY and learned how to be active on the political front to achieve our goals. We also attended the Verizon shareholders meeting this past May in Huntsville, Alabama. We joined with hundreds of like minded union members and community organizations demanding justice for Verizon workers and ultimately for all workers!!

On May 11 we held an emergency retiree meeting. Our guest speakers were CWA Local 1103 President, Kevin Sheil, 1103 Assistant to the President, Fran Gottron and RMC District 1 President, Patrick Welsh. Kevin gave an update on bargaining and clarified some of the negotiation strategies being used at the bargaining table. Fran's presentation included ways retirees can participate in mobilization actions against Verizon. Patrick gave an update on retiree mobilization activities.

The question now is what will you do to help achieve these goals?

Will you go gently into that good night or will you rage, rage against the destruction of the middle class?

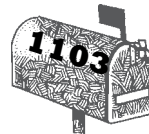
Verizon executives think you will go gently without a fight. Let's prove them wrong together!

**Jeanette Spoor,**

**President CWA Local 1103 RMC**

To download application forms for both the chapter and the Retired Members Council go to the chapter website at <http://www.cwalocal1103rmc.org> and click on the Chapter/Council Membership Applications link on the left hand column.

We can be contacted on: [cwa1103rmc@yahoo.com](mailto:cwa1103rmc@yahoo.com)



## LETTERS TO THE LOCAL

Dear President Sheil,

I just wanted to let you know that Business Agent Anthony Pugliese did an outstanding job working to help me and my family. I wanted to thank him formally for his effort that he put forth on behalf of Dennis Ingalls, Paul Fortuna and me, in securing our transfers to 26th St in Manhattan. I understand and appreciate the tenacity and strength of will that it takes to get Verizon to adhere to the contract. I would also like to apologize if I started to get annoying with my efforts in keeping this issue in the spotlight.

I want to thank Anthony once again for helping me achieve this victory and I will always reflect with pride on my time in Local 1103. It is hard working and effective Board members such as Anthony that have helped make my time with 1103 a positive experience.

**In solidarity,**

**Michael Neggie**

\*\*\*

To all Chapter Members and Retirees,

If you have recently received any literature from a group identifying themselves as CWA Local 1103 RMC but with a mailing address of P.O. Box 94, Mahopac, NY, 10541, be aware that this is a fraudulent group and is not affiliated with our chapter or with any union. This is an imposter group, and they are collecting annual dues from retirees under false pretenses. The Secretary-Treasurer of the CWA National Union and the President of the Retired Members Council have, for the past two years, repeatedly told this group to cease misrepresenting themselves as a legitimate CWA RMC chapter, stop collecting dues under the CWA RMC name and cease using our copyrighted CWA RMC logo on their letterhead. They have ignored all correspondences to do so. If you sent your 2012 annual dues money to this imposter group, please write them asking for a refund and tell them to stop representing themselves as the CWA Local 1103 Retired Members Chapter. We are the only certified CWA Local 1103 RMC Chapter, located and affiliated with CWA Local 1103 here at the Union Hall. Your Executive Board would like to thank all our members for their continued support of our chapter.

**Bob Ferguson – Treasurer**  
**CWA Local 1103 RMC**



  
**All Information  
is Confidential**

