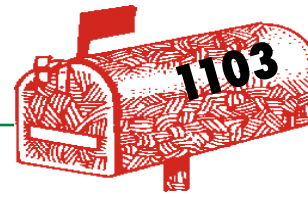


LETTERS TO THE LOCAL



Dear Bob,

I just read the letter you sent relating the fact that you had announced your retirement. I read the letter with mixed emotions, mixed emotions because I have had the pleasure to know you and to call you my friend for some thirty years. Mixed emotions because I know first hand everything you have personally done and CWA Local 1103 under your leadership has done, not only for the Members of Local 1103 and their families, but for every single Member of CWA.

As you say in your letter, the job of a true trade unionist never comes to an end because there is always someone who got the short end from the boss. I know and so does every one of the thousands of Members whose lives you have touched, whose lives you have made better that you are without any doubt a true trade unionist. You have chosen to go out a champion, just like all great champs, and that is the only way you would do it.

As for your replacement, he's got a lot to live up to, but you have chosen well. I've known Joe Barca for quite awhile and seen first hand the magnificent job he does, that's why a few years ago I had the pleasure to present the District One Horgan Award to him.

So, Bob, even though I hate to see you go, I understand your decision and applaud you for the grace you showed in making it. It is perhaps time for you to give back to your family some of the time that CWA and Local 1103 have taken from them over these many years.

So my friend, my Brother, our friendship and my respect for you will never end, but our professional relationship will come to an end at the end of the year, and I must wish you all the best that life after CWA has to offer.

Sincerely,
/s/CHRIS
Chris Shelton, V.P., District 1

Dear Mac, Our best wishes on your retirement ... and Thanks

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on your retirement! You have certainly earned it! Your record in leading Local 1103 and building our union is the best of the best! For me, our friendship means more than I could express. Your personal support has been enormous and every time I put on the 1103 jacket (frequently) I will think of you and all we have done together.

I know that you have prepared for this transition, and that Joe will do an excellent job. But whenever I say, "Proud to be, Local 1103," I will always think of you.

Solidarity Forever,
/s/LARRY
Larry Cohen, President
Communications Workers of America

Dear Brother McCracken,

I recently learned of your decision to retire as President of CWA Local 1103. Please accept my congratulations for a stellar career representing your Members and your Union, and my appreciation for your lifetime of dedication and commitment to the goals and ideals of the organized labor movement.

The Members of Local 1103, as well as the labor movement of this state, have benefited from your leadership. Please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous retirement. All the best!

In Unity,
/s/DENIS HUGHES, President
New York State AFL-CIO

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement and for making 1103 the best Local Union in the CWA family. I have always felt honored that you "adopted" me into the Local and have enjoyed receiving your Local's newspaper over the years.

Your sacrifice to the betterment of the working class has been inspirational.

Best of Luck!
/s/ MARY BLUE, past President
CWA Local 7777

Dear Chris,

I just read that Bob will be retiring soon and was a little surprised – but not really. Knowing Bob for as long as I have (since 1971) I can only say that he was truly one of the pioneers of CWA, not just in District One, but throughout the Country. In my years as Local President of 1115, CWA Staff, Area Director and finally as Assistant to VP Larry Mancino, I had many occasions to visit your Local, spend time at meetings and conferences to talk with, and learn from Bob the many intricacies of being a Union Representative. He was not only a great Local President but also a great teacher. It was my gain to work with him, as I know it must have been for you and your Members.

We all move on and I wish him only the best of health and many good years of retirement with his friends and family. He certainly has earned it. The Union will miss him but I know that Joey (Barca) can capably fill those shoes. Good luck to Bob and all my friends at Local 1103.

/s/MICKEY ASH

Dear Mac,

Congratulations on your decision to retire. It's hard to imagine the heart and soul of 1103 won't be sitting as its President. As the article in The Eagle said, "It's the end of an era." Thank you for all of your efforts and time you have given us.

There is a personal thank you that I owe. Back in the early 80's, I was just out of ESS training. On returning to work, I was told that I was being transferred to Poughkeepsie. At that time you were the Craft Rep. I called you while I was in Walt Connor's office, the 2nd liner. In just a few minutes the decision was made. I wouldn't be transferred to Poughkeepsie but instead would report to the Garrison CO, where a Switchman from 1120 was on loan and he would go to Poughkeepsie instead. I never wanted to or had to leave 1103 again.

Thank you for those few minutes Bob, and of course thank you for a life spent as leader of this amazing Local.

Best wishes,
/s/ FRANK O'HARA

Dear Bob,

I received your letter a while back letting me know you are retiring. Let me say that even though you and I did not always agree, I have always had and still have a lot of respect for you. You have been, and are an inspiration to your Executive Board and all of your members. I believe you are largely the reason that they are: Proud To Be – 1103.

I know that Joe and the remaining Executive Board members are good people and I am sure we will work well together; however, you will be missed. I hope your retirement is full of joy and that you will be surrounded by the people that you love.

In sincerity and solidarity,
/s/TOM ALLEN, President
CWA Local 1128

Dear Bob,

I will certainly miss the input and friendship we enjoyed over the years. Since my first day in Congress, I've been lucky to have Local 1103 as a friend and have enjoyed working with you on the issues that affect America's working men and women. I always respected and admired the lead that Local 1103 took in fighting for workers rights.

You will be missed, but you have a great team to continue the good work that you fought for. My best wishes on your retirement.

/s/ ELIOT
Eliot Engel, Member of Congress

Dear Bob,

There are millions of people without medical coverage; yet I have medical and a pension because of men like you. I regret that I am not up North to shake your hand and congratulate you. May your retirement be as benefiting as your service to the Union and its Members.

/s/ERNIE PORTER

Dear Bob,

Come on out. The water's fine. Wishing you good health and happiness in your much deserved retirement. You'll be sorely missed.

Fraternally,
/s/ DOUG PETERS

