



THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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November 2007

Good time - good food - good weather - good golfing (??) at the 17th Annual Horgan/Borella Golf Tournament



V.P. Joe Barca presents prize to best foursome (minus one)



President Bob McCracken presents check to Diane Borella


This year marked the seventeenth Annual Horgan/Borella Golf Tournament, held on September 28th with nearly a hundred players swarming the Beekman Country Club. This year the heavens were on our side. There was a little rain at 6:30 AM, but the skies were sunny all day and it didn't rain again until 6:30 P.M., when everyone was inside having dinner and winning door prizes. I would like to thank all of the golfers, our sister CWA Locals and our business associates who not only participated in the day's activities, but also sponsored holes making the day a success. Because

of everyone's involvement and generosity, we were able to raise more this year for each of the Horgan and Borella families.


We would like to thank the law offices of **Fine, Olin & Anderman** for donating four box seats to the N.Y. Mets last game of the season as a door prize. The tournament committee would like to thank everyone who sold chances on a portable global positioning system which was won by **John Titus**, a Field Tech from Mt. Kisco. Closest to the Pin was won by Croton Falls Field Tech **Steve Maher** and Longest Drive was won by **Stewart**

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As I see it . . .



I want to thank everyone who responded to our request to e-mail or write New York **State Senator Steven Saland (R-Poughkeepsie)** about supporting S.5124 the Telecommunications Reform Act, sponsored by **State Senator Vincent Leibell (R-Carmel)**. We

hope he will listen to his constituency and support this vital legislation. If you have not done so already, please e-mail him at saland@senate.state.ny.us. This companion legislation to "The Brodsky Bill" will allow New York State residents in rural and upstate communities access high speed internet via a statewide cable franchise agreement if it is enacted. Right now Verizon is against it because they want to pick and choose the communities that will only be lucrative for them and disregard everyone else. This bill not only insures access to everyone and has consumer protections written into it, the unwritten part of this legislation is even more important and potentially devastating if it does not become law.

Last month we wrote about Verizon's attempt to sell off its network in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to a small company call FairPoint Communications. If there is not a statewide cable franchise agreement in New York, this will open the door for Verizon to do the same thing and sell off its network in upstate New York leaving many CWA men and women out of a job and consumers left to fend for themselves. At this writing Senator Saland has received only 243 e-mails from Local 1103 Members, so keep up the pressure. When you contact the Senator, let him know that people should come before profit and that having a job and providing for your family always comes before collecting an unemployment check.


Verizon has requested early bargaining, and as of this writing, the Union is contemplating discussing this request with the company. And as promised, within hours of it happening, Members

who signed up for our web bargaining updates were notified of this fact.

Mobilization to secure a fair contract is just around the corner. To date not that many Members have sent us their e-mail addresses. The National Union has told us that they intend to coordinate a vigorous mobilization campaign in their efforts to secure a fair contract; therefore we need your e-mail addresses so you also can get the latest bargaining and mobilization information. Your benefits and your jobs will once again be on the line and we need everyone as active, informed and as mobilized as ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob McCracken".

BOB McCracken,
President



THE EAGLE

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LOCAL 1103's 2007 N.Y. POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS

Westchester County Legislators

District 1	George Oros (R)
District 2	Peter Harckham (WF)
District 3	Susan Swanson (R)
District 4	Michael Kaplowitz (WF)
District 5	William Ryan (WF)
District 6	Martin Rogowsky (WF)
District 7	Judith Myers (WF)
District 8	Lois Bronz (WF)
District 9	William Burton (D)
District 10	Vito Pinto (WF)
District 11	no endorsement
District 12	Thomas Abinanti (WF)
District 13	Lyndon Williams (D)
District 14	Bernice Spreckman (R)
District 16	Ken Jenkins (WF)
District 17	Jose Alvarado (WF)

Westchester County Court Judge (vote for 2)

Barbara Zambarelli (R) James Hubert (WF)

Westchester Family Court Judge Janet Jordan (WF)

Mt. Vernon Mayor Clinton Young (D)

City of New Rochelle Mayor- Noam Bramson (WF)

City of Peekskill City Council

Donald Bennet (D) Patricia Riley (D)

City of White Plains City Council

Benjamin Boykin (WF)
Dennis Power (WF)

City of Yonkers Mayor - Phil Amicone (R)

Bedford Town Board

Chris Burdick (WF) David Gabrielson (WF)

Cortland Town Board Dr. Richard Becker (D)

Greenburgh Town Judge

Sandra Forster (WF) Doris Friedman (WF)

Harrison Mayor Joan Walsh (WF)

Yorktown Supervisor Donald Peters (WF)

Yorktown Town Council James Martorano (D)

Putnam County Legislator

District 5 Gerard Furey (WF)

Carmel Town Supervisor Ken Schmitt (R)

Kent Town Council

Joseph D'Ambrosio (WF) Paul Spiegel (WF)

Patterson Town Council Patricia Ploeger (WF)

*We ask that you carefully consider these candidates if you live in their area. They have been interviewed and either have a track record of being CWA/Labor friendly or have committed to being so. Once again, it is the policy of this Local to **not** endorse political parties but only those individuals that have earned it, so please consider them on Election Day.*

**On Tuesday, November 6th
Vote for CWA Endorsed Candidates.**

Business Agents Attend Cornell Leadership School

This September at **Cornell University** in Ithaca, New York, the *Clara Allen Leadership School* was conducted with **Business Agents Mark Crumm, John Gentile** and myself attending. The week-long school provided intense training and education in an academic setting with the focus on enhancing the skills and values of union leaders. The curriculum was varied, but certainly relevant. Included in the instruction were topics as diversified

credibility.

The *Clara Allen Leadership School* had students enrolled from all across the CWA District One footprint. The students cut across all sectors, states and backgrounds; but we were all union men and women and we were all CWA. A fondness for each other developed by the end of the week and everyone was disappointed to see the school conclude. We were truly union brothers and sisters.

in attendance did not realize why we wear red on Thursday and it was explained to them that it actually started out before August 15, 1989, in what was then a mobilization strategy leading up to the strike of '89 against NYNEX. It was "Red for Solidarity" which was only strengthened when Gerry passed on and still continues today. When Mark was finished, many CWA brothers and sisters asked us to send them



Local 1103 Business Agents Kevin Sheil, John Gentile and Mark Crumm join a very diversified and dedicated group of CWA activists at the Clara Allen Leadership School conducted at Cornell University

as politics, advanced grievance handling, union density in the public and private sectors, the Employee Free Choice Act, and corporate greed. The staff and teachers were professional, knowledgeable and entertaining. It is not too often that people in our line of work have the opportunity to be engaged in classroom dialogue with the type of outstanding educators that we had access to. It is also a positive commentary about the union movement that these men and women are involved with and committed to the cause which only enhances our

A highlight of the week came when Business Agent Mark Crumm gave a passionate and stirring speech and history lesson to all our CWA brothers and sisters about **Gerry Horgan**. He spoke about Gerry Horgan the man, and what he meant to his friends and co-workers, and now, what he symbolizes to the union movement and to CWA Local 1103. "The fact that he sacrificed his life doing something noble for others with conviction and principle is all you need to know about the man," he explained. Many CWA students

the Gerry Horgan DVD put together by CWA as told by Gerry's family, friends and co-workers. They also enthusiastically promised to wear red on Thursday for unity.

Another highlight of the week was when the 1103 delegation was asked by a Cornell University professor to lecture his Cornell sophomore students regarding our roles, specifically as Business Agents during contract bargaining, the challenges of the Labor movement today and a brief summary of how

Continued on page 7

SHAME ON WAL-MART, SHAME ON U.S.

Human Rights Watch, in a recent study of Wal-Mart's union evasion strategy, heaped scorn on the giant retailer for creating a "palpable fear" among its workers with an "unabashed, sophisticated and aggressive strategy" to block workers seeking union representation. However, Wal-Mart's tactics wouldn't work if U.S. labor law adequately protected the rights of working American, the study said. The report documented 292 labor violations brought against Wal-Mart, with 101 cases upheld by the National Labor Relations Board. Those cases have been consolidated into 39 formal complaints, involving 17 administrative law judges' rulings that Wal-Mart had violated labor laws. Despite its reputation as biased in favor of employers, the NLRB in Washington only reversed 2 of those decisions.

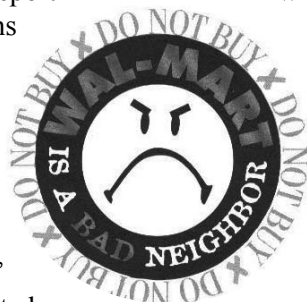
The product of a four-year investigation, the Human Rights Watch study underscored that Wal-Mart's oversized footprint opens the gates for similar exploitation by other employers. "Wal-Mart is a global industry leader and arguably a new model for 21st century business. Its decisions reverberate throughout the U.S. economy and beyond.

The company's choice on a wide range of operating policies matter, and its approach to workers' rights is no exception, the study noted.

Carol Pier, the author of the study, told the *New York Times*: "When the largest private employer in the United States seems to be able to violate U.S. labor law with virtual impunity, that's a very serious cause for concern, both with respect to its impact on its employees, but also on the conduct by other employers in the United States. With 1.3 million workers in its 4,000 stores, Wal-Mart should lead the way in establishing respect and dignity for workers, Human Rights Watch asserted. Instead, Wal-Mart has chosen to exploit "the many loopholes in U.S. labor law to undermine workers' freedom to decide whether to organize a union and, in the process, has become a poster child for what is wrong with U.S. labor law."

Editor's Note: More than ever this proves that we need the Employee Free Choice Act enacted into law to protect U.S. workers.

DON'T SHOP WAL-MART
Reprinted from *Label Letter*



Back to School ...from pg. 6

and why we do what we do. We spoke briefly about their perception of unions and union men and women, attempting to dispel any preconceived notion that they may have had that being Union and working class is anything but noble. In fact, we challenged the students that they will have a choice to make soon they can either be comfortable with their own image as they look into the mirror and choose to be on the right side of the American workers or sell themselves to the highest corporate bidder for their services, likely in the legal field of labor law. It was quite an honor for all of us to speak to the class and the experience is one that we won't soon forget.

KEVIN SHEIL
Business Agent

KEEP AMERICA WORKING!



BUY AMERICAN & LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL!

\$ School Tax Rebate Info \$

About 221,000 homeowners in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties are eligible for the state's Middle Class School Tax Relief program which provides rebates on school taxes. The rebates are in addition to current basic and enhanced STAR benefits and will go to households with incomes up to \$250,000. This is the info:

- * All but senior citizens must apply for the rebate. The rebate is not automatic.
- * Fill out the form you receive from New York State or visit www.tax.state.ny.us/star/2007
- * The deadline is November 30th
- * For information on the program, call 1-877-678-2769.

The Officers,
Executive Board
and Staff of Local 1103

would like to wish
you and yours a very

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

as we begin this 2007
Holiday Season



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

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!