



# THE EAGLE

LOCAL 1103

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October 2007

## Bob McCracken Announces His Retirement **The End Of An Era**

*Newly elected as 1103's President, Mac brings our fight to the public and leads a thousand red-shirted CWA marchers to protest against NYNEX in one of the biggest rallies in White Plains history.*



Last month **President Bob McCracken** announced at our General Membership Meeting that he was retiring at the end of the year. At our next General Membership Meeting in December, his last official act in his capacity as Local 1103's President will be to officially hand over the reins of our Local to **Vice President Joseph A. Barca Jr.** who will then fill out the remainder of the term as per our By-Laws.

As Mac prepares for his retirement, let's go back in time and see the man that became Local

1103's fourth (and longest serving) President since it received its charter over 46 years ago on May 12, 1961.

Bob first started out with the New York Telephone Company in 1958 as a Mail Clerk and eventually became a Central Office Technician. During this time he also served his country in the United States Naval Reserve from 1962 to 1970 as an Aircrewman/Petty Officer serving in the United States, Puerto Rico and in Cuba.

*Continued on page 4*

Salute  
our  
Flag. . . . . pg. 3



Letters  
To The  
Local . . . . . pg. 6



1103's Political  
Endorsements  
. . . . . pg. 7



Service  
Gift  
Award. . . . . pg.8



# As I see it . . .



As you've read in the lead article in this month's *Eagle*, I am retiring; however, I will write my last "As I See It" and officially say good-bye to everyone that reads Local 1103's paper in the December issue.

Since I won't be here as your President next year,

I want to emphasize the importance of saving for the Verizon strike now. If you have not been putting some money aside each week for the last year, you will find yourself stretched very thin very early. The 1990 CWA convention established the Members' Relief Fund to assist strikers and other victims of collective bargaining strategies. Currently, the weekly benefit to strikers and victims is \$200 beginning with the fifteenth day of a strike and increasing to \$300 per week beginning on the twenty-ninth day of a strike. Needless to say, every striker must perform strike duty to be eligible for these benefits.

We all know what a striker is, but let me answer the question going through some of your minds about who a victim is and how are they eligible? Any CWA Member who honors a sanctioned CWA picket line and loses wages because of this, is a victim not your spouse because you didn't get a check to deposit and pay the bills. The Mechanics at Butler Fleet Service were such victims once because they honored the picket lines we put up and subsequently lost their income.

Saving now is important because \$200 to \$300 a week is not a lot of money and no one is eligible for unemployment insurance from New York State until after 7 weeks on the street. Also, if you had any vacation pay from Verizon during that time, the length of your eligibility for unemployment is increased by the amount of time you received vacation pay. Presently, the maximum allowed in New York is \$405 UI a week, so you would have to be on strike for nearly two months to see \$700 a week.

Many of you have started saving, BUT many of you haven't. It's so easy to say I'll start tomorrow. Well, tomorrow is coming soon and I don't want to see anyone unprepared. Trust me. Verizon is ready to endure a long strike. You can even go through the NEA Federal Credit Union and have money for your personal strike fund deducted from your paycheck.

Our benefits, not wages, will be the major issue in negotiations. Verizon wants higher co-pays, larger deductibles and reduced benefits. We fought too hard to get to where we are today and we can't go backwards. This is where the battle lines will be drawn so save now, because the fight is surely coming.

On another matter concerning the 2008 Verizon contract, we are putting together an e-mail address list for our Members in order to be able to contact you directly by e-mail on mobilization events and the status of contract updates. So please make sure you get on our list. If you have not already done so, please call the Union Hall and request to be put the Verizon e-mail mobilization list. You will be asked for limited information concerning your e-mail address. Be assured that your e-mail address will only be used for communication between the Union and yourself.

**BOB McCracken,**  
President



## THE EAGLE

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## DO YOU THINK VERIZON SHOULD GET BILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS \$\$\$ TO ABANDON IT'S CUSTOMERS?

As we've reported previously, Verizon is trying to sell its network in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine in New England to FairPoint Communications. FairPoint is a tiny, undercapitalized outfit. Massive Verizon chose Fine FairPoint because it could avoid paying \$700 million in taxes on the \$2.7 billion deal by taking advantage of a tax loophole called the Reverse Morris Trust.

While Verizon walks away with taxpayer money, consumers and the economy will suffer because highly leveraged FairPoint will not be able to invest in a high speed internet infrastructure; thus eliminating its millions of customers from access to the information superhighway of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and forcing them on to the information dirt road. This is just a start. Verizon has announced its intention to sell off other regions.

Call your Senators and Congressmembers to support the elimination of the Reverse Morris Trust. Let them know that this loophole is bad for telecom workers and consumers. In order to avoid taxes, large telecom companies (Verizon in particular) must sell off their properties to much smaller firms that do not have the resources to invest in the future, nor maintain the existing infrastructure or respond to emergencies. US tax dollars are going to boost company profits, rather than expanding the build out of high speed internet for all. Rural families and their children are losing out on the possibilities of accessing the limitless information available to others over the internet. Ask your Congressional reps to support closing this loophole for these reasons. Besides your Congressional Member, also leave a message for **Charles Rangel**, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee to support such legislation. The five Ways & Means Committee House Members of the Northern New England delegation have done so and they have asked for everyone's help.

**Act now to save your job!! Call Congress at 202-225-3121  
Tell them: No taxpayer money for selling off networks.  
Make the Reverse Morris Trust tax scheme illegal.**

## New Bill Allows VETS to Salute the U.S. Flag

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, the United States Senate unanimously passed S.1877 that clarified current U.S. law allowing Veterans and Servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law states that Veterans and Servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

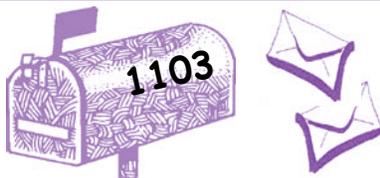
The bill's sponsor, **Senator James Inhofe** of Oklahoma said that, "The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service. Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether Veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag."

This legislation clarifies the current regulation and allows Veterans and service men and women alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. "I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades and formal events and believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million Veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right and their recognition will be an inspiration to others," Inhofe concluded.





# LETTERS TO THE LOCAL



Dear Local 1103,

On behalf of myself and my family, I am proud to be the recipient of one of the Local 1103 scholarship awards to further my education. I will be attending Western Connecticut State University where I will be studying secondary education as well as the performing arts. I will be sure to put this award to good use to help pay for my college expenses.

Once again, thank you very much, and as always, I am proud to be part of the CWA Local 1103 union family.

Sincerely,  
/s/ANTHONY M. SANTORA III

\* \* \*

Dear Local 1103,

Thank you for all the good work you do for the people of CWA Local 1103, both active and retired. Kindly accept this gift (\$100) for the charitable and benevolent work of our Union.

Regards,  
/s/ Joe & Kathy Alterio  
retired COT, Peekskill

*Ed. Note: Joe's gift was forwarded to the Kevin Cleary Fund*

To the Executive Board and Members of CWA Local 1103,

I sincerely appreciate the generous scholarship your fine organization has so kindly awarded me. I assure you that this money shall be put to good use as a financial stepping stone. What your organization does by awarding scholarships to the children of its Members is a living actualization of its benevolence.

Thank you for investing in my future.

/s/PATRICIA E. GILLESPIE

\* \* \*

Dear Mr. Sheahan and Local 1103

Thank you so very much for the generous scholarship that I received at the Union picnic. This scholarship money is greatly appreciated by my parents and me. It will be used to help pay for my education at Bryant University.

Once again, thank you.  
/s/CHRISTINE HAYDEN

*Mac.... continued from pg. 5*

Council and also as its Political Action Committee Chairman. As if this wasn't enough, Mac grew the Local by obtaining bargaining rights for Bethel Paraprofessionals, C-Med, the City of West Haven Supervisors, City of West Haven Board of Education, East Shore Health District, Nyack Hospital Technical Unit, Rye Free Reading Room, Town of Fairfield E-911 among others. Mac has also served as a fundraiser for the American Red Cross and the United Way and sat on their Board of Directors. During his 1103 career, he also helped raise money for the Guiding Eyes for the Blind, the Westchester Burn Center and the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital to name a few.



**Mac congratulates John Hall on his election victory.**

We asked Bob why he chose to leave now and in true Mac form he said, "for the Local to insure that we had continuity on the bargaining committee during and after 2008 negotiations." Joe Barca will be taking Mac's seat on the bargaining table and Mac did not want to see Joe overwhelmed with bargaining while facing leading a potential strike. Mac wanted everything to be in place for his successor and for our Members. We thank him for everything he has done, for making this the best Local within CWA, and leaving us with an example to cherish, to be proud of and to follow.

## **Top 10 reasons people don't vote**

- 1. My vote doesn't count.**
- 2. Doesn't make any difference who's elected.**
- 3. I don't have the time to get involved.**
- 4. I'd need the whole day off to vote.**
- 5. I only vote when it's important to me**
- 6. I don't care.**
- 7. I don't have time to be informed about the issues.**
- 8. Candidates don't keep their promises.**
- 9. My taxes keep going up. No one cares.**
- 10. I'm not registered to vote.**

## **Register and Vote!**

# 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)

*There are many offices that are not listed above for an endorsement from our Local. This means there is either a "No Endorsement" for that spot or the interviewing committee could not agree on a candidate. Also, it should be noted that if a candidate elected not to fill out one of our questionnaires and/or did not show up for the interview process, they were automatically not considered for endorsement. This does not mean that their opponent received our endorsement, only that they took themselves out of consideration because every candidate was made aware of how our selection process works. We made ourselves available on several different occasions during the day and in the evening after work, so every candidate had plenty of opportunities to be there. We regret to say that many good people were automatically disqualified because of this.*

**November 6<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. There is still time to register. We have the forms at the**

Attention !!

# ALL RECENT RETIREES

If you took advantage of the recent EIPP Offer and retired, you may also be eligible for Local 1103's SERVICE GIFT AWARD.

Anyone who has been a Member in good standing for ten consecutive years immediately preceding their separation from the payroll is eligible.

Please stop by the Union Hall or call Secretary/Treasurer Douglas Sheahan for an application.



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!