



THE EAGLE



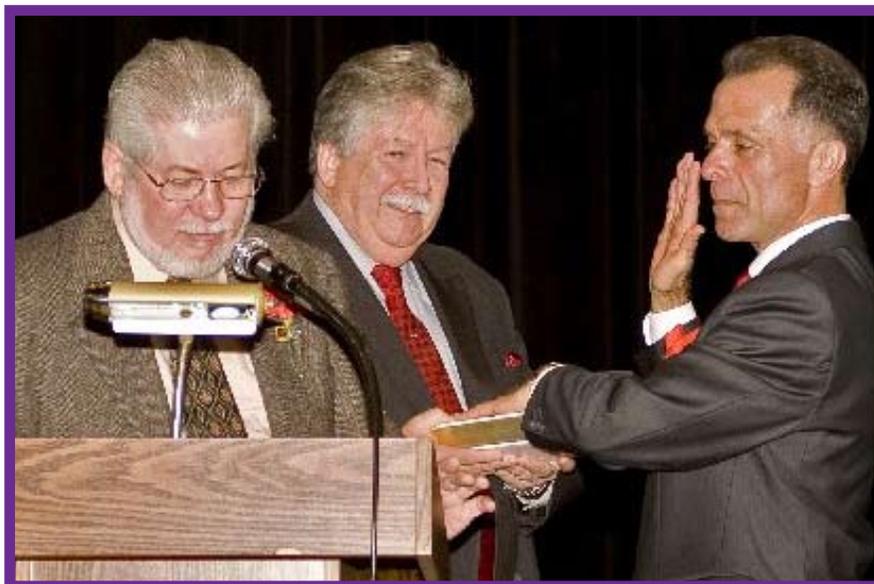
LOCAL 1103

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January 2008

A New Era Begins In Local 1103



Outgoing President Bob McCracken administers the oath of office to incoming Local 1103 President Joseph A. Barca, Jr. as District One V.P. Chris Shelton holds the Bible.

At the December General Membership Meeting, Joseph A. Barca Jr. became Local 1103's President, the fifth person to do so since it received its charter in 1961. Retiring President Bob McCracken said it best when he told people that he "could not have turned over the reins of Local 1103 to a better person. I've known Joe for thirty years, and he is probably one of the hardest working people I've ever seen. His enthusiasm for his work and his passion for the CWA men and women he has represented in every union job he has held is an example for others to follow. Many people already know that he is an asset to Local 1103 and he will prove to be a credit to CWA and the labor movement."

Without going into all of Joe's accomplishments, District One has already recognized him when they

presented him with "The Gerry" award, given to a union leader that best exemplifies what the trade union is all about. Joe received this at the 2003 District One conference for "leading by example" during our contract negotiations with Verizon. When presented with the award, District One Vice President Chris Shelton said, "CWA won the fight and Local 1103 was on the forefront every day." The National Union in Washington has also recognized Joe's passion for his union and for people and tapped him to serve on the Appeals Committee at the 2004 annual convention. This committee has the final say on cases going to arbitration and can overturn any decision the National Union has previously made. They felt that Joe's sense of fair play and level-headedness would serve the Members best interest and trusted

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From the desk of . . .



As everyone has said, I have some pretty big shoes to fill; but I know I can with everyone's help. We have a very good and hard working Executive Board, and a Steward body that is second to none. We have collectively settled grievances and arbitrations cases that have earned our Members

millions of dollars and saved countless jobs. This is the team I am looking forward to working with as we go forward and continue to be - Proud To Be 1103.

Bargaining has already started and we have been regularly putting updates on our website as we get them. At this writing there have been several mobilization activities that CWA District One has asked us to perform, and as bargaining gets more intense, our mobilization efforts will intensify also. I realize that some of these activities might appear to be pointless or futile, but always keep your eye on the prize. Every concerted effort we do to secure a contract sends a message to Verizon. That message you send to your manager at work gets reported to corporate headquarters and they collate all of our efforts to see the level of participation the Locals are doing. If they get reports that participation is weak in one spot or two, they know where to attack. If they see inactivity all over, they interpret this as the Union does not have the support it needs to aggressively fight for a fair contract at the bargaining table. So when your Business Agent or Chief Steward asks you to sign a petition, attend a rally, work safely or do some other mobilization activity, send the message that we will do whatever it takes to secure our jobs and our benefits.

When Local bargaining starts, I have been selected to represent the three Hudson Valley Locals at the bargaining table. Soon I will be putting out a bargaining survey to get your input on what you feel is a priority for bargaining and I will insure that your ideas go to the right place and are included. Don't take for granted that they know you want dental insurance increased or the TTA program to continue for example.

Finally, as everyone is aware, we are conducting an election for Vice President. As we've always said, your voice is your vote and only you can determine who you want to succeed me. This is not a political forum for one candidate or another, but we are asking you to participate in the democratic process. I intend

for our next Vice President to handle all non-Verizon contracts and work hand in hand with our Organizing Department. Our Local needs to grow in order for us to serve you as effectively as we have in the past; so in order to do so, we will be restructuring our organizing efforts to aggressively organize new groups. These new groups will need new contracts negotiated and your new Vice President will be working with our Organizing Department to accomplish this. These are just a few of the tasks I will expect from our incoming Vice President on top of handling the grievance procedure, doing pre-arbitration prep work and presenting cases before the National Labor Relations Board, etc. etc., so you can see how important this will be for our Local and how important your vote is.

JOSEPH A. BARCA, Jr.
President



THE EAGLE

Proud To Be 1103

Official Publication of the
Communications Workers of America Local 1103

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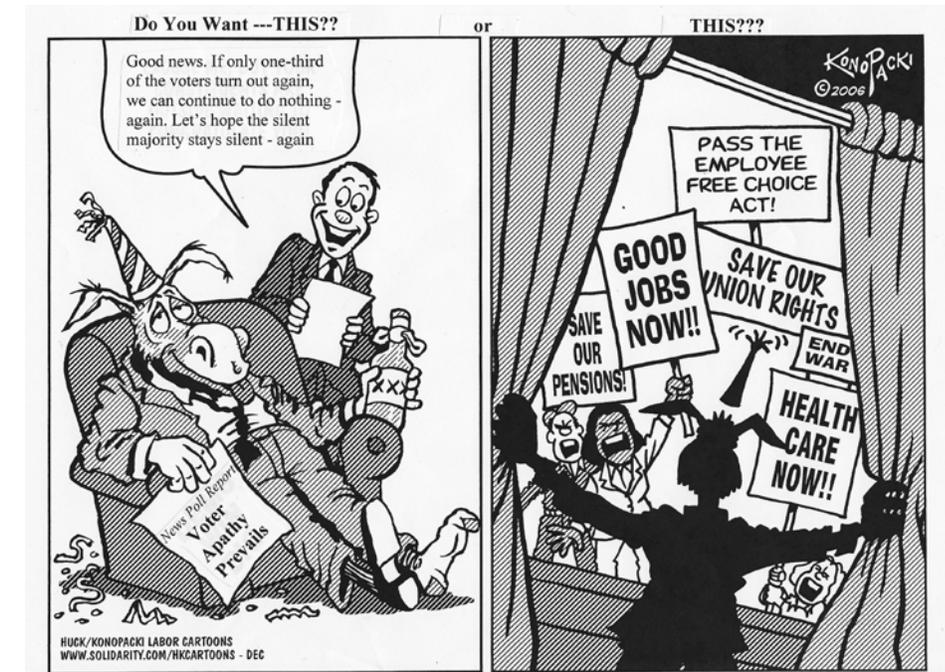
AT PORT CHESTER, NY 10573
January 2008

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The Real Adversary in American Politics is Apathy

Last month we talked about the elections being over, with the emphasis being about the voter apathy and indifference that seems to pervade across our country. Almost every Board of Elections reported that a 30 to 33% voter turn-out was the norm. Here we are at war, presumably trying to establish a democracy in a foreign country; yet 2/3rd's of very same people that celebrate our independence on July 4th every year that our forefathers fought and sacrificed for, either aren't registered or left the democratic right to vote to someone else last November. Well, Election Day for 2008 might seem to be a long ways off, but in reality it is right around the corner. This month, people in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina will let their voices be heard and the residents of New York and Connecticut will be doing the same when they join a host of other states and hold their presidential primaries next month on February 5th to select their Republican and Democratic candidates. We cannot let that apathy and indifference once again prevail.

We cannot allow 1/3 of the people dictate who will be in the White House. There is too much at stake. Do you want to stop the attempts to privatize our Social Security? Do you want to stop the reckless spending that we taxpayers are paying for and the tax cuts that only the wealthy are eligible for on top of that? Do you want continued inaction on America's healthcare crisis? Do you want to see the practice of trampling on our civil rights and liberties continue? Do you want to see our Constitution



further eroded and ignored? And do you want to end the war and bring our servicemen and women home? All these and more are the issues that our next president has to address. Every survey being conducted says the American people do not want more of the same. They are tired of the "status quo," but the only way to change that is to VOTE. Can you imagine if one-third of the Members of this Local's Executive Board were allowed to decide how our Local was to operate instead of by majority rule? Never happen! Can you see 1/3rd of the town and village boards determining how to run your town instead of a majority speaking on behalf of the residents? or can you envision one-third of a group (any group – town, school, state, etc.) saying they are going to raise your taxes and it's accepted? The answer to the last two questions should also be NO, but regrettably, the answer is YES because

of poor voter participation. It should never be that way, so don't let it.

Do yourself and your family a favor and turn that old "silent majority" adage into the "vociferous majority of America's mainstream." Your only voice at the polls is your vote - so speak up. Speak up and determine who you want to control your tax base, your budget, and your retirement security. Speak up and let people know that it is not okay to keep sending American jobs overseas and giving tax breaks to corporations that do. Speak up and protect your family. February 5th is only a month away, so when you go to the polls that day, YOU will be determining which party and which candidate you want to run your country for the next four years.

CHRISTOPHER CUTTER
Assistant to the President

***The Presidential Primaries in New York and Connecticut are only a month away
February 5, 2008 is Super Tuesday – Your Vote Can Make The Difference***

***In Connecticut you must be registered by January 22nd and in New York you must be registered by January 11th
We have the forms at the Union Hall – Stop by or call and one will be mailed***

Dear Joe Barca,

Thank you for letting me babble on last night; but I was so upset, and talking to my husband was only upsetting him and me even more. I really needed to hear a calm and reasonable voice. I've always known you give 150% all the time to all of the Members. I needed to calm down and you helped me do that.

I'm sorry that I called you at home, especially when I know you have a million other things to do – but you called me back and that meant the world to me. You can share this letter with our Members because we are not Members to you, but people that you care about.

Sincerely,
/s/**PAM BLAIR**

* * *

Dear CWA,

On behalf of the hospital patients in your community, thank you for your commitment to the New York-Penn Region blood program. As a dedicated blood drive sponsor, your leadership in the coming months will help prevent blood shortages and just recently helped 339 men, women and children in our community. Together, we can save lives.

/s/**TOM KANE**
Blood Coordinator, Red Cross

* * *

Dear 1103,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the 1103 Executive Board for attending my retirement celebration at Antun's Restaurant. The Service Gift Award of \$250 was most generous.

You guys played a very important role in my 35+ year career at Verizon, Bell Atlantic, NYNEX and New York Telephone. I will never forget how important the strike of '89 was in maintaining our health benefits. That victory is why we're all here today.

/s/**RON ZAJICEK**

P.S. Good luck in bargaining for a fair contract.

* * *

LETTERS TO THE LOCAL



Dear Bob,

As I know that you are about to retire, I thought it an appropriate time to say "Thank You" to you and to Local 1103 for the assistance to CWA District One by Business Agent Joe Mayhew. Joe has been an asset to the District in many arenas, his computer skills and work ethic are second to one.

I know that you take pride in grooming new leaders for the labor movement and I can certainly attest that in Joe's case your efforts paid off. Allowing the District to partake in Joe's talents has taken many forms and he has excelled in each of them. Joe's efforts in developing the SEP training in Verizon, his help with the PSC and our members to strengthen service standards, his training of our members for the Steward's Army, his work as the "Speed Matters" coordinator for Local 1103 and 1107 and his most recent work with my staff putting together a Newsletter for Verizon Business Techs have all been successful because of Joe's hard work.

Please accept my gratitude for Joe and your help and know that District One and CWA Local 1103 are better places because of it.

In Unity,
/s/**CHRIS SHELTON**
Vice President, CWA District 1

* * *

Dear Joey,

Thanks for all your recent help. On behalf of the LMC, we really appreciate everything you've done.

I will be at the Open House for Mac and also at the General Membership Meeting. Of course I am very sorry to see Bobby go. It is the end of an era; but nothing could make me happier that you are our new President. I am absolutely confident that you will be great. You have proved consistently since the day I met you, that you are a dedicated and tenacious union leader. I am looking forward to continue working with you.

Also, thanks for constant the bargaining updates.

/s/**PAM HARRISON**,
President
1103 Life Members Club

* * *

To all the CWA men and women who were at the Horgan/Borella Golf Tournament at Beekman C.C.

Words cannot begin to express my gratitude for your wonderful generosity for the money you collected on my behalf. Thank you so very much. It has touched my heart and will certainly be a great help.

With affection,
/s/**CAROL MUISE**
Beekman Country Club

Ed. Note: Carol is worker at the golf course and a victim of breast cancer and her insurance coverage is lacking at best, so when the golfers at our annual tournament learned of this, they collected \$753 to help defray her medical costs. Once again, CWA men and women are the best.

* * *

To all the Officers of 1103 & everyone who participated in the Horgan-Borella golf tournament,

Thank you once again for your continuing support for me and my family. May God bless all of you.

In brotherhood,
/s/**KAREN, CHRIS &
DANIELLE**

* * *

Dear Local 1103 Executive Board and Members,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Union for bestowing upon me two generous scholarship awards. The awards you so kindly gave were invested in my college education. I am currently attending Westchester Community College studying electrical engineering. I am fortunate to be a part of the Local 1103 family. I have been raised in a pro-union family and I recognize and appreciate the Union's generosity to its Members and their families.

Once again, thank you very much.
Sincerely,

/s/**DAVID H. FRANKFURTER**

* * *

Union Scholarships Available

Union Plus Scholarship

Applications for the 2008 Union Plus Scholarship program are available. To download an application go to www.union-plus.org and go to the "Education Services" in the left column. Then follow the prompts to the scholarship section. The application **deadline is January 31, 2008.** Due to the high volume of applications, only winners will be notified. Since 1992, this program has provided over \$2.4 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their secondary education and over 1,700 families have benefited since its inception. The Union Plus Education Program

is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

CWA Joseph Beirne Scholarship

The Joe Beirne Foundation was established in 1974 to honor the name and memory of CWA's founding President who served for more than 30 years. In 1999, the CWA Executive Board combined the Beirne and Hackney scholarship programs into today's CWA Joe Beirne Foundation. There are 30 partial scholarships of up to \$3,000 each, and the winners also will receive second-year scholarships for the same amount, contingent upon satisfactory academic achievement of the first year.

CWA Members in good standing, their spouses, children and grandchildren (including dependents of laid-off, retired or deceased CWA Members) may apply. **Applications must be submitted by March 31, 2008.** You can only apply online at www.cwa-union.org/members/beirne.

The Local 1103's scholarships will become available in the Spring and the applications will appear in The Eagle.

DOUGLAS SHEAHAN
Secretary/Treasurer



The Retiree's Corner

Before the spring catalogs arrive, let's all get acquainted with an organization specifically geared towards keeping telephone companies honest. I am sure we can identify with the lack of corporate honesty displayed by our former employer. Log on to www.teletruth.com and you will be impressed with the effort this organization is putting forth on behalf of all telephone consumers -more specifically, on behalf of the senior citizen consumers. Verizon and AT&T harvest customers in surveys and use the data for their own advantage, mainly for raising rates and lowering services standards. One such customer survey collected by VZ showed that low volume users (seniors) pay an average of \$10.00 per month for their basic service at the rate of \$.19 per call. However, when TELETRUTH investigated actual phone company bills from low volume users, they discovered the actual bill showed \$.42 per call. TELETRUTH presented this information and the actual phone bills to the FCC to challenge a VZ rate increase. Log on to their website to see what happened. Another corporate survey shows how VZ and AT&T have made the American telecommunications industry the "Global Gold Standard" the envy of

all. Well, maybe the companies forgot their promises they made about fiber-to-the-premise, but we do. We remember the \$200 billion for the fiber optics networks we customers paid through state and local taxes and phone bill surcharges. Do we all have fiber to our homes – that was promised and paid for? Or are we now paying for some enhanced bundle of services many of us don't need. The U.S. is ranked 16th in the world in broadband. What happened to all the technology developed in our country and the skilled workers living here. Log onto www.teletruth.com and find out.

Even through we retirees are out of the industry, we are not out of the loop. Verizon et al need to know we are more aware than they realize. It is to our benefit to keep an eye on the company that has an eye on the over-funded pension plans we all paid into. Keeping them honest is a full time job, and your RMC is committed to keeping them in the hot seat and not let them chip away at our retirement benefits. So when we ask for help, help your retired Brothers and Sisters and help yourself.

ANN ROUGHLEY
1103 Retired Members Club

New Era Begins... from front cover

his judgement to interpret all of the different contracts pertaining to the 30+ cases involved, the law and use his compassion along the way. Apparently they did not get upset with the decisions he made to instruct the National Union to reverse some of their decisions, because they asked him to be the Chair of the Appeals Committee the following year.

We have some tough times ahead of us, but those that know Joey know that he is up to the task. Mobilization for pre-bargaining will be getting more intense, early bargaining at the regional table has already started and Local bargaining will get under way later this year - and Joe will be there representing us. With Joey's zeal for the job, with an Executive Board that is as hard working as he is, and a Steward body as vigilant as ever on your behalf, we know that Local 1103 will continue to be the best of the best.



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...

Only 8 months until strike-time. Are you saving up yet?
DON'T FORGET TO GO TO: CWA1103.ORG AND SIGN UP FOR
ALL THE CURRENT 2008 BARGAINING UPDATES

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!