

September/October 2011

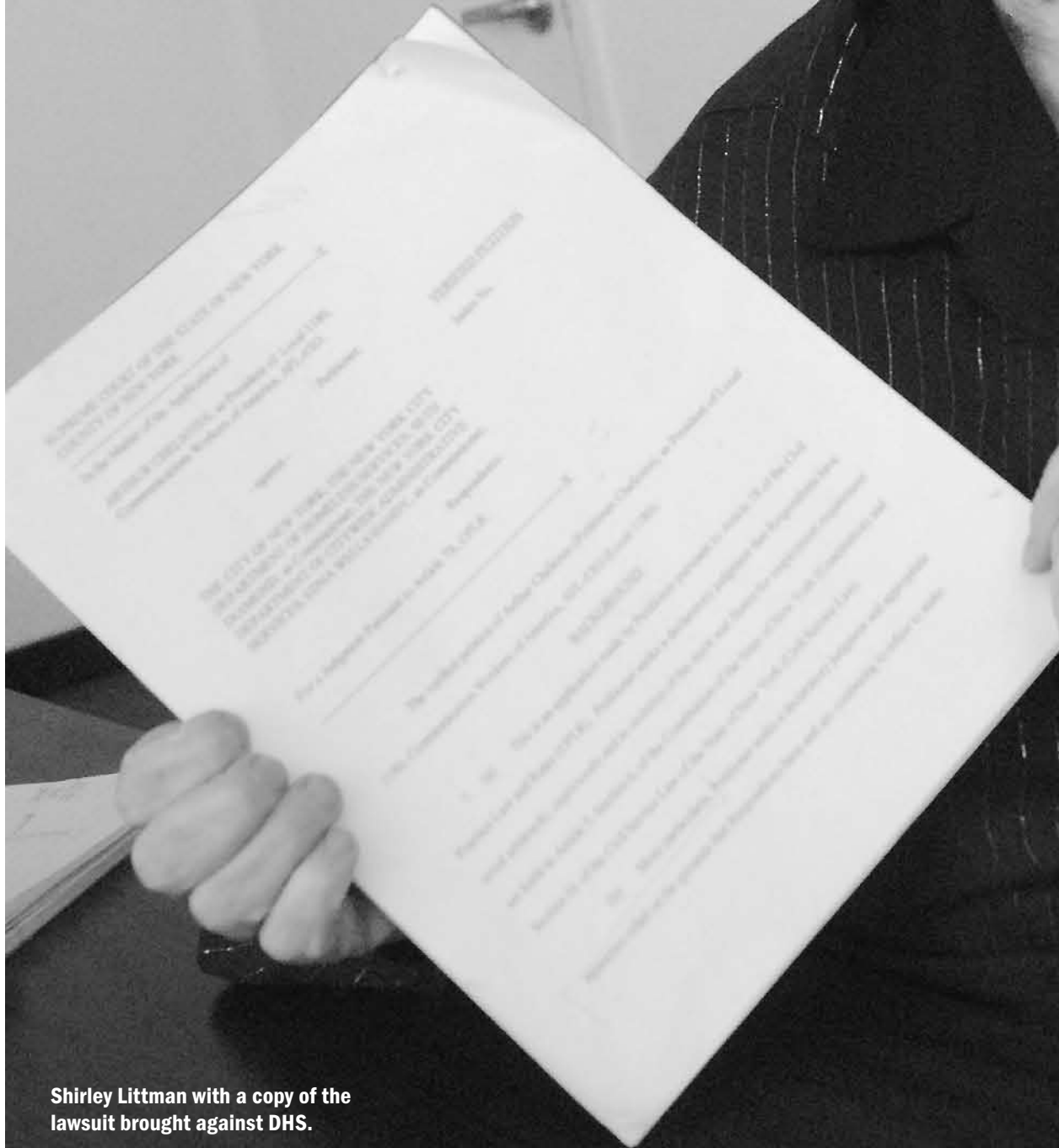
Communiqae

A union is a way of doing something together you can't do alone. Utah Phil

Local 1180, Communications Workers of America

DHS is breaking the law

See page 6



Shirley Littman with a copy of the lawsuit brought against DHS.

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

Who do you think the next mayor should be?



Kyonda President
PAA, Dept. of Social Services

Oprah Winfrey. Oprah started out as a poor woman on welfare and

became an African American billionaire. She is in touch with the needs of minorities and minority women. She has demonstrated the desire to assist individuals in need both in the U.S. and in Africa and has shown her generous side quite often. She has the assets available to run but has experienced the other side of being rich. Winfrey has political connections and is arguably the most powerful and influential black woman in America.



Heather Jones
PAA, Dept. of Social Services

John Liu. Liu showed his constituents and city employees that

he was not afraid to stand up to the mayor and denounce CityTime and the fraud being perpetrated against us taxpayers. He stood firm in his decision to stop funding the crooks/consultants at CityTime. He understands the needs of minorities and is not divisive. I believe he will be able to work with the union leaders in reaching a fair and equitable contract with the city workers who will help elect him to office.



Darcelle Thompson
Administrative Manager,
Dept. of Social Services

Plaxico Burress. He's now a

model citizen. He's perfect considering that our current mayor had lobbied to teach him a lesson by incarcerating him for shooting himself in the leg. Finally some justice can be served because Burress could incarcerate our current mayor for not caring about the poor and the middle class since he is sticking us up without a gun. This way he would have the opportunity to experience some of what others less fortunate have felt and continue to feel. Which would suit him best, an orange jump suit or black and white stripes.

Helena Crump is the Roving Reporter

A shop steward who will fight

By Gary Schoichet

James Monaghan
Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene
Computer Associate Technical Support

James Monaghan has had his share of defining moments: coming out, going from public assistance to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as an employee, hearing Dolly Parton sing "When I Sing for Him," the AIDS epidemic, the destruction of the World Trade Center towers, becoming a shop steward and the 1180 Stewards' Conference in May.

"In my neighborhood in the Bronx people didn't like gay people. I got into fights. I wouldn't back down. Older queens told me that if I was going to be a little more feminine I was going to have to fight," he said. When Monaghan began working in the early 1980s he wore

yellow feather earrings and long, very long, painted fingernails (his own), and blond hair (also his own) in a ponytail down to his thighs; a different person than most of his co-workers were used to seeing.

"There were three homophobic men working with me and they would get together and make all sorts of remarks about me and to me. I got into a fight with two of them and told both, "I'm more of a woman than you will ever see

UNION PROUD

and more of a man than you will ever be." He was applauded by the women in the office and both men apologized.

In the early 1970s, after hearing that one Dolly Parton song and buying her albums, he was asked by a friend if he was becoming a drag queen. He borrowed under-

garments from his mother, bought two Nerf footballs, had a cousin do his hair, and lip synching to her records, his career was born at the Chateau Pelham. Monaghan still performs at fundraisers for AIDS and GMOB (Gay Men of the Bronx).

"When the AIDS epidemic hit it tore my heart apart. I spent a lot of time in hospitals. I was feeding people, taking pulses, and learning medicine," Monaghan said. "I was afraid I'd stop hanging around my straight friends. We were sitting on a stoop and my friend Linda took my soda that I drank from and drank from it. 'Now I have what you have,'" she said. He lost 30 friends, friends who never made it to the age of 30. Monaghan has been a member of GMOB for 11 years. "We help out our people; take care of our own."

"On 9/11 I saw people jumping from the windows of the World Trade Center. I saw the first building go down. But it was the people. I was hysterical. I think Rosie (co-worker) slapped me. I got home about four and saw on the TV that it was people I saw. Didn't want to come back to work; didn't want to ride the subway. Still feel that way."

At the Stewards' Conference, Monaghan learned what he already knew: rich people need to pay their fair share. "They don't think of people who are living paycheck to paycheck. "Of his overall boss, the Mayor, he said, "He can go to a store that has no price tags on the items.

"As a single person I pay a lot in taxes. Rich people who have big bank accounts need to pay their fair share." At the conference he bonded with others fighting for workers and "against those who don't care about working-class people" and was given enough information to back up his knowledge.

With that knowledge, Monaghan spent seven weeks of Thursdays giving people the leaflets that dispelled the myths about the public sector and public sector workers, myths perpetrated by the right wing. "This is important," he said. "I busted my ass handing out leaflets."



Former Local 1180 and current Organization of Staff Analysts shop steward Rhonda Joseph said of James Monaghan, "When I left 1180 I wanted a shop steward who would fight and I picked him."

GARY SCHOICHET

AT THE CWA CONVENTION

What U. S. Rep. George Miller said

The ideologues “know that unions are the rock of resistance, and that we can’t have a strong middle class without unions. The employers know it and the Republicans know it.”

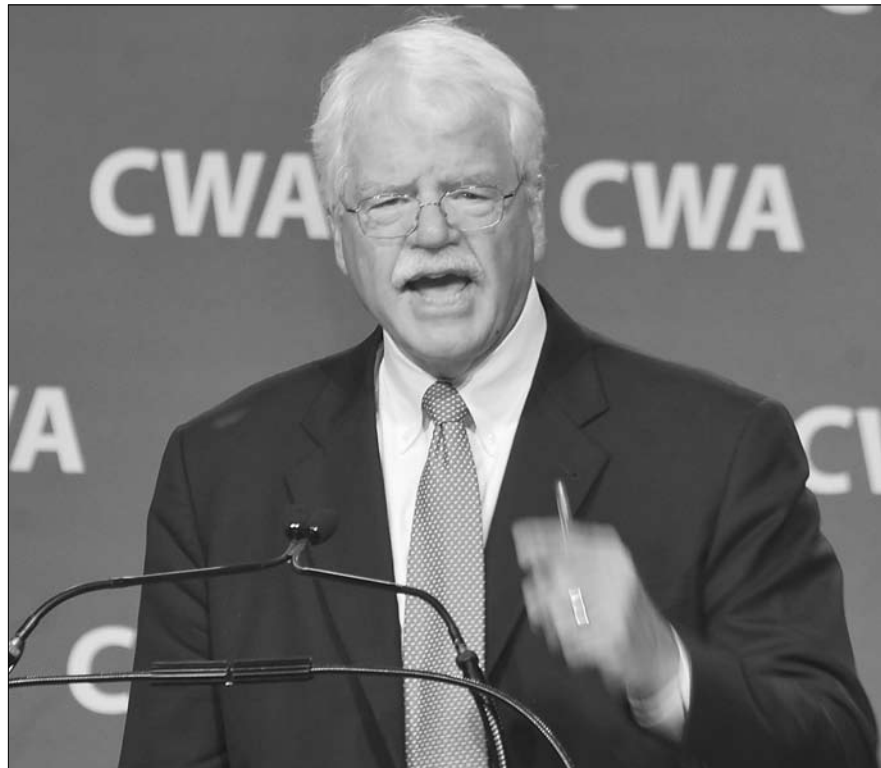
The more they can weaken organizing and bargaining rights, the bigger their share of the pie, and the less power unions have to energize and mobilize millions of people to fight back, Miller said.

“I fundamentally believe that the future of our country rests on a strong middle class, and a strong middle class depends on strong unions,” Miller said.

Workers at risk

He described some of the many ways that workers and the economic security of their families are at risk.

From attempts to destroy the National Labor Relations Board to support for unfair trade pacts that ship American jobs overseas, demands to reverse even minimal Wall Street reform and the new push to privatize Medicare and Social Security, Big Business and



George Miller (D-Calif.): “All of us together will win this fight.”

its Republican enablers in Congress will stop at nothing to undermine the middle class, Miller said.

Their Medicare scheme, for instance, would make it impossible for the vast majority of Americans

to afford quality medical care in retirement.

“For a 54-year-old, you’d better find another \$182,000 to save over the next decade just to pay for their plan,” Miller said. “If you’re younger than 54, you’ll have to save even more.”

But Miller pledged to never give up and said he knows that CWA won’t either. “I will work every day as hard as I can, I will fight every day as hard as I can, and all of us together will win this fight,” he said.

Democracy in action

The Convention decides on matters that members or locals feel have been improperly decided through the union’s chain of authority. In a case at this year’s convention delegates overruled the union and the Appeals Committee recommendation.

Sarah Childs had seven and a half years of service with AT&T. She was terminated in May 2010 for misconduct—specifically, failure to report to work, as well as job abandonment. Ms. Childs was on a disability absence. On February 18, 2010 she was notified that her claim for short-term disability benefits had been denied. She was also notified that she could appeal that decision. On March 19 she was notified that since her disability benefits had been denied and she would exhaust her FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) time, she must report to work on March 26 and that failure to report might result in suspension

pending further review. Ms. Childs did not report to work. On March 29 she was notified she had been placed on suspension.

Her “Day-In-Court” with management on April 29 was recessed for further review until May 7, and then, in May, she was fired.

The CWA executive board had ruled not to take her case to arbitration.

The end?
No.

Overwhelming democracy

Members at the microphones fervently disagreed with the Executive Board and the Appeals Committee, stating that her termination violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), because whether her disability benefits were denied or not, she was unable to report to work.

The delegates voted overwhelmingly to overturn the decision and send the case to arbitration.

Melissa Pike’s seconding of Next Generation Committee report

Irise to echo my brother in support of our Next Generation Committee and the important work they are doing. I want to underscore the importance and value of mentoring. We are nothing without our past—we stand on the shoulders of giants. You reap what you sow—if your leadership has been open, positive, and inclusive, then the leaders you are teaching will continue in your tradition. And if you are a strong leader you can’t expect those you teach to not learn to be strong.

I would invite every local leader who is running for re-election who has 30-35+ years of service to examine why they are running again. If the reason is because there is even a glimmer of a fear of the future or to hold on to the past, I would ask you to take that fear and turn it to energy and action and help build up the future of your local. Our Retired Members’ Council is a strong organization that also needs your energy. We need retired mentors who can not only teach us how to be the best labor leaders, but to show us where the bodies are buried so we can leverage that knowledge into great contracts and grievance settlements.

Melissa Pike is Vice President of CWA Local 3204 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Why workers need a union

The following are remarks that were to be delivered at the CWA convention by Elvis Alvira, a T-Mobile (unionized in Germany, non-union in the U.S.) technician working on Long Island and seeking union representation for himself and his co-workers at T-Mobile. District 1 Vice President Chris Shelton read them.

“EVERY DAY I WAKE UP to go to work and wonder, I wonder if today will be my last day as an employee of T-Mobile...

“Will they [again] deny me a well-earned raise as they did two years ago? Will they play favorites on who gets a promotion or a

high performance review, as they have done over and over again? Those are just a few of the many reasons why we have been fighting extremely hard to organize and join CWA.

“T-Mobile can try as many fear tactics as they would like, but I’m not afraid. I was a U.S. Marine. I’ve never feared having to go into battle so why would I fear T-Mobile? But not all of my co-workers were former Marines or soldiers or sailors. T-Mobile has done a great job at instilling fear in a lot of them.

“This is a fight I will never give up on, not only for myself, but for my co-workers, my family, my country.”

Arizona has a state gun

Sen. Ron Gould of Lake Havasu City, Arizona, proposed the establishment of an official state gun, that gun being the Colt single action Army revolver. Forty-two other Republicans from the House and Senate signed on as co-sponsors.

"I think Arizona has a tradition of being a Wild West state," Gould explained. "The Colt single action Army revolver epitomizes the Wild West heritage of Arizona."

Oh, so cold

"Gunshot wound to torso with perforations of aorta, right kidney, stomach, small intestine, and left hemidiaphragm... The manner of death is certified as homicide."*

Christina-Taylor Green was nine years old when she, along with five other people, was shot to death in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, collateral damage to an attempt on the life of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

*Coroner's report, released March 7.

I desire those politicians who dislike my overture, and may perhaps be so bold as to attempt an answer, that they will first ask the parents of these mortals, whether they would not at this day think it a great happiness to have been sold for food, at a year old in the manner I prescribe, and thereby have avoided such a perpetual scene of misfortunes as they have since gone through

by the oppression of landlords, the impossibility of paying rent without money or trade, the want of common sustenance, with neither house nor clothes to cover them from the inclemencies of the weather, and the most inevitable prospect of entailing the like or greater miseries upon their breed for ever.

(Jonathan Swift, A Modest Proposal, 1729)

A not so modest proposal

End all gun control laws

By Gary Schoichet

In 1729 Jonathan Swift, best known as the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, wrote a satiric essay called *A Modest Proposal* in which he suggested that poor children be eaten so as to not make them a burden to their parents, and furthermore to make them beneficial to the well being of society. Today's Tea Party climate suggests that a more modern version of a modest proposal is in order.

Today's Republican Congress is determined to cut spending in order to reduce the deficit. The Republicans are unwilling to raise revenues by means of tax increases or closing tax loopholes because the "job creators" can't afford new taxes, they say. Even some Democrats say that lowering taxes as well as extending the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy is the best way to reduce the deficit and get America back on the road to prosperity for all.

Too little money for programs

This path to prosperity is littered with the detritus of a large portion of the middle class as well as the ever-increasing numbers of those who used to be the middle class and are now poor and homeless, and the poor who have always been poor. The budget cuts proposed by and insisted upon by the Republican-majority House of Representatives, and state houses all over the nation, fall on programs that affect mostly the poorest of the poor and others too, and also include cuts in education, health care (community health centers, maternal and child health block grants, substance abuse and mental health, family planning, poison control), and many affecting all Americans, including anything to do with the arts and humanities,

the preservation of clean water, national parks and wildlife preservation, and the Internal Revenue Service, making it less able to collect taxes.

With new tax revenues and closing tax loopholes off the table, creative legislators will have to look for innovative ways to breach the budget deficit. Putting money into the economy and creating jobs are not in the equation.

Need fewer people

Enter Jonathan Swift. If the Congress is unwilling to support people in need, then the only solution is to have fewer people. Since defunding Planned Parenthood is a priority for the Congress, the only way to have fewer people is to get rid of those already born.

There is a way to do that while championing the U.S. Constitution at the same time. The Second Amendment states: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Thus, instead of trying to control firearms of all kinds, we should embrace them and the positive damage that, in the right hands, can be accomplished.

The cost to the nation of smokers' medical care is far more than most can ever contribute. Snipers in trees, for the rural ones, and on urban rooftops for the city dwellers, could make a dent in ever-escalating medical costs by shooting them as they inhale. Fallen helmetless motorcyclists and bicycle riders and their head injuries are another medical cost flashpoint. Let the muzzle flash of a pistol take care of that problem. All legal. All beneficial to society.

Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker just signed a law permitting

the carrying of concealed weapons in venues that serve alcohol. While some people are worried about the combination of passion, free-flowing beer, and Green Bay Packers games, I say, "Let them at it." It will save money and unemployed survivors may find jobs.

Fourteen other states have laws that allow concealed weapons in bars and other venues that serve alcohol. In these states the gun holders may not drink alcohol. They are the designated shooters.

Alcohol-related illnesses and deaths in the United States cost billions each year in lost productivity and direct health care costs. It would be far cheaper to have the designated shooters dispense the alcoholic parasites than for them to live on and on and cost us billions that could be used for, say, education.

Speaking of education and all the kiddies that are not getting one—and here Mr. Swift would feel that someone had listened—why keep them if they cannot read or do sums? In many states guns are allowed on college campuses. Why not elementary schools? Why not kids who don't have B averages?

Guns are efficient

Death by gun is very efficient. In the recent shootings in Tucson, Arizona, in which Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (a proud National Rifle Association member) was the target, the shooter fired off 31 rounds in 15 seconds, killing 6 people and wounding 13.

While starvation, lack of health care, and lack of shelter can certainly handle the task of creating jobs, they all take time, time we do not have. The gun, on the other hand, is quick and to the point.

Presented: A modest proposal.



An interview with Seth Rosen

Building a movement for the long term

Seth Rosen is the CWA Vice President for District 4. The following is from a telephone interview with Gary Schoichet conducted in July.

The challenge for us is to be willing to put resources and energy, which we still have in the labor movement, in the cause of building a movement, and accepting the fact that if we're going to build something big and to scale, that it may not be something that can be controlled.

The smartest single thing the labor movement did in Wisconsin was not get in the way of people in motion, students mostly, who took over the capital. In some places in the country the labor movement would have rushed in there and told them to leave. In Wisconsin they didn't. We have to be willing to trust people, trust that people in motion is better than people not in motion. And we should be willing to see where that takes us.

Social movements are messy

In terms of a social movement, it's been a long time coming. Some people have never experienced it. They're too young. A social movement in this country is not this neat, coherent package, where everybody's on message, and everybody is disciplined, in lock-step. It's messy and complicated, and people argue with each other, and people hold different views. And that is, in fact, what a movement looks like.

I don't think there's any magic bullet. What we're trying to do here in the Midwest is to organize a broad movement around a broad narrative, a story about how the world works. The bad guys have a story. It's a very simple story, from their point of view: "This used to be a great country, then government got too big and taxes got too high and the unions got too strong and screwed everything up." It isn't true, but it's a simple story.

We have a story that is true. We built the middle class in this country, based on conscious policies, based on public structures and services that we were able to

provide. It wasn't a question of bad schools. We had no schools, no public education of any kind. We decided we had to have it. And we did. For everybody.

People who agree with that kind of notion and want to unite under this banner of rebuilding the



Seth Rosen speaking at the CWA Convention in July.

American dream of good jobs and strong communities, are welcome to unite and do that, and we're going to do what we can to try to make that happen.

There is a tendency for people to get narrowly focused on this election or that issue, and that's good, too, and we're involved in some of that stuff, but we're also putting some real time and energy into trying to build a broad movement around that broad narrative.

Defense is easier than offense

It's easier to play defense than to play offense. The best example of that, in my experience, was the health care effort that we, CWA, made in 2007, 2008, 2009. We wanted to learn from the lessons of 1993, and really train people and get people to have a good understanding of the health care issues so we could fight for the kind of health care reform we wanted, with an employer mandate, a public option, the kinds of things we thought were important. And we did tons of education, we took people off the job and we did great education and training, and when it came to mobilize people to fight for that, it was a struggle.

The interesting thing is, that when the fight shifted, and it became a defensive fight—"Don't tax my benefits"—the same people with the same training and the same staff were off like a rocket. It's much easier to get people energized around "Don't take something away

from me," than it is to try to have a vision of what could be better.

from me," than it is to try to have a vision of what could be better.

The year after that, this year where I am, in the battleground Midwest, where re-election is "the most important election in the

People in motion is better than people not in motion.

history of the universe," there's a tendency to focus exclusively on the short term. We need to also put some significant resources into trying to make real political change over many elections, not just win the next one.

You take the money you have, and you divide it. I have a limited budget. I have a membership that's shrunk some. There are only two institutions in America that are self-funding institutions—the church and the labor movement. Our resources are significant, even if they're diminished. We need to divide them up. We could spend all of it on a short-term bet, but I look back on 2008, where we did that, and won, and it didn't turn out so great. We need to split them up and put some into these defensive

fighters, and these short-term fights, and some into trying to build a long-term, broad movement around a broad narrative to make real change over time. People were really engaged and excited in 2006 and 2008, and expected the folks that we elected to make a difference in people's lives, in terms of jobs, in terms of stagnating wages, in terms of lack of support for public services and structures, and a whole variety of other things. They didn't see that happening. They saw us still stuck in the same place we'd been, and they disengaged again.

Movement building happening

I think the notion that there was a series of folks that took power throughout the Midwest who were going to totally dismantle the services and structures people were used to, who were going to totally dismantle the rights that workers had, made people realize that politics does have an impact on their lives. I think most people compare politics to a bad reality show. They'd just as soon watch political debate as other people would watch "The Real Housewives of New Jersey." That's what it feels like, to have a bunch of people fighting and arguing about nothing. I think the events of

early 2011 in the Midwest made it really clear to people that politics makes a difference in their lives; it got people's attention.

I'm watching it [movement building] happen here in the Midwest, in Ohio and Wisconsin, and to some extent in Michigan and Indiana as well. We are energizing people who have not been involved before. We have this Stand Up for Ohio Coalition, which is the broad coalition. We have a Facebook page with 125,000 people on it.

So there's something happening in this moment, and if you're willing to take a step back and give people a voice, and let people build their own movement, have some fun, not be so serious all the time, that's the way to help us all.

Homeless test takers at Department of Homeless Services

By Gary Schoichet

“On or about August 31, 2010 at DHS, there were about 80 provisional employees [Local 1180 members] working in PAA positions. Since that time there has been no published information whether that number has increased or decreased.”*

The question is, and it is no mystery, what's going on?

The answer is that to circumvent civil service law which mandates provisionals be replaced by people from a civil service list, and to keep employees, some long term, who did not take and/or pass the open competitive test (those who passed the promotional test were appointed from that list), DHS and DCAS (Department of Citywide Administrative Services) and their commissioners and the City itself moved those people into new titles, performing the exact same duties with the same pay, and then said that even though there was an appointment list from the open competitive exam, there were no PAA (Principal Administrative Associate) slots for any of them.

DHS acts in bad faith

Step back for those readers unfamiliar with NYC civil service and titling and testing.

A promotional test takes an employee up the ladder within the agency—Clerical Associate to PAA including levels I, II and III. A person passing an open competitive test can work in any agency that will

“There are no chairs at the table for people coming off the list.” –Shirley Littman

have her. Both tests were administered on June 20, 2009.

“Petitioner [Union] seeks a declaratory judgment and appropriate injunctive relief on the grounds that Respondents [DHS, DCAS, et al] have and are continuing to refuse to make permanent appointments to the Civil Service title of PAA while there is a list of certified eligible persons to fill those positions and a PAA list awaiting certification and in bad faith have reclassified available positions to avoid making those permanent appointments.”*

Eliminating provisional lines

Said DHS shop steward Shirley Littman: “There were a lot of people on provisional lines. So take Harry [not a real person], who's in danger of losing his job because he has no permanent civil service status and background and didn't pass the test, but everyone likes him and they want to keep him. Meanwhile, the #1 on the list has all the qualifications and Harry's provisional line should be for her. But they take Harry and change his title even though he's doing the same job and probably for the same money. There may be 60 or so people in the same situation.

“By doing this they eliminate all the provisional lines that all the people who passed the open competitive test and are on the list are

waiting for. It also takes all of those employees out of our union even though they are doing our work.”

“They eliminated all provisional PAA slots at DHS. There are no chairs at the table for people coming off the list,” she said.

This is what the lawsuit is all about. The City has “acted arbitrarily, capriciously, and in violation of the merit and fitness for employment requirement as set forth in Article 5, Section 6, of the Constitution of the State of New York and Section 61 of the Civil Service Law of the State of New York.”*

The lawsuit bolsters the union's arguments by citing past court decisions: the use of provisional appointments to avoid making permanent Civil Service appointment is unlawful; reclassification of job title positions may not be implemented arbitrarily and capriciously in bad faith (bad faith may be demonstrated by evidence that a newly hired person performed substantially the same duties as the discharged employee); the City cannot abolish one competitive position and replace it with another position as a way of purposely avoiding the law's preference for appointments according to merit and fitness established by competitive exams; provisional appointments are only “stop-gap” measures, not the regular procedure of continuing employment.

Past court decisions have validated that New York State and New York City continually violate the state constitution and civil service law: if there is a problem, one court decided, with the competitive process, “the solution lies, not in the unconstitutional attempt of the Commissioner to bypass the requirements of constitutionally mandated examinations, but in examination procedures which will provide a true test of a candidate's ability and probable performance in the position for which he is being examined;”* and in another case, “the reclassification is not truly a reclassification except in name.”*

What is clear is that the City and its agencies are breaking the law. Why?

Ms. Littman has three answers: “Because they can. They don't want to give tests. They don't want to hire new people. They're trying to save people but at the expense of the people on the open competitive list who are entitled to the jobs.”

Local 1180's position? Honor the test! Civil Service was established to take patronage and cronyism out of jobs in the public sector. It was established so that the most competent candidates would have the jobs. It established standards. It is the law. It has become a burden to administrators, mayors, and governors who want to control lower-level hiring but can only control it by cheating.

DHS and the union

“DHS wears the mantle of the mayor,” said Ms. Littman. “The administration has never liked the union and sees no need for it.” Commissioner Seth Diamond, the same Seth Diamond who withheld Thanksgiving paychecks [Communique, March/April 2011] and commissioner of the agency that monitored employees' bathroom breaks [Communique, March/April 2010], both in violation of the City contract (and in both instances DHS was forced to comply with the contract), was a member, second in charge, of the mayor's Workforce Reform Task Force, which called for “reform” of civil service while what they actually wanted was its demise. The attitude at DHS, said Ms. Littman, is, “Union bad; we are going to run it like we want; we will circumvent the law whenever we want.”

The words “cheating” and “circumvent” have been used in this article. The reality is that the City and its agencies are acting in a criminal manner and practice criminality all the time. The money spent in defending itself from lawsuits like this—and, Ms. Littman noted, “1180 has a good track record in winning these lawsuits”—might better be spent on more productive exercises.

All starred (*) quotes and judicial citings are from the lawsuit filed by Local 1180 against NYC, DHS, DCAS, and their commissioners.

Puerto Rican Day Parade

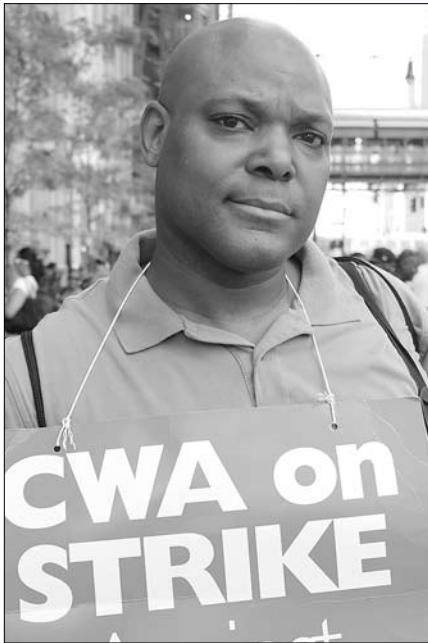


Local 1180 members joined with thousands of others to celebrate Puerto Rico.

Voices (and photos) from the picket line

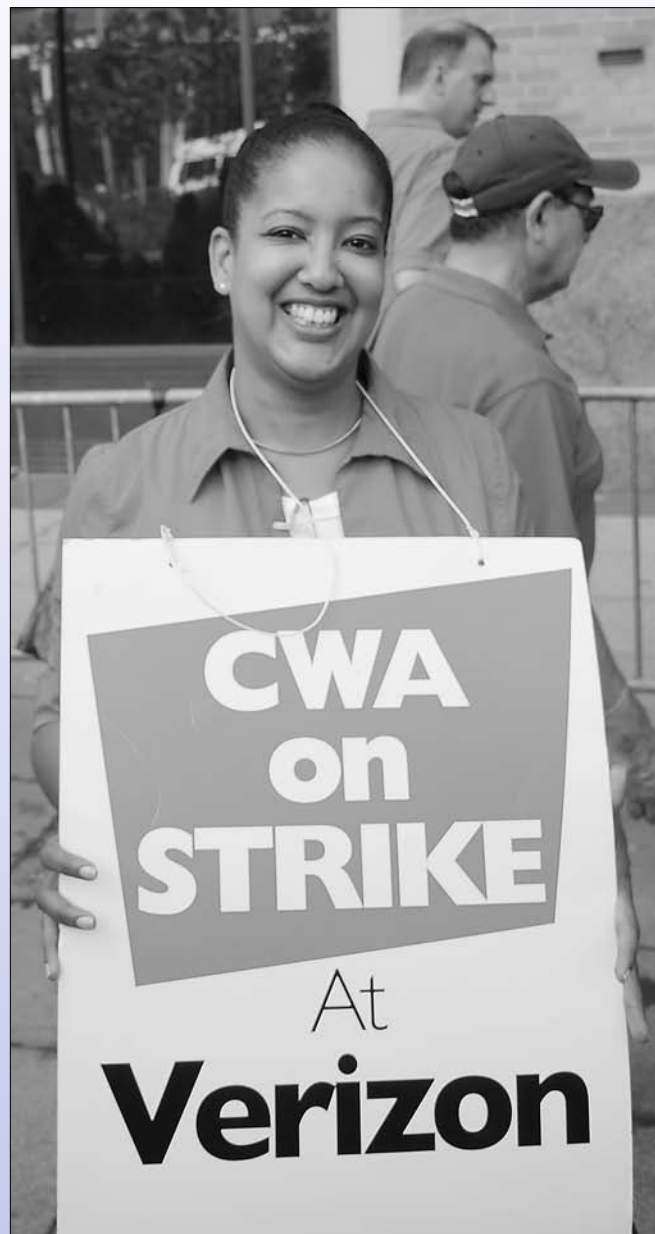
The Verizon strike is three days old as of this writing. The cause is the company's greed. Verizon is essentially saying, "We have it all; now we want the rest." In full-page ads in *The Daily News*, Verizon says it has raised wages and tells everyone what a great company it is to work for. All those interviewed are members of CWA Local 1101 unless specified otherwise.

—GS



Christopher Maitland (left top) has been at Verizon for 14 years. "If this fails this will be the biggest hit unions have taken in a long time. Goodbye 40-hour week and overtime. Unions helped make the laws we work by and can be undone by anti-union politicians. The right to unionize is a law and look how hard that is. We have to fight for what we have."

Sherry Wright (left middle) has been working for 31 years. "I want everything they are trying to take away—pension, job security, medical. I think if we stay out long enough we win. When I'm blowing my whistle at scabs I'm thinking, 'Leave my work alone. You don't know what you are doing.'"



Jackie Gonzalez has been on the job for 20 years. "We're fighting for the middle class, for America. If I was working for 20 years and earning \$90,000 like the ads say, I wouldn't be here."



Richard Katz, Local 1105, has worked for the company for 33 years. "This is about corporate greed. Two million people control the whole planet. With their wealth the whole national debt could be wiped away twice."



Kevin Roth has 15 years. "Verizon is trying to divest itself of land line services. Every time they do it, the new companies went out of business within a year and the communities were left without basic phone service. My CEO who is making \$4,000 an hour is on the boards of 18 different companies. So, who does he care about?"



Vera Irby (30 years) and Chris Cataldo (32 years). "We're upset that they're trying to take us back to the 60s, taking back everything we got hired with away. This used to be a good company to work for, family-oriented. Now, it's all about the money. Morale is bad, even among managers. They hire them, babies coming off the street. They are outsourcing jobs every day. When we need something we go through the same phone prompts as customers and also end up in India."



David Quinones has 28 years. "They make more and more money and take from the people who made it for them. How do you take away from workers when you're making \$6 billion in six months?"

LETTERS

Obama just like the rest

Re: *Not quite their cup of tea*
(Communique, July/August 2011)

He [President Obama] has turned out to be a typical, lying, war-mongering, support the rich, Wall Street and the banks, politician. He and they continue to screw the working and poor people. He kept all of Bush's bums from the Bush administration in his administration when he got elected. He sure pulled the wool over everyone's eyes, which all politicians do very well.

He failed to prosecute anyone from the Bush administration, including Dick Cheney, who violated the Geneva Convention and the U.S. Constitution by torturing prisoners, many of whom were innocent of any crime and shoved into that awful prison only because they were in the wrong place, at the wrong time, when we invaded Iraq, based on lies. The prisoners have no human rights in that awful place. Isn't that what we stand for? Not to mention the illegal wiretapping of innocent U.S. citizens.

He and the rest of the sorry Democrats failed to even mention or do anything about Cheney's company, Halliburton, which got all the contracts to rebuild Iraq after we plundered it.

Also, the private security companies making endless amounts of money, and abusing and/or killing the innocent citizens of the countries we have invaded. Now, we are fighting on three fronts.

The token amount of soldiers being sent home is strictly a political move as re-election time is approaching.

Now, the war on unions. No resistance from any Democrats, except in Wisconsin. The Democrats, with Obama at the top of the list, have no backbone to take a stand against them.

The only ones I would even think of voting for are Dennis Kucinich, Bernie Sanders, or Barney Frank.

Richard Schwartz

PAA, Department of Social Services

This article from veteran organizer Steve Max sheds great light on the current deficit situation

Obama hits the trap running

By Steve Max

WOULD ANYONE not have thought President Truman insane had he gone before the nation in 1945 and said, "I have had experience running a small business, and based on what I learned selling neckties I have decided to drop the atomic bomb on Japan." Yet, when House Majority Leader John Boehner proposes to drop the bomb on the American economy based on his experience selling plastics with the Nucite Sales corporation of Cincinnati, no one thinks it at all odd, least of all President Obama. In response to Obama's televised address, Boehner referred to his own small business experience as the source of his knowledge that government, like small business, must live within its means.

Republicans not normal

The trap that Obama and many Congressional Democrats constantly fall into is that they act and talk as if Republicans are normal and this is a rational situation. Obama consistently tells the public what a fine fellow Boehner is, how they share the same goals of deficit reduction, how they agree that the nation must live within its means, and how the only differences are over the way to achieve their common goals. The sad thing is that Obama probably believes it.

Democrats need to start speaking the truth. The economy of nation states is nothing like a small business (or any size business), and the federal budget is not remotely like your family budget, another oft spoken Republican falsehood. People who ignorantly think such things, the President should say, are not fit to be the nation's decision-makers because it is too dangerous. In addition, it is an outright lie that cutting government spending will create jobs. It is a lie that taxing the rich is bad for business. It is a lie that raising the debt ceiling discourages investment. Republicans never believed any of this when they were in power. They are lying now and they know it.

The idea that the federal budget is not like your family budget is particularly difficult to grasp because it is counterintuitive. Back when cars

were first invented, many people turned their stables into garages. This contributed to the popular notion that if your car wasn't working properly, a few days of rest in the garage would help it. People couldn't quite grasp that while the car and the horse served similar functions and even occupied the same building, they operated on totally different principles.

The federal government is not a family or a business, it is the administrative committee of the entire nation. While it must indeed live within its means, as the Republicans say and the President concurs, the potential means is the entire social surplus. That is the value of every-

cally printed \$600 billion. The money wasn't in the budget and it wasn't borrowed, it was just created showing how flexible the situation really is.

A country is more than a business

The federal budget is a good example of this. There is certainly a deficit, but the amount is a function of how the bookkeeping is done. Surely, having run a small business, Rep. Boehner knows that businesses and almost all state governments have capital budgets for buying structures and equipment. When a business buys a computer, a machine or a warehouse, it is not considered to have lost money. Rather it has exchanged one asset (cash) for

The economy of nation states is nothing like a small business.

thing produced in America minus the portion that people live on, the portion spent on business expenses, the portion needed to maintain the infrastructure, and the portion needed for future investment. What is left over is the social surplus. How the social surplus is divided among private profits, public services and governmental administrative costs is entirely a political matter.

It's politics, not economics

Actually, the amount of the social surplus isn't calculated by anyone, perhaps because that would raise too many questions about who owns it, but it exists, it is huge and it is the means within which we must live. And, as noted, whether it goes to Medicare or to the richest 400 families is a political problem, not an economic one. When Boehner and the Republicans insist that government must live within its means like any family or business, what they are really saying is not that we have reached the objective limit of the social surplus, but rather that they will decide what the means are, and the rest of us will live within them. Measures such as the money supply, the federal budget and the debt ceiling are arbitrary political constructs that are not based on actual economic limits. In 2010 when the Federal Reserve thought it necessary to stimulate the economy, it basi-

another of equal value (a truck). After the transaction, its net worth on the books is the same as before. Not so with the federal budget, which treats buying a computer as if it were the same as giving a corn subsidy to agribusiness. Never mind that the corn subsidy is just money gone, but the government now owns the computer which should be considered an asset. If federal bookkeeping methods were the same as in Boehner's business, the deficit would be far, far less.

The point is that many of the financial measures that we tend to consider as reflections of objective laws of nature (you must live within your means), are really our own inventions as a society, and we have great, though not unlimited, latitude in which to change them. What they are actually reflections of is the balance of class forces within the political structure and they are designed to set the framework in which the owners of wealth can become even richer.

The fact is that if the Republican goals in the debt ceiling debate were actually based on true economic principles and that debt really causes unemployment, then we would all be on their side and telling them not to compromise with Obama. Instead of saying that he shares their goals, the President needs to explain how they are simply wrong. Otherwise he will continue to muddle in the consensus trap.

Mobilizing to save our jobs and the middle class

For decades I have been writing about the threat the shift of the tax burden from the rich to the middle class poses to democratic government and the members of Local 1180. I understood that when Ronald Reagan started with his federal income tax cuts for the elite rich, lowering the rate from 70 percent to 28 percent, when he fired striking air traffic controllers and destroyed their union, and eliminated the equal time and media market monopoly rules of the Federal Communications Commission, he fundamentally changed the path of the nation that had been set by the New Deal. We now see how these three key initiatives created a hostile bargaining environment for workers and threatened then—and threatens now—the middle class.

In that new economic and political order started by Reagan, union workers came under attack, first in the private sector and now in the public sector. Billionaires like Bloomberg and the Koch brothers can buy elections or bankroll a candidate. The billionaire mayor started his third term by proclaiming a budget crisis that didn't exist—we knew he had substantial budget reserves to cover the budget gap.

This is the same "crisis" strategy used in Wisconsin by Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who is heavily backed by the Koch brothers. He deliberately created a budget crisis by cutting taxes for corporations and the rich, thus reducing government revenue. The next step was to begin a campaign claiming that public sector wages, pensions, and benefits were too expensive and must be cut to close the budget gap the governor and GOP legislators created themselves.

Members in the streets

Local 1180 was prepared with the facts and our stewards, activists, and members have done an outstanding job of fighting back. Local 1180's strategy was to train our stewards and go directly to the public, starting with co-workers, our families and our neighbors, using the publication, *In the Public Interest*, which was sent to every member and retiree. Our members had the tools to challenge the myths perpetrated by the billionaire mayor



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Arthur Cheliotis acheliotis@cwa1180.org

Those who come after us deserve a decent retirement, too.

and echoed by his corporate media accomplices. For seven weeks during the City Council budget negotiations, volunteers leafleted at subway stations and on the sidewalks of our city, distributing fact sheets that exposed the myths about public workers. The members owe a debt of gratitude to those who leafleted and came to the numerous rallies opposing Bloomberg's budget cuts.

Most budget cuts stopped

We also launched an alternative media campaign on the Internet using the nycisnot4sale.com website to run videos, invite postings, and inform the public about the myths that were being propagated. We encouraged our members to wear red on Thursdays in coordination with our Thursday leafleting campaign. And, of course, we testified at City Council hearings and met with Councilmembers.

Our efforts paid off! Most of the budget cuts were stopped. Though members without permanent status are always vulnerable, layoffs have been minimized. We do, however, expect job losses for members who did not score well on the PAA test and are returned to their permanent titles to be replaced by candidates from the civil service list. We don't expect any layoff of a member with permanent status.

We were out in force in Albany as well. In record numbers our stewards, activists, and members boarded buses to make the trip upstate and let state legislators know that severe cuts were unacceptable and that the rich must pay their fair share. We demanded that Bloomberg's proposals to gut civil service and reduce pensions be stopped and we were heard. The Assembly Civil Service Committee chair declared those proposals dead on arrival for this session.

We all understand that the budget sets the stage for bargaining and the billionaire mayor will continue to threaten layoffs and benefit cuts. Bargaining does not have a chance when this mayor wants to dictate, not negotiate. The Triboro doctrine, which has become law, ensures that the last contract stays intact until a new one is negotiated.

Even though most contracts have expired, city unions have not bargained for the next round with the mayor for the following reasons:

Bloomberg has not offered the teachers and principals the same package we got from the last round of bargaining. We are demanding that they must be negotiated first.

Bloomberg is demanding that productivity savings and givebacks offset any raises. We are productive and have nothing to give back.

Bloomberg continues his campaign in Albany to gut civil service protections, seniority rights, and bargaining rights. We will stop this again.

Bloomberg continues to support legislation to create another pension tier for new city workers that would raise their retirement age and contribution rate.

Those who come after us deserve a decent retirement, too, so we will be in Albany fighting that as well.

Finally, recent state union contracts call for zero wage increases for a number of years. Bloomberg wants the same pattern. It is the collective decision of city union leaders to wait and see if the budget situation changes so we can give our members the increases they deserve. Bloomberg will soon be a lame duck. State Legislative elections will be held in 2012 and then we can reward our friends and punish our enemies, depending on what they do with the next state budget and other legislation.

Prepare for the future

We will prepare for the next budget cycle at the state and city level by educating our members and making them advocates for their own interests. We will continue to seek the support of our families, friends, and neighbors by arming ourselves and them with the facts that refute the myths about workers, as spelled out in our publication, *In the Public Interest*.

Join us in this important effort. Your economic well-being, the well-being of generations of workers to come, and our rights as citizens are at stake. We will be sending out information on how to sign up for workshops after Labor Day.

Unions and civil rights movements

The Communications Workers of America represents the workers at AT&T and is a strong supporter of AT&T's proposed merger with T-Mobile, an anti-worker and anti-union company, seeing the merger as an opportunity to bring the benefits of unionization to T-Mobile workers. Many civil rights organizations have joined with CWA in endorsing this merger.

A July 9, 2011 editorial in The New York Times discussed the



1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Linda Jenkins ljenkins@cwa1180.org

Unions and civil rights organizations have long been allies.

support of civil rights groups for the merger of these two telecom companies. The editorial specifi-

cally challenged the basis of the NAACP's support, claiming that it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011

Call to order: 6:10 p.m.

Present: Arthur Cheliotas, Linda Jenkins, Bill Henning, Gloria Middleton, Gwen Richardson, Gerald Brown, Charles Garcia, Michael Lamb, Harlan Reid, Lenora Smith, Gina Strickland, Hazel Worley. Absent: Clarona Smith. Guests: EVP Annie Hill; District One VP Chris Shelton; Don Trementozzi; Pres. CWA Local 1400, Steve Ferrer.

Ms. Hill and Mr. Trementozzi are candidates for the office of Secretary/Treasurer of CWA; Mr. Shelton is seeking re-election to his current post.

The candidates spoke to us about their platforms, responded to questions posed to them by the Board and asked for our support.

President's Report:

Arthur commented on the success of the stewards' conference. Our stewards responded well to our plan to educate the public with leaflets that destroy the myths about public workers and our impact on the budget. The 6 or 8 weeks ahead will be exhilarating.

Carolyn Parker asked to attend the CLUW Conference scheduled for September 2011. Her request was approved.

The CWA Defense Fund Oversight Committee's grant was \$93,000. We are using \$50,000.

Report accepted.

1st Vice President's Report:

Linda will meet with attorney Joel Spivak to finalize our position on the PAA court case.

The PAA civil service list is being called in the following agencies:

HRA has held two hiring pools, they are up to #162; the most recent pool was to fill 48 vacancies. There are 882 on the list.

The Dept. of Sanitation had a list of 67. It called up to #34 and appointed 26 from the list. There were only two members serving provisionally.

The Dept. of Finance had a list of 66. It appointed 49, used one in three* and exhausted its list.

DYCD had a list of nine. It appointed seven and exhausted its list.

HPD had a list of 57. Forty-three were appointed. List was exhausted.

DDC had a list of 18. Called up to #9. Not sure who was appointed.

DEP is moving its list.

ACS is moving its list.

Linda distributed draft copies of fact sheets #1 and #2 put together by the 1180 Civil Service Committee.

The Education Committee will produce a training survey.

We have brochures on Workplace Literacy.

There is interest in a new member orientation.

Bill suggested a fact sheet on non-competitive employees.

Report accepted.

2nd Vice President's Report:

Bill reported that a total of 387 workers were laid off in the Court Administration. There was one reassignment in our union. Our shop steward was bumped.

Bill reported on bargaining at Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Sustainable South Bronx (SSBx is insolvent, two members were laid off, and there has been a reduction in hours of another).

Bill reported that the Labor Campaign for a Single-Payer Bill was endorsed by the AFL-CIO.

Report accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

The TD bank checking account has a balance of \$1,309,593.88, the Morgan/Stanley, Smith/Barney

account has a balance of \$150,197.17.

Gloria distributed the Profit and Loss, and Transaction Detail Reports.

Hotel reservations have been made for the upcoming National Convention.

Our delegate count is 7,281.

Gloria is currently engaged in contract negotiations with Local 153 for Local 1180 clerical staff.

Gary Schoichet requested approval to attend the CWA National Convention. His request was approved.

Report accepted.

Gerald Brown reported that the CLC has asked for an estimate of the number of members we may lose through layoffs and/or attrition. We may lose a total of 250.

The CWA Minority Caucus starts on July 7, 2011. There will be a candidates' night for all CWA members seeking office.

Gina Strickland requested an additional \$1,000 for the Caribbean Committee's May Day Celebration. Her request was approved.

We adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting is June 15, 2011.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2011

Call to order: 6:15 p.m.

Present: Arthur Cheliotas, Linda Jenkins, Gloria Middleton, Gwen Richardson, Gerald Brown, Charles Garcia, Michael Lamb, Harlan Reid, Lenora Smith, Gina Strickland, Clarona Williams, Hazel Worley. Absent: Bill Henning, Alan Goldblatt. Guest: Steve Ferrer.

President's Report:

Arthur discussed the Crain's New York Business article that reported on the breakdown in talks between the MLC and the Mayor regarding averting layoffs.

The City's budget process is in a mess. There is \$3.5 billion in reserve and it will not be used. Retiree benefits will be reduced. There is a projected budget deficit of \$4.7 billion for 2012, and \$3.7 billion for 2013.

The tax rate is skewed to benefit high-end real estate.

The NYCNFS petition is on our website. We must have all stewards sign it.

All members will get "In The Public Interest." The leafleting campaign is successful.

The New York Times is in favor of Tier 6.

Arthur wrote a letter to the editor asking why the Governor is ignoring the Martin Act.

The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled that it is legal to revoke collective bargaining agreements. Wisconsin has also changed its child labor laws, reducing the age from 16 to 14.

The arbitrator has not rendered a decision on the Admin JOS case.

The AFL-CIO's financial training division has asked us to send two people to the Labor College for two days in either July or August. Each trainer will be obligated to do four training sessions apiece. Linda recommended Gail Johnson; Michael recommended Zenola Fields.

HANAC is honoring Arthur at its annual dinner-dance. A motion to purchase a table of 10 and a full page ad passed unanimously.

Report accepted.

1st Vice President's Report: OCB**HHC titles – Assistant Director Hospitals and Associate Director Hospitals**

A hearing was held on June 1, 2011 in which testimony was given by four Associate Directors from Kings County Hospital. The remaining three June hearing dates were canceled because the HHC attorney was leaving and it isn't known who will take over the case. The next hearing date is July 14, 2011.

Principal Administrative Associate List #8535

Teachers' Retirement had three names on list and appointed #2. Currently 19 provisionals serving. Agency advises they are waiting certification of the OC list and it plans to make appointments.

HRA held a pool on June 7 and appointed 29 people: # 35, 91, 140-142, 147-156, 158-161, 163-164, 169-174, 179-180, and 162. Seven people were CNS, four declined, and nine failed to report.

FISA had one name on the list who was appointed. Agency advises that it is awaiting certification of OC

list and it plans to make appointments.

School Construction Authority

SCA has established the lists for Assistant Finance Specialist A (39), B (33), and C(28) for Exam EE-00-024 given February 28-March 18, 2011. We have one provisional AFS/B who is in the top band of the list and is reachable for probable permanent status to be effected at the end of June 2011.

Civil Service Committee

The committee is working on fact sheet #3 on Provisional Status. The next committee meeting is on Tuesday, June 21, 2011.

Education Committee

The committee sent out a training survey to members in the Administrative Manager, Administrative JOS, and Coordinating Manager titles. The response deadline is June 30, 2011. The next Book Club meeting is July 28, 2011 and the book selection is *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga.

Effective June 15, 2011 the Administrative Managers in DOE will no longer be covered by the managerial fund.

Linda reported on our court case against DHS, which changed titles in order to outrun the civil list.

Report accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Gloria distributed the Profit and Loss, and Transaction Detail Reports for May.

We gained 32 new members, seven terminated, nine retired and one died.

As of May 31, 2011 we have 8,696 members.

The TD checking account has a balance of \$867,308.04, the Morgan/Stanley Smith/Barney account has a balance of \$150,198.37.

CWA says our delegate count is 7,883.

Gloria moved that we endorse Annie Hill for the office of National CWA Secretary/Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

The Women's Committee submitted a request to send people to the CWA Women's Conference. After a discussion, the executive board approved 12 over-all to attend.

The Board also approved six stewards to attend the Summer School for Labor Union Women, July 18 – 22, 2011.

Gloria reminded the Board that our election of officers and members-at-large is coming up. She asked that we hire AAA to conduct the election (sending, receiving, and counting the ballots). The Board approved her request.

Gwen Richardson retires; Gina Strickland new Supervising Grievance Rep

With the retirement of Supervising Grievance Representative Gwen Richardson after 40 years of service to the city and the union, CWA Local 1180 is pleased to announce that Gina Strickland (at right) has replaced her in that capacity. Strickland, a Principal Administrative Associate, worked at the Department of Finance and has been a Staff Rep for 11 years.



Steve reported that there are 51 potential members in the title of administrative manager at the Transit Authority. We have 33 signed cards.

Harlan reported that the Committee bowling night was successful. He asked permission to hold the event quarterly; the request was approved.

Harlan requested approval to have an "Open Mike" in the fall. Arthur suggested that it have a labor theme. Make it a contest, give a prize, and have the winner perform at the membership meeting.

Arthur suggested that the stewards who worked on the leaflet campaign be offered picnic tickets with the understanding that tickets are non-transferable.

Harlan also reported that he has developed and tested a grievance e-form and will schedule training with his co-workers.

Charles Garcia reported that the Puerto Rican Parade was successful. He also requested approval to attend the LCLAA Leadership and Educational Conference in Puerto Rico, August 4-6, 2011. Approved.

Gina reported that the Caribbean Heritage Committee held its second May Day Carnival on May 21, 2011. Committee members cooked all of the food. Over 70 people attended throughout the day. A good time was had by all, especially the children.

We adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting is July 27, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Richardson

COMMUNIQUE

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Linda Jenkins, *1st Vice President*

William F. Henning, Jr., *2nd Vice President*

Gloria Middleton, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Gwen Richardson, *Recording Secretary*

Members-at-large

Gerald Brown, Charles Garcia, Alan Goldblatt, Michael Lamb, Harlan Reid, Georgina Strickland, Lenora Smith, Clarona Williams, Hazel Worley

Gary Schoichet, *Editor*

Margarita Aguilar, *Design*

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Unions & civil rights movements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

was motivated by donations they receive from AT&T.

The NAACP pointed out that their support for the merger was based on AT&T's "commitment to livable wages, meaningful benefits, diversity in its use of contractors and professional development opportunities for its racially and ethnically diverse workforce," and the promise, through unionizing the T-Mobile workforce, to extend those benefits to T-Mobile workers.

Unions paid MLK bail

There has been a long history of alliance between labor unions and civil rights organizations, based on common interests and shared goals. In the 1960s, unions played a major role in funding, organizing and mobilizing in many civil rights campaigns. In 1963, when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and 2,000 other protesters were jailed in Birmingham, it was the union movement that paid the \$160,000 to bail them out.

PERSONAL NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to retired member **Sylvia Kanter** on the naming of a street in her Bay Ridge neighborhood for her deceased husband, Abe. On May 21 the new Abe Kanter Way street sign was installed on the corner of 65th Street and 4th Avenue.

PASSINGS

Sincere condolences to the family of **Jewell Sutler**, retired PAA from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and long-time member of the 1180 Education Committee, who passed away on July 23, 2011.

Condolences to the family of **Jacquelin Palmer-Moses**, Administrative Manager in the Comptroller's office, who passed away on July 27. "It's a very sad day and huge loss as Jackie was a very active member on the Committee on Arts, Events & Entertainment as well as other activities and events within Local 1180. We've had some great times and good laughs together. She will be forever missed," said Harlan Reid.

Our deepest condolences to the families of **Carmen Yulfo**, (HASA Administration) and **Elizabeth Elias** (HASA - Coney Island) on the passing of Carmen Rodriguez-Yulfo, their mother and grandmother, respectively, on July 19.

Condolences to the family of **Khaja Kaiser**, Local 1180's bookkeeper, who passed away on August 1.

Sincere condolences to **Cherie White**, PAA, Department of Social Services, on the passing of her mother, Carrie White, on August 5.



Bayard Rustin

The main organizer for the 1963 March on Washington was Bayard Rustin, who was on a union payroll in New York City and using a union office when he did his organizing for the March.

Unions were in the forefront of supporting public demonstrations. They were crucial in mobilizing the grassroots and political power to win civil rights legislation on both the state and national levels.

There is a civil rights legacy of fighting for economic rights and workers' rights. The March on Washington was officially named

the March on Washington for Freedom and Jobs. Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, where he had gone to support the sanitation workers' right to unionize. He recognized that it was the joint effects of racial discrimination and economic privation that denied economic opportunity to poor African-American workers. He knew that, for workers seeking their civil rights, unionization was a key part of the struggle because unions markedly improve wages and benefits for those trapped at the bottom of the economic ladder.

When he addressed the striking Memphis sanitation workers, Dr. King said: "Memphis Negroes are almost entirely a working people. Our needs are identical with labor's needs—decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community."

That has not changed.

Because of our common interests, labor unions and civil rights organizations are both better off when we cooperate with each other. That is why the NAACP and other civil rights organizations have joined with CWA to support this merger.

Communique awards

In awarding a First Place in General Excellence to *Communique*, the Metro New York Labor Communications Council 2010 contest judges wrote, "In addition to union news, the newspaper is filled with interesting articles on national issues relevant to its members. There are in-depth features on health, culture, politics, and history, and there is an unabashed class-consciousness that informs the editorial approach."

Communique also won a first-place award for illustration for the ADHD cover (Jan/Feb). Second-place awards were won for the articles, *ADHD: A disorder kept hidden out in the open* by Gary Schoichet, and *One Woman's Plight* by Lorraine Gamble-Lofton (January/February); and *Losing Hair is a Loss of Control* by Gary Schoichet, and *Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beholder* by Lorraine Gamble-Lofton (March/April). Third-place awards were

given to the column, *Tell It Like It Is* by Bill Henning, and a photograph by Gary Schoichet. A special mention was presented to former member Lourdes Marte for her article, *ACORN: The Community Organization that Worked too Well*.

For the International Labor Press Association (ILCA) awards, *Communique* received a second place in General Excellence; first place in Best Column for *Tell It Like It Is* by Bill Henning, and four third-place awards for illustration (*Bullying May Be the Workplace Issue* by Warren Linn), publication design (*Welcome to the 1180 Website* by Margarita Aguilar), series (*The Assault on Democracy* by Lourdes Marte and Gary Schoichet), and analysis (*What's Wrong With Arizona?* by Tina Lopez). *Communique Radio* won a first-place award for long audio program for *The Tea Party Movement*, hosted by Bill Henning and produced by Esther Kaplan.

CALENDAR

All meetings are at 6 PM unless otherwise noted.

September 1 (Thursday)
Equity and Civil Rights Committee
(chair: Gloria Middleton)

Community Service Committee
(chair: Pat Ruffin)

September 6 (Tuesday)
Arts & Entertainment Committee
(chair: Harlan Reid)

September 7 (Wednesday)
People with Disabilities Committee
(chair: Alan Goldblatt)

Women's Committee
(chair: Bernice Selman)

September 13 (Tuesday)
Education Committee
(chair: Linda Jenkins)

September 15 (Thursday)
Hispanic Committee
(chair: Venus Williams)

September 21 (Thursday)
Retired Members Chapter 12:30
(president: Adelle Rogers)

September 28 (Wednesday)
Caribbean Heritage Committee
(chair: Gina Strickland)

September
General Membership
To be announced. (Watch website for date and agenda.)

October 4 (Tuesday)
Arts & Entertainment Committee
(chair: Harlan Reid)

October 5 (Wednesday)
People with Disabilities Committee
(chair: Alan Goldblatt)

October 6 (Thursday)
Equity Committee
(chair: Gloria Middleton)

Community Services Committee
(chair: Pat Ruffin)

Women's Committee
(chair: Bernice Selman)

October 11 (Tuesday)
Education Committee meeting
(chair: Linda Jenkins)

October 12 (Thursday)
Hispanic Committee meeting
(chair: Venus Williams)

Membership Meeting
To be announced. (Watch website for date and agenda.)

October 20 (Thursday)
Retired Members Chapter 12:30
(president: Adelle Rogers)

October 26 (Wednesday)
Caribbean Heritage Committee
(chair: Gina Strickland)

October
General Membership
To be announced. (Watch website for date and agenda.)



Inside Communique

UNION PROUD: A steward who will fight **2**

Voices from the CWA Convention **3**

Building a movement **5**

The truth of the deficit situation **8**

Endorsements for September 13 Special Election

Based on candidate screening conducted on Saturday, July 30, and the subsequent telephone poll of the Executive Board, the results are as follows:

- 1) 54th A.D. Jesus Gonzales
- 2) 73rd A.D. Dan Quart
- 3) 23rd A.D. Phillip Goldfeder
- 4) 27th A.D. Michael Simanowitz
- 5) 9th C.D. David Weprin

Of the 12 voting board members, 11 voted and all were in favor of the recommendation of the committee. Not voting: Linda Jenkins (Vacation).



PHOTOS: GARY SCHOICHT



Verizon rally before the strike

More than 10,000 CWA Verizon workers rallied on July 30 in lower Manhattan demanding that Verizon bargain in good faith. Didn't happen. Rally participants texted Verizon with with a special message (top photo) and Local 1180 members were in attendance.

See page 7 for more.