



July-August 2010 | Vol 34 No 4

Communique

A union is a way of doing something together you can't do alone. —Utah Phillips (1935-2008)

Local 1180, Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO



Make Wall Street pay and other worthy causes

—PAGES 6 & 7

Tina Lopez wants Wall Street executives jailed.

What's wrong with Arizona

By Tina Lopez

Is America's preoccupation with immigrants and their perceived notion that immigrants take away jobs, are a drain on the economy, and do nothing to contribute to society true? Too many Americans mistakenly draw no distinction between legal and undocumented workers. Too many Americans also fail to recognize that the majority of our society is made up of first, second, and third generation immigrants who have played key roles in furthering America's development and shaped the very culture of our society.

Before immigration into the United States was subject to laws, immigrants arrived freely, limited only by the cost of travel, disease, or a criminal record abroad. This is how our foundations were laid and our infrastructure built.

Immigrants pay taxes

The media often deals with the issue of immigration in sound bites. Close to eight million of the esti-

First, second, and third generation immigrants... have shaped the very culture of our society

mated 12 million immigrants here here without proper documents pay Medicare, Social Security, and personal income taxes. The Internal Revenue Service allows undocumented immigrants to file taxes using a special tax identification number. They also pay sales taxes when they purchase everyday goods. Although some may not have legal status, their contributions cannot be denied. Further, the 1996 welfare reform bill disqualified undocumented immigrants from nearly all government programs, including food stamps and housing assistance, even though they pay an estimated \$90 billion in taxes annually.

One of the problems often ignored in the immigration debate is that American companies and other individuals regularly and preferably hire

undocumented workers. Not enough employers are penalized for hiring undocumented workers so they can avoid paying minimum wage, overtime, payroll taxes, workers compensation, and not providing health care, even though it is a federal felony punishable by fines, imprisonment, and forfeiture of vehicles and real property.

"Papers please" law

Further complicating the issue of immigration is the recent passage of SB1070 in Arizona, or as some have come to refer to it, the "papers please" law. SB1070 requires the police to question people about their immigration status if they "suspect" they are in the United States illegally. It gives free rein to ethnic and racial profiling for people appearing to be Latino. Under

the law, immigrants are required to carry proof of their legal status at all times, or risk imprisonment. It is not difficult to see American born Latinos in Arizona being stopped and asked for papers, even arrested if they have none.

Proponents of the law shy away from the fact that the law shouts racism. That FAIR (Federal American Immigration Reform) helped draft the legislation tells a different story. FAIR, founded in 1979 by John Tanton, who still serves on its Board of Directors, has a history of supporting white supremacy. In the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan there are seventeen boxes of papers and letters written by Tanton expressing his views on the "educability" of Latinos, Jews, white supremacy, and Eugenics—the "science" of breeding a better human race.

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants. Arizona's SB1070 looks for a scapegoat rather than facing the real issues in today's immigration debate: the resistance to a truly multi-racial and ethnically diverse population coupled with the resistance to pay living wages to all workers.

Tina Lopez is a shop steward at the Department of Buildings and a student at CUNY's Murphy Institute.



NAMI Walk

Some 45 Local 1180 members took part in NAMI's (National Association for Mental Illness) annual fund raising walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and back on May 8th. NAMI is America's largest grassroots mental health organization, dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

COMMUNIQUE

Official Publication

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Printed by Astoria Graphics, Inc.

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George Ennis at a Local 1180 political media training.

Throw yourself at life, take a bite out of everything, it's a smorgasbord

By Chude Mondlane

George Ennis
HHC – Audio Visual IT
Coordinating Manager

George Ennis is a third generation New Yorker of Italian and Irish stock and a jack of all trades: a musician, a medical technician, and “at one point in my life, a sous-chef.”

His father was a union trucker and dispatcher and “somewhat of a genius because he was able to memorize huge amounts of information, maps and numbers, and was also a very accomplished jazz drummer.” Although Ennis attributes his musical “genes” to his great grandfather who was a merchant marine from Italy and played “anything with strings which is where I think I got my talent since I play anything with strings, and his daughter, my grandmother, sang because all women from Abruzzo sing!” But, it was his father who taught him to love music through classical jazz musicians Charley Parker, Zoot Sims, and Dizzy Gillespie. “These were the musicians I learned from when I was 10 and I would be beboppin’ down the street and people would

ask why wasn’t I listening to people like Frankie Valli and I’d be like, ‘Oh, Man, Zoot’s the Man!’”

While at Iona College, “at some point I intended to become a pediatric trauma surgeon but I was in theater, music, chemistry and must have changed my major a million times. In the end I dropped out after I signed a recording deal with

UNION PROUD

Capricorn as a southern rock artist.” Unfortunately the southern rock music scene took a nose dive along with the rest of the economy during the late 90s. Ennis said, “I was pushing thirty and my wife was six months pregnant and with not much on the music horizon I realized I needed to get a job.”

Day job and night job, too

One would think he would have given up his “night job” once he started working 9 to 5 at HHC’s North Central Bronx Hospital as an audio visual technician but, he said, “It took me a long time to orient to daytime because I was getting up for work just about the time I was getting home from a gig. So it was

Just be fair and just

hard. I am still doing it and am in the middle of a Joe Cocker tribute that I’m putting together with all the alumni from his band.”

Winning by default

Politics was an important part of family life for George. His older sister was active and would take him to demonstrations during the Vietnam War. “I got busted with her at Columbia University while she was babysitting and sat with the desk sergeant who bought me hot-dogs,” he said and laughed.

So, when in the last 15 minutes of the first HHC coordinating managers union meeting they said, “you guys have to pick somebody by September to run for shop steward and do you have any idea who you might be and everyone in the room was like ‘him!’ I won by default.

“If there is any advice I would like to give my fellow members it would be throw yourself at life, take a bite out of everything, it’s a smorgasbord—just be fair and just.”

ROVING REPORTER ASKS . . .

Mayor Bloomberg has a weekend home in Bermuda. Where would you like yours to be?

Tina Ashby
HRA Finance
PAAII

I would love to have a home in the Bahamas. I love the weather, the people, and the food. But since I’m no Mayor Bloomberg I would only go twice a year because I am a mother of four and need to work.



PAT ARNOW

Cherylyn Allen-Freeman
Housing and Preservation
Department
PAA

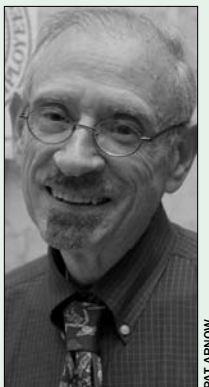
My weekend home would be in Saint Maarten in the West Indies. The island is lovely and would be the perfect vacation spot for me. I love the island’s Dutch and French inspired culture and architecture, not to mention the warm weather. Also, Saint Maarten is near the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Kitts, and Antigua so I could island hop whenever I wanted to.



PAT ARNOW

Jeffrey Panish
Dept. of Finance
PAA

My ideal weekend home would be right across the street from Mayor Bloomberg’s house in Bermuda. I would sit outside his house in a lawn chair with a cool drink and a big picket sign telling him what I think of his treatment of New York City’s public sector workers. Also, if I needed to use the restroom I would knock on his door. I wouldn’t go to the house every weekend, but ideally, I would do this regularly, or at least until I got arrested.



PAT ARNOW

*The Roving Reporter is
Courtney Nelson*

CONTRACT NEWS

Human Rights first contract

A SETTLEMENT for a four-year contract at Human Rights First was reached with the guidance of a federal mediator. The salient features of the contract are:

- 6/01/10 2% lump sum payment, or \$1500, whichever is greater
- 6/01/11 2.5% increase
- 6/01/12 3.0% increase
- 6/01/13 3.5% increase
- Additional paid holiday (Veterans Day)

- Language including professionals in the recognition clause.
- Coverage for temporary employees will begin after 90 days for sick, vacation, and holiday, retroactive to first day of hire.

The committee members included Ruthie Epstein, Sara Faust, Carly Goodman, Reagan Kuhn, and Isabel Toolan and occasionally sitting in were Kes Grekov and Daphne Eviatar.

Nation money

IN THE LAST ISSUE of *Communique* we reported on the negotiations for a first contract at the Nation Institute. The contract which runs

from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012 calls for a 5% increase plus \$500 in the first year and 4% and 4% in the last two years.

Caribbean heritage festival celebrates May Day



PHOTOS: GARY SCHOICHER

May Day is both a workers' rights day and a day to celebrate the land in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Heritage Committee organized the day at Local 1180 and 60 members and family enjoyed music, games, and oh, those cod fish fritters and other Caribbean fare.

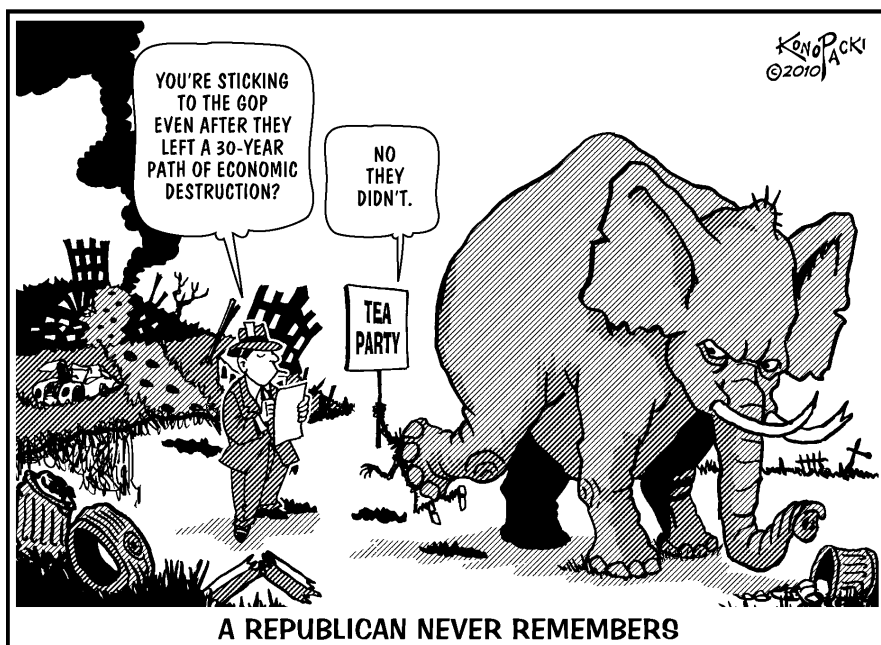
Down the rabbit hole: hanging out with the mad haters

By Gary Schoichet

I got invited to a Tea Party, a coffee man like me. There wasn't any tea. Bud, Coke, gin and anything, but no tea. Tea would have been good because it was an angry meeting. "No taxes, no taxes, no taxes, repeal health care reform, get rid of the Federal Reserve and the Department of Education." One older gentleman was heard to say, speaking directly to the government, "Keep your hands off my Medicare." They also had some unkind words for President Obama, actually words that could get their mouths washed out with soap if their mothers heard them, unless their mothers were speaking them also. Some, maybe most of the people I met were sure that Obama wasn't born in the USA and a large number of them think he's a Muslim, even though he goes to church.

The U.S.A. without government

They reference their Tea Party movement to the Boston Tea Party of 1773 when angry colonists dumped tea into Boston Harbor in protest of their being taxed by England without having any say in



the process. That was "No taxation without representation." Around the same time came "Don't tread on me."

I could see that the "hands off my Medicare" was kind of dumb. Anyone could see that. What else did they want the government to keep its hands off of? I thought, what would happen if we took the government, let's call it the USA, out of our daily lives? Social Security? Gone. Veterans' benefits? Gone. Federally insured bank accounts? Gone. Education? Gone, except for private

schools. Clean drinking water? Gone. Sewage? Gone. The list goes on.

It seemed to me, and I didn't voice this out loud, that if the USA was more in it perhaps the BP oil well explosion wouldn't have happened because there would have been tighter regulations on their drilling, or the mine explosions that killed 38 miners would have been prevented. Or if there were better laws about guns there wouldn't be so many shoot-em-ups where people get killed because they were there.

One new friend told me that the estate and capital gains taxes that are scheduled to begin again in 2011 after Bush got rid of them for 10 years, well they should be repealed. And that's even though there is no estate tax if the value of the estate is less than \$2 million. Or the capital gains tax. "Why should the government tax people when they make money on the stock market?" he asked. So I asked my friend, he was kind of old, if he was going to give up his Medicare and pay his medical bills out of pocket since if there were no taxes there wouldn't be any Medicare. "Hell no," he said. OK.

The gospel of ridiculous

It was starting to make sense to me. I knew that was worrisome. I know there are a lot of angry people and with good reason. I wondered how many Tea Partiers there were: those angry people lashing out. Did other people agree with them? A lot? Could they sway an election?

And then I knew: I would join the tea party movement. What better way to convince people to vote their real interests, jobs, health care, schools, than to join them and help spread the gospel of ridiculous.

HHC cuts cutting the heart out of patient care



Bellevue shop stewards Mike McConnell and Marion Fusco

By Gary Schoichet

With the Health and Hospitals Corporation expecting a \$1 billion budget cut, a press conference was called by a group of New York City's municipal unions to urge the State to restore at least \$350 million to HHC, the last resort for health care for many New Yorkers. In 2009 HHC served 1.3 million patients of whom more than a third were uninsured. This number will only increase with the closings of hospitals, like St. Vincent's in Greenwich Village, throughout the city.

ACMs (Assistant Coordinating Manager) and Bellevue shop stewards Michael McConnell and Marion Fusco said, "We have to fight, let the City know that without our efforts the City can't operate. With the closing of St. Vincents Hospital we need more help, not less. We need to keep our focus on

what's really important: the people needing health care...and our job security. The Administration is going after staff for the most minute things. You're damned if you do one thing and damned if you don't. We are doing more with less and we have extra duties. I was moving beds the other day. They've changed our job descriptions. The administrators are pushing more work on us to make themselves look good and we don't even get a thank you. Give me a banana, give me something."

Roberta Mantus is a patient at Bellevue with "three kinds of cancer, a cornucopia of other illnesses, and I have no health insurance. This is not the time to take money away from a hospital like this. This hospital saved my life in 2005. When I was employed I had great coverage and when I had to come here it was a shock. I wasn't used to this. There are too many people who need help. I have been coming here for years without insurance and this hospital opened its arms and welcomed me and took great care of me. I'm like a professional patient but I don't get paid, except in great care."

OSHA's David Michaels: new deputy sheriff in town

By Gary Schoichet

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, the new sheriff in Washington, said, "The Department of Labor is back in the enforcement business," [*Communique*, Sept/Oct 2009]. The right to organize, the payment of lawful wages, and the "fundamental responsibility to protect workers from unsafe work places" are the principles she rode in on. To protect workers' safety she brought in Dr. David Michaels as the head of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) to be her number two in the department. Michaels was a longtime safety and health advocate in New York and one of the founders of NYCOSH (New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health).

On May 20 Michaels was the guest of NYCOSH at a briefing for safety and health professionals and union personnel. The deaths of 29 coal miners in the Upper Branch Mine in West Virginia on April 5 and of 11

British Petroleum oil rig workers in the explosion in the Gulf of Mexico on April 21 hung over the room.

Protecting America's Worker Act

Michaels acknowledged that even with the addition of 100 inspectors there are still not enough to inspect the 7 million workplaces that employ the 133 million workers that OSHA is sworn to protect. If OSHA's mission is to keep workers out of harm's way it is curious that the fines for killing workers and the fines for killing non-humans are so disparate. Michaels spoke about a \$175,000 fine for one worker's death—his body was dissolved in sulfuric acid after an explosion at a refinery in Delaware, partly owned by Shell Oil, and, under environmental laws, a \$10 million fine for "a bunch of fish and crabs" destroyed in the same explosion.



David Michaels

"We have to change attitudes," Michael said, "so that workers are as important as chickens and the outputs they [workers] produce." One step in that direction is H.R. 2067, the Protecting America's

Workers Act of 2009, supported by the Obama administration, that would significantly increase penalties for violations involving worker deaths and allow "felony prosecutions against employers who commit willful violations that result in death or serious bodily injury." The bill would also extend OSHA coverage to millions of other workers in the public and private sectors.

OSHA will also reach out to community and church groups to help spread safety information to Latino workers who are the group that suffers the most deaths and injuries in the U.S. and have the least rights in the workplace. Programs to tell employers the safe way to work and then have them find and fix the dangers in their workplace are in progress and new OSHA standards will be issued for airborne pathogens, skin contacts, and infections.

"We don't have a system that effects change very well," Michaels said. The new enforcers expect to change that.

We have to change attitudes so that workers are as important as chickens.

Three demonstrations: all diff

By Gary Schoichet

April 29 on Wall Street (actually City Hall Park but directed at Wall Street), May 1 at Foley Square, and May 22 in Trenton, New Jersey.

April 29 was about holding Wall Street's players (Goldman Sachs, AIG, Morgan Stanley, all the big names) accountable for the current crisis while they have survived and prospered. It was about the massive unemployment numbers locally and countrywide; about stagnant wages that have not risen with the cost of living; about ordinary people bearing the burden of paying for the bailout of Wall Street as bonuses once again soar; about anger that instead of going to jail the Wall Street managers go to Jamaica. AFL-CIO president Richard Trumka

spoke as did a group of local union leaders and union members and leaders of community groups.

May 1, May Day, was a rally and walk around calling for labor and immigrants' rights, good jobs for all workers, and the end of Arizona's new immigration law (see page 2). Like the Wall Street rally, there were about 10,000 participants and a significant number of speakers.

Attack on public sector workers

35,000 union members and their families gathered in Trenton on May 22 in response to New Jersey governor Chris Christie's attack on state workers, blaming them for the state's \$11 billion budget deficit. He has called for all state employees to take cuts in their salaries, benefits, pensions, and he wants changes to civil service rules and collective bargaining. He has been par-

ticularly aggressive towards New Jersey's teachers. Christie wants to institute merit pay, increase the number of charter schools, and use public funds for private school scholarships.

"We are experiencing the most severe, pervasive and sustained attack on public employees, public employee unions and public sector collective bargaining since workers got the right to organize," said Chris Shelton, CWA District 1 vice-president, from the podium.

That is the background for the demonstrations. We asked Local 1180 members who attended one, two, or three of the rallies to talk about their feelings of being in the midst of fellow union members and community groups all with a single purpose.



Michelle Hall-Mangun

Linda Deane
Department of Environmental Protection, PAA

I was impressed to see the number of people showing concern and showing a united front about what Wall Street did. I was enthusiastic and glad I was there. Felt strong. Strength was not a handful, but lots of people. If only a few people take the time to deal with these issues they [Wall Street interests, bosses, etc.] can do almost anything to us and get away with it. I was a part of it. I took the time.

Satvinder Singh
School Construction Authority,
Administrative Associate

When you have the power you have the power. It's a strength when you have people with one purpose to bring about change. I felt good. I'm part of a good thing.

Tina Lopez, Department of Buildings, PAAII

Being at the Wall Street rally gave me a sense of belonging. When you talk and listen you realize how many people are affected by the sins of Wall Street. It becomes real when you participate. It's important to be there as part of the union; we're lost without us. I got a lot of hostility from DOB consultants who can't relate to normal working people. They don't understand what we do or what we stand for. They're clueless.

I went home with my 1180 jacket and hat and was excited and told my daughters about the chants and the signs. Pumped.

Jeffrey Panish
Department of Finance, PAA

It was great for me to see the diversity of people. This was a public demonstration to let our voices be heard. I had a genuine feeling of euphoria that I'm able to speak out. I'm proud to be a working class person. I'm not wealthy. I work for a living. I pay taxes. Leona Helmsley spoke the truth when she said, "Taxes are for the little people." Where are they asking Wall Street to give back? We're marching so we don't have to say, "Can I pay the next bill?" We are being shafted every single day. When they say there's no money it just means there's no money for us. I feel like we have a purpose, we're doing something. The man doesn't move unless he's forced to.



Local 1180 members tell Wall Street what they're not.

ifferent and all the same

Romano Jones

Health and Hospitals Corporation,
Health Care Program Planner Analyst

I felt moved by the different kinds of people at the May Day celebration. I was part of something big with like minded people looking for change. It is necessary for us to take on the issues of the day like immigration. So many people doing something worthwhile.

Michelle Hall-Mangun

Human Resources Administration,
PAA

I liked the way we all came together in New Jersey. It was real solidarity. It was 35,000 people with one voice. It was awesome. I'm ready to go down 95 and let our voices be heard. Talk to Obama. I was revved up. Oh yeah.

Aleyamma Kurian

Department of Transportation,
PAAIII

This was my first time taking part in this kind of event. It was exciting. So many people. A good time. We stand together; we stick together; we fight together. When there is this kind of event, let me know. I'll be there.

Marie Therenfant

Human Resources Administration,
PAA

This was my first time. I felt strong. A power came over me. When you're alone no one backs you up. Walking in numbers we had a message we want Wall Street to hear.



Satvinder Singh: "I'm part of a good thing."

Lisa Lloyd

Health and Hospitals Corporation,
Assistant Coordinating Manager

I felt like unity. Unity is joining together because you can't do it by yourself. You need more than one to make a difference. The organization of the demo in Trenton was really put together well. No one thought they were better than anyone else. Everyone was like one. It felt like power.



Romano Jones: "So many people doing something worthwhile."

MAY DAY: BORN IN THE USA

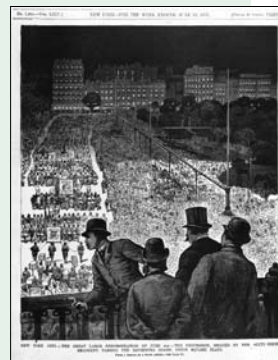
There was a time when 12, 14, and 16 hour shifts were the order of the day. There was work and a few hours of sleep. In 1886, a time of labor ferment over poor pay and long hours, on May 1 in Chicago 60,000 workers went on strike for an eight hour day. For two more days the strike grew in numbers. On May 3, the Chicago police, more in the employ of the bosses, who wanted the strike to end, than the city, fired on the striking workers, killed two and wounded many more.

The killings were cause for a rally on May 4 in Haymarket Square. As it was ending, 200 or more police entered the square, told the remaining protesters to disperse, and then someone—no one knew who—threw a bomb made of dynamite killing one policeman and wounding 70 others. The police rounded up the "usual suspects," in this case six anarchists who were leaders of the protest, and after a trial that produced no evidence against the six, four were condemned to death and hanged. They would afterwards be called the "Haymarket martyrs." In 1893 the governor of Illinois pardoned them and those still in prison were released.

May Day became an international day for solidarity among workers. In 1890, all over the world, workers rallied for an eight hour day which eventually became the standard where there were standards.

With May Day being too radical for America's business and political establishments, in 1894 President Grover Cleveland declared the first Monday in September as Labor Day. While there were May Day celebrations in the U.S. (New York's Union Square hosting the largest) its days were numbered. Dormant for years, on May 1, 2006 millions of workers, mostly immigrants, in response to anti-immigrant legislation being considered by the U.S. Congress, walked off their jobs and took to the streets in a demonstration that announced, "We are here. We are many. Deal with us."

May Day is back.



Let's rein in Wall Street

The sad state of our nation, state, and city is caused by politicians being infected with a dementia-like disease spread through political contributions from corporations using their newly reinforced free speech rights.

For nearly eight weeks now, the live video of the oil spewing from the depths of the ocean has served as a warning from the bowels of hell itself that our national policy decisions are arrogant and foolish, driven by corporations addicted to profits, particularly in the fields of finance, health care, and energy. For instance, the United States is responsible for 25 percent of world-wide oil consumption. This warning in the Gulf implores us to force our government to come to terms with what is in the interest of all the American people, and our duty as the last superpower standing, though barely, to offer the world a vision of a civilized society.

Only Wall Street rivals big oil

The deregulated oil industry has controlled our economy and government for many years. In 2001 Vice-President Dick Cheney's energy task force comprised solely of energy industry executives set energy policy for the remainder of the Bush years in office. The oil companies have been dictating our foreign policy for decades by supporting oppressive regimes and supporting the military industrial complex to secure oil reserves. The two wars we are involved in—Iraq and Afghanistan—where American soldiers are dying, are caused by energy corporations' addiction to profits.

Over the last 30 years the oil industry has been rivaled only by the finance industry, also known as Wall Street, in creating an addiction to high profits as the driving force in our economy. The only counter-balance to these greedy corporations is government, but only when it is controlled by and acts in the interest of all the people. The paradox is that these corporations effectively took control of government by converting the American people from citizens to consumers. They shifted the tax burden from the super rich to the average citizen which perpetuated a resentment of government among



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

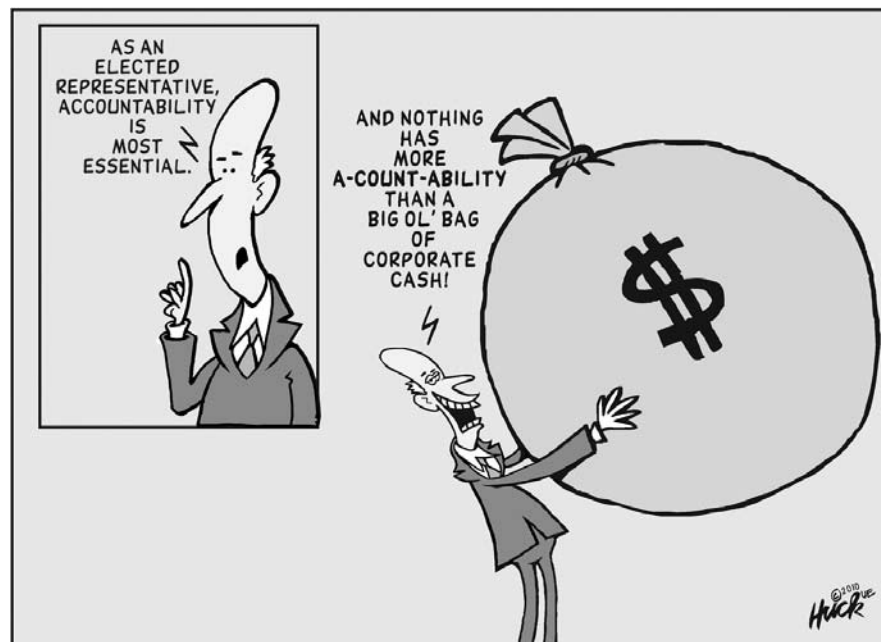
by Arthur Cheliotis acheliotis@cwa1180.org

[The] addiction to high profits [is] the driving force in our economy.

the middle class. With their growing wealth, they bought up media outlets that trumpeted every flaw in government distracting the people's attention from the real causes of their struggle to stay in the declining middle class.

Wall Street's demands for more profits drove profitable companies to lay-off workers, cut wages, benefits, and pensions, and ship, first manufacturing, and then white collar jobs to cheap labor markets

class jobs that offer pensions and benefits and a living wage. The work we do in government is the foundation upon which commerce, industry, and a civil society is built. Our jobs are also important to all New Yorkers because they provide a standard all employers must adhere to if they want to employ qualified people. Government jobs are open to anyone who has followed the rules and received the proper credentials and passed the



overseas to achieve the record profits demanded of them. Private sector unions, once powerful, have become hollow shells and now account for about 7 percent of workers in the private sector. The rich got richer and the middle class is tail-spinning to the bottom.

Only one group, unionized public sector workers, have fought and won the wages, pensions, and benefits that once steel workers, auto workers, and telephone workers won with their unions. Unionized public sector workers still have secure good jobs.

Public sector workers are now at the top of Wall Street's hit list. We are the last bastion of good middle

necessary tests to qualify. Our jobs are available to all, based on merit, not favoritism or status.

Contributions are poison

The Wall Street-financed attacks have escalated and the cowering politicians, intimidated by corporate media attacks, have blamed the difficult budgets they face on "greedy public workers." Those who take this position suffer from a unique form of dementia caused by the plague of infected political contributions from billionaires. This disease leaves their victims without any memory of the Wall Street Crash of 2008. The memory of our tax dollars bailing out Wall Street casinos has been

erased. They have forgotten that by any objective measure Wall Street was exposed as a criminal enterprise. Wall Street created a revenue shortage in state and local budgets because, instead of using the bailout money to promote economic activity and restart economic growth, Wall Street used it to put their profits where it helped them the most. Wall Street "diverted" it, stole it for record profits in 2009, nearly double the previous record, and once again handed out extravagant bonuses. Yet somehow, we, the workers in government, are to blame for the economic mess.

Time to fight back

This greedy criminality cannot continue. Wall Street has failed to improve the standard of living for anyone but its own players. The economic impact of their criminal behavior will be with us long after BP's oil is finally capped. Yet Wall Street is already doing the equivalent of deep water drilling again with their new financially engineered "investments." Wall Street is spending millions of dollars on lobbyists in the U.S. Congress to block regulation and in New York State political campaigns to stop any discussion of financial institutions being held accountable.

We must fight back. We must join together in our common interest. Speak to our co-workers, families, and neighbors and demand that government take control of Wall Street.

We must write candidates running for Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, and the State Legislature and make them pledge to balance the state budget by making "Wall Street Pay" so all New Yorkers can have good jobs. The state should take our bail-out tax dollars back with a windfall profits tax on Wall Street and tax their bonuses. We must also restore the full stock transfer tax (the state would have received \$16 billion in 2009) until New York's unemployment rate drops to 3 percent or below with a trigger to impose the tax again if it rises above 5 percent. We pay enough taxes and we need these vital public services. It is time to make Wall Street pay!

As Albert Einstein said; "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

BENEFITS CHANGES ARE COMING

Some drug co-pays decreased

By Bill Henning

Recent changes to federal laws governing employee health plans have resulted in modifications to the benefits provided through the Local 1180 Security Benefits Fund and the Local 1180 Retirees Benefits Fund.

Under the recently enacted Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, health plans like the ones established for the union's public sector members have to

meet new standards. The measure requires health plans to cover mental illness and substance abuse on the same basis as physical conditions. Effective July 1, 2010, the \$100 deductible will be eliminated for psychotropic drugs, and the co-pays will be the same as for general prescriptions. Previously, these drugs had a different structure of co-pays and a deductible, identical to that which remains in effect for drugs used in the treatment of asthma.

Several years ago, in the face of severely rising costs for psychotropic, injectable, chemotherapy,

MEMBER BENEFITS

and asthma medications, the coalition of city unions negotiated for the City of New York to take over the provision of those drugs, the so-called PICA drugs. At the time, the City instituted separate deductible and co-pays exclusively for the PICA drugs. Subsequently, the

unions agreed to provide the psychotropic and asthma medicines, leaving the chemotherapy and injectables with the City. The Local 1180 Funds Trustees maintained the same structure for the two classes of drugs. Asthma drugs will continue to require the member to meet a \$100 deductible and co-payments at retail (30-day supply) of \$10 for generic drugs and \$25 for name brand, and co-payments for mail order (90-day supply) of \$20 and \$50, respectively.

Notices will be sent to all members of the benefit fund plans alerting them to these changes.

Quietly quietly going after Social Security again

THIS TIME IT'S NOT President George Bush but President Barack Obama. Just like Nixon, a Republican, went to China, now Obama, a Democrat, is open to cutting Social Security benefits for new retirees.

Is it about bringing down the possibly \$1.75 trillion deficit by 2011? Is it to get Republicans to agree to raise taxes to bring down the deficit? Is it to assure America's foreign creditors, of which there are so many, that the administration will take the plunge and engage in

The big lie is that Social Security is broke.

a politically risky fight to proclaim Obama's macho?

Does it matter what the reason is? Social Security, like Medicare, is the

EDITORIAL

safety net for all people over the age of 65 and for the disabled and for the children of deceased workers. With defined pensions becoming extinct, with savings eaten up by

the depredations of Wall Street, with health care costs forcing some to choose between food and medicine, it is shameful to cut the only benefit guaranteed to help sustain life.

The big lie is that Social Security is broke. In 2023 there will be a \$4.3 trillion surplus, enough to pay full benefits until 2040. The money in the bank is paid for by working people who contribute 7.5 percent of their wages, 15 percent if self-employed.

It's a savings account that you have to put money in, like it or not.

If deficits are so important perhaps the president and the Congress could talk about ending the wars and taxing those with the ability to pay.

The Obama administration is not talking about Social Security cuts; at least not until after the November elections. Who is going to talk about it? Us. Starting when? Now. To whom? Every member of Congress who wants to be re-elected. **-GS**

Democracy now for airline organizing

By Gary Schoichet

The last time that Delta Airlines flight attendants voted for union representation the "yes" vote was 99 percent. The flight attendants lost.

What?

Under the rules of the National Labor Relations Act, in a representation election an election is won if the "yes" votes total 50 percent plus one vote of people voting.

Under the rules of the Railway Labor Act, which is supervised by the National Mediation Board, in a representation election the "yes" votes must total 50 percent plus one of all eligible voters rather than a majority of votes cast. When Delta's flight attendants last voted in 2008 the 99 percent "yes" was

less than 50 percent of the eligible votes. Delta's anti-union campaign simply consisted of calling on flight attendants to not vote.

Things change. The NMB has a three person board. As it stood, in 2008 two members supported the employees eligible rule and one was against it.

Rule change

In 2009 the Obama administration chose for labor; Linda Puchala, a former president (1979-86) of the flight attendant union, AFA/CWA (Association of Flight Attendants) was appointed to the board replacing Read Van de Water, a former Northwest Airlines lobbyist. Joining with former executive vice-president of the Airline Pilots Association, Harry Hoglander, they

voted to change the rule. It is now majority of votes cast wins.

Between the years 2005 through 2010 the second highest contributor to Georgia's Republican U.S. senator, Johnny Isakson, had been Delta Airlines, based in Atlanta. The senator immediately went on the attack in a news release: "The National Mediation Board simply does not have the legal authority to make such a radical change without Congressional authorization." Under the guise of protecting employees' rights, he said, "With this rule change, a union could be permanently recognized without a majority of employees having ever supported representation. I will use all available tools at my disposal, including the Congressional Review Act option, to see that this

assault on employee rights does not stand."

Would Isakson prefer the same rules being in effect in his next Senatorial election? Those stay-at-homes could be very damaging.

The new rule was hailed by Patricia Friend, outgoing president of AFA: "Today, we gladly usher in a new era of democracy. For far too long, flight attendants and other aviation and railway employees have faced significant obstacles in their quest for collective bargaining rights. Employers and their outside union busting companies engaged in the most undemocratic of practices by openly encouraging workers to destroy ballots and to not vote. Those days are now over."

Delta's flight attendants are anxious to get on with the campaign to unionize. AFA-CWA says it will file for an election in 30 days after the new rule becomes effective.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2010

Call to order: 6:15pm

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

President's Report:

- Arthur reminded us of the Public Relations training on Saturday, April 10, 2010. He asked Jerry to get copies of the booklet, "They Represent Us," for the training.
- Arthur met with CUNY and HHC about the Certificate Program.
- It is rumored that there may be a State budget sooner than expected. The WFP proposes tax bonuses. We will continue to draft our proposal on the State budget.
- We will host a discussion on the City and State budgets on April 26, 2010. CWA President Larry Cohen will be here. Arthur has invited the MLC Steering Committee, the downstate local presidents, the State AFL-CIO Board, and the Central Labor Council Board.
- We met with Lee Adler. The committees are working toward their goals.
- Arthur met with the officers to discuss assignments to visit politician's offices.
- Report accepted.

1st Vice President's Report:

- Linda submitted a written report on the utilization of the Administrative Manager's List. The agencies that have exhausted their lists are the Office of the Comptroller, the Teachers Retirement System, FISA, Juvenile Justice, the Dept. of Youth and Community Development, the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, the Bronx, Queens, and Kings

County District Attorney's offices.

- The agencies that are not using their lists because they have no one serving in the title, provisional or permanent are the New York City Employees Retirement System, the Law Dept., the Dept. of Homeless Services, the Dept. of Correction, the Dept. of Aging, and the Dept. of Probation.
- The agencies moving their lists are the New York Police Dept., the Human Resources Administration, the Dept. of Buildings (pending), the Dept. of Health and Mental Health, the Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Dept. of Finance, the Dept. of Design and Construction, and the New York City Housing Authority.
- Linda, Gwen, and Arthur met with Atty. Joel Spivack about the Admin. Mgr. list in those agencies that refuse to use it, or are changing titles to avoid it.
- The representation petitions are still awaiting OCB decisions.
- CWA approved legal assistance to pursue the Asst. Director title in HHC.
- The Education Committee is drafting a survey for a Workplace Literacy Program.
- A Civil Service Committee will be established.
- Linda will draft a mission statement.
- Report accepted.

2nd Vice President's Report:

- Bill reported on bargaining.
- He emphasized the need to mobilize for the May Day Rally. They will assemble at Foley Sq. at 11:00 am.
- There is a fundraiser for the Working Theatre at Sardi's, May 10, 2010 at 6:30 pm. The honoree is Chris Erickson, Business Manager for Local 3, IBEW.
- Report accepted.

**Sec'y/ Treasurer's Report:**

- Gloria distributed the Profit and Loss and Transaction Detail Reports.
- As of April 6, 2010 the TD checking acct. had a balance of \$888,510.76 and the Smith Barney acct. had a balance of \$150,130.54.
- In order to receive contributions, and pay out expenses for the May Day Rally, we agreed to use the NYCNFS account.
- The General Membership meeting scheduled for April 21, 2010 at 32 BJ has to be moved. They may be on strike. We are still looking for a place.
- The National Committee on Equity Conference will be Sept. 24 – 26 in New Orleans.
- The bus ride to Atlantic City, a fundraiser sponsored by the 1180 Equity Committee and The Caribbean Heritage Committee raised \$2,275.00.
- Report accepted.

Recording Secretary's Report:

- Gwen reported that we have a grievance tracking system. A report will be submitted to the Board every month.
- Report accepted.

Jerry reported that we won the COPE Award for new members.

- Peralta won the special election by a large margin. His seat in the 39th Assembly District is open. The March 16th Lobby Day was very successful.
- Candidates for NYS Attorney General are calling. We won't entertain them until after June.
- The CWA Minority Caucus is planning a Town Hall meeting and inviting the CWA Executive Bd. to discuss the Union's financial situation.

Harlan asked for approval of funds for another

Committee Bowling Night, Youth and Union Workshop, and Family Day Event. His request was approved.

- He is also planning the annual picnic.
- Arthur spoke about committee presentations and how they should be structured.

Charles Garcia spoke about the Immigrant Rally.

- He presented information about the LCLAA Labor Celebration and Dinner. The Board authorized the purchase of a table of 10 and a full page ad.

Venus Williams reported that we will march in the Puerto Rican Day Parade for the first time. The entry fee is \$300 and she asked for t-shirts specific to the event. Her request was approved.

Alan reported on the HRA Workplace Violence Committee.

- He asked for approval to purchase tickets to the 504 Democratic Club luncheon. The Board approved the purchase of 5 tickets.

Gina informed us that on May 15th the Caribbean Heritage Committee has planned a Carnival to celebrate May Day. The celebration will take place on the lower level at 6 Harrison St.

- Gina reported that the funds raised for Haitian Relief will be donated to Doctors Without Borders.
- Gina also spoke about the recruitment effort for the May Day Rally.

Clarona informed us that the Women's Committee is planning a Gospel Brunch.

- All reports accepted.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is May 12, 2010

Respectively submitted,

Gwen Richardson

MAY 12, 2010

Call to order: 6:10 pm

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

Absent: Harlan Reid

Guests: Nadya Stevens, Venus Williams

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

President's Report:

- Arthur congratulated the staff and Board on the success of the mobilization effort for the Wall St. and May Day rallies.
- The in-district meetings with politicians are on-going.
- The Albany visit was successful. District One was pleased with the participation.
- Arthur thanked Bernadette for representing him at the North Shore Democratic Club Awards Dinner. He was delayed at the airport.
- We are major contributors to the Working Theatre. We may use them to train our stewards on how to engage people.
- We are sending a bus full of our members to support CWA Local 1033 in Trenton, NJ on May 22, 2010. Our fellow public workers in NJ are facing massive layoffs and cutbacks at the hands of Gov. Christie.
- The Transit Authority has not moved on the 4% raise.
- Our actuaries have informed us that we are operating at a loss. The Trustees will have to address this very soon in order to preserve our supplemental benefits.
- Report accepted.

1st Vice President's Report:

- Linda reported that she attended a meeting at DC 37. They are looking for input from other unions for City Wide bargaining. They have 6 demands.
- There is still no movement on our representation petitions.
- Our attorney, Gay Semel, received a settlement offer from HHC on the Care Mgr.-Registered Nurse title.
- Our petition to represent the Administrative

Manager title in the Dept. of Education is awaiting a hearing date at PERB. We have filed to represent the title in the Transit Authority.

- We are still waiting for a decision from OCB on the Customer Information Representative title
- Linda met with Dave Faucher, a consultant who is working to help us make our case that women and minority managers are paid less and given more responsibility. We may use him as an expert witness in our Admin. JOS salary arbitration. Faucher does concur that there is gender bias associated with salaries.
- Report accepted.

2nd Vice President's Report:

- Bill reported on bargaining:
- ASPCA – wage offer inadequate, we have our work cut out for us
- Human Rights First – contact expired last Friday. 3 yr. offer, 2%, 2%, and 3.5%.
- Sustainable South Bronx – began bargaining, NLRB refused to file charges on terminated activists.
- The Nation Institute – bargaining concluded, substantial wage increase.
- NY Foundation for Senior Citizens – began bargaining.
- Amnesty International – prevented furloughs, no pay cuts.
- The Javits Ctr. – A question mark.
- A temporary restraining order has been issued to halt the Governor's move to furlough state workers. Approximately 8,000 people turned out for the May Day rally.
- Senator Martin Dilan was contacted by one of our committees. He was angry. He supports vacancy decontrol and was uncomfortable with some of the committee's questions.
- Report accepted.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

- Gloria distributed the Transaction Detail and Profit and Loss reports.
- In April we acquired 19 new members, 5 terminated, 2 retired, 2 resigned.
- The TD checking acct. has a balance of \$763,971.86, the Morgan Stanley Smith Barney acct. has a balance of \$150,132.61.
- Gloria distributed the Convention reservations. She asked for the Bd's approval to amend the pension distribution method.
- NYCNFS was used for May Day Rally contribu-

tions. Money is still coming in from other organizations to pay bills.

- Report accepted.

Recording Secretary's Report:

- Gwen distributed the Grievance Tracking Report. After some discussion it was suggested that another field be added to show disposition of grievance at each step. Gwen also reported on the transfer of 3 members from DOI to DEP and the resulting lay off of 2 members at DEP, and how poorly DEP handled the situation.
- Report accepted.

Political Action:

- Jerry reported on our Bill regarding Probationary Periods, S4562, sponsored by Senator Savino, and A7170 sponsored by Assemblyman Abbate. The Teamsters have written a letter of support.
- Jerry also reported on the CWA Minority Caucus.
- Report accepted.

Charles Garcia reported that the Latin Labor Council Convention is coming up. He asked that the Bd. approve his attendance. The Bd. gave its approval for 4 members to attend. We suggested that at least 2 slots be designated to members of the 1180 Hispanic Committee.

Alan Goldblatt reported that 45 members participated in the NAMI Walk

Gina reminded us that the Caribbean Heritage Committee's Carnival is Saturday, May 15, 2010, 11:00am to 4:00pm.

- Arthur reminded us of the meeting with VP Chris Shelton.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. Next meeting June 9, 2010

Respectively submitted,

Gwen Richardson

Retired Members Chapter annual luncheon



President Adelle Rogers and Trustee Arthur Johnson with Dorothy Matthews and Dorothy Prince who won awards for voluntary service.



CWA Public Sector Vice-President Brooks Sunkett.

CWA Local 1180's Annual Picnic



will take place this year on
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2010
 12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

LIBERTY LAKE, BORDENTOWN, NEW JERSEY

60 Scenic Acres, Shaded Campus, Lakeside Dining, 7 Acre Lake, 2 Olympic Pools, Row Boats and Paddle Boats, 18 Hole Professional Miniature Golf Course, Outdoor Laser Tag, 24 Foot Rock Climbing Wall, Professional Games Staff, Soccer, Football, Softball Fields, New Basketball Courts, Sand Volleyball, Hiking Trails, Horseshoe Pits, Towel Service at the Pools, Water Trampoline, 2 Pool Water Slides, Pony Rides, Face Painter, Professional D.J. and more. (Please bring your own swimsuits for swimming).

RAIN OR SHINE – SORRY, NO REFUNDS

Bus Deadline: Monday, August 16, 2010
 Ticket Deadline: Friday, August 20, 2010

CASH & MONEY ORDERS ONLY!
 (NO CHECKS)...NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

**N.J. STATE HEALTH LAW PROHIBITS REMOVAL OF FOOD FROM FACILITY.
 VIOLATORS MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE FACILITY NON-REFUNDED.**

INCLUDED BUFFET

FROM THE GRILL
 1/3 lb. Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers
 All-Beef Hotdogs
 Grilled Chicken Breast
 Italian Sweet Sausage
 Veggie Burgers upon request

SIDES
 Fresh Sliced Jersey Tomatoes and Onions
 Sautéed Peppers and Onions
 Sauerkraut
 NY Deli-Style Pickles
 Potato Chips & Pretzels

HOT BUFFET
 Italian Meatball Subs
 Fried Chicken
 BBQ Spare Ribs
 Baked Ziti
 Baked Beans
 Fresh Jersey Corn on the Cob

DESSERTS
 Assorted Cookies
 Watermelon
 Ice Cream
 Sodas
 Lemonade
 Ice Tea



BUSES ARE AVAILABLE @ LOCATIONS BELOW FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE @ \$20.00 PER TICKET

Location	Bus#	Pick up Stop
Brooklyn	1	Downtown (L.I.U.) (Flatbush Ave. Ext. @ Dekalb)
Queens	2	Rochdale Village
	3	179th St./IND Subway
Manhattan	4	Lenox Av. & 125th St.
Bronx	5	Co-op City @ Bay Plaza Shopping Ctr.
	6	Yankee Stadium

(BUSES DEPART PROMPTLY AT 10:00 A.M.)



Liberty Mutual Bike Safety

- ◆ Free Community Event designed to help elementary school aged children learn about bike safety ◆ Fun and Educational
- ◆ Test their knowledge on a miniature, riding course complete with real-road challenges
- ◆ Kids will learn important bike riding rules
- ◆ Bike safety quizzes and giveaways too!



Please complete and enclose payment/money order payable to CWA Local 1180
 Send To: CWA Local 1180 Picnic, 6 Harrison Street, 4th Floor, New York, New York 10013-2898

NAME: _____ HOME ADDRESS: _____

APT: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (WORK): _____ (HOME): _____

Picnic Tickets	Quantity	Total	
Adult \$35.00 pp	_____	\$ _____	
Children \$20.00 pp (Age 3-11)	_____	\$ _____	
Bus Tickets	Quantity	Bus No.	Total
\$20.00 pp	_____	_____	\$ _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Mailed Tickets _____
 Picked Up Tickets _____
 Date / /2010
 Receipt No. _____

CALENDAR

July 6 (Tuesday)

Arts & Entertainment Committee
 (chair: Harlan Reid)

August 3 (Tuesday)

Arts & Entertainment Committee
 (chair: Harlan Reid)

COPE award

Local 1180 won the District 1 COPE (Committee on Political Education) award for most new members in 2009. 199 members signed up to contribute at least \$2 a paycheck. COPE is important because it is the way our national union—Communications Workers of America—get our message out to politicians.

Haiti Relief

Local 1180 collected \$3,155 to send to Haiti. The Kingdom Church International in Brooklyn collected \$1,000 and via Hazel Worley sent it to Local 1180. The Local 1180 Women's Committee contributed \$300. The money will be contributed to Doctors Without Borders to continue their great work in Haiti.

PERSONAL NOTES

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to **Otissa Dillard** (Principal Administrative Associate, Human Resources Administration) on the tragic death of her son, Victor Gibson,

Our deepest sympathies to Local 1180 members and sisters **Delores Smith Johnson** (HRA) and **Valerie Matthews-Thomas** (Department of Finance) on the tragic deaths of their niece, Shakemma and greatniece, Kaliya.

Condolences to **Harlan Reid** whose brother, Kevin Reid, passed away in May.

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the sudden death of Rasheem David Miles. His father, **Jimmy Brockington**, is a retired Local 1180 member and his aunt is **Gwen Richardson**, Recording Secretary of Local 1180.

Condolences to Shop Steward, **Jerome Cunningham** (Administrative JOS Manager, HRA) on the death of his mother, Marguerite Cunningham, who died in November, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS

Shop Steward **Carol Bratton** (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene) is a first-time great grandmother. Kimani Laje-Marie Bratton was born on May 28 and weighed in at 6lbs. 9ozs. Carol's grandson Jeffrey Bratton and girlfriend Laronda Davis are the happy parents.



Inside **Communique**

What's the matter with Arizona? **2**

Some drug co-pays decreased **9**

HHC cuts hurt **5**

2010 annual picnic **11**

MAY DAY: Born in the USA **7**

GET READY
for a whole new look.
Local 1180's new website
is almost here. In the next
Communique we will show you
the ins and outs.



And maybe a few curves.

Local 1180 members celebrate their 25 years and more of HRA (Human Resources Administration) service.

