

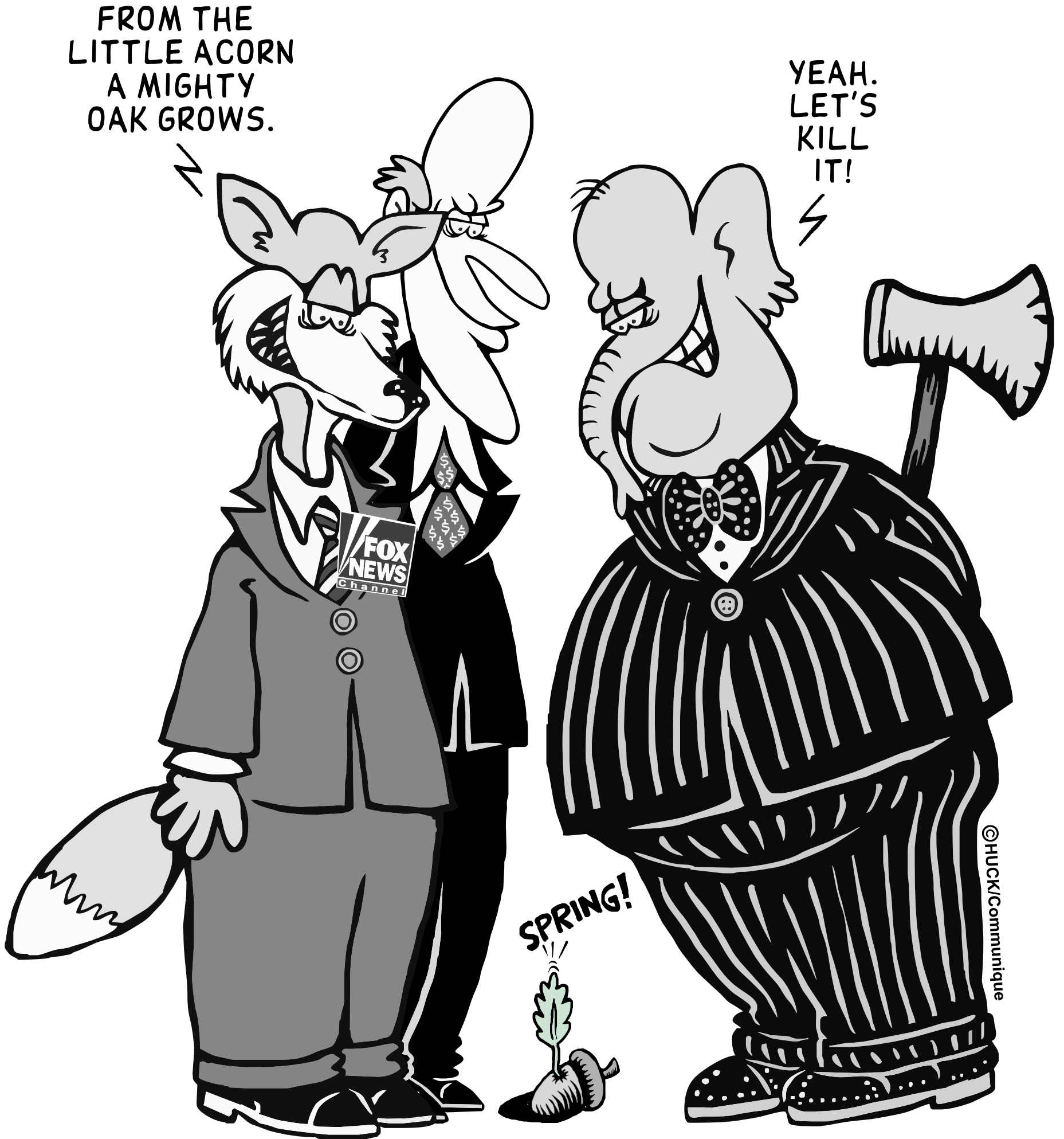


September/October 2010

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



The assault on democracy

pages 6-7

2010 Candidates Endorsement

After careful consideration the Executive Board of CWA Local 1180 has endorsed the following candidates for public office in the September 14 Democratic Party Primary.

United States Congress: House of Representatives

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	BOROUGH
5th C.D.	Gary L. Ackerman	Queens
6th C.D.	Gregory W. Meeks	Queens
7th C.D.	Joseph Crowley	Queens and the Bronx
8th C.D.	Jerrold L. Nadler	Manhattan and Brooklyn
9th C.D.	Anthony P. Weiner	Queens and Brooklyn
10th C.D.	Ed Towns	Brooklyn
11th C.D.	Yvette D. Clarke	Brooklyn
12th C.D.	Nydia M. Velazquez	Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens
13th C.D.	Michael E. McMahon	Brooklyn and Staten Island
14th C.D.	Carolyn B. Maloney	Manhattan and Queens
15th C.D.	Charles B. Rangel	Manhattan and Bronx
16th C.D.	Jose E. Serrano	Bronx
17th C.D.	Eliot L. Engel	Bronx

New York State Senate

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	BOROUGH
12th S.D.	Michael Gianaris	Queens
10th S.D.	Shirley Huntley	Queens
18th S.D.	Velmanette Montgomery	Brooklyn
19th S.D.	John L. Sampson	Brooklyn
30th S.D.	Bill Perkins	Manhattan
31st S.D.	Adriano Espaillat	Manhattan and the Bronx
33rd S.D.	Gustavo Rivera	Bronx

New York State Assembly

DISTRICT	CANDIDATE	BOROUGH
25th A.D.	Rory Lancman	Queens
35th A.D.	Jeffrion L. Aubry	Queens
36th A.D.	Aravella Simotas	Queens
42nd A.D.	Rhoda Jacobs	Brooklyn
68th A.D.	Robert Rodriguez	Manhattan
72nd A.D.	Guillermo Linares	Manhattan/Bronx
73rd A.D.	Gregg Lundahl	Manhattan
79th A.D.	Eric Stevenson	Bronx
86th A.D.	No endorsement	Bronx



Anthony Weiner, 9th C.D., Queens and Brooklyn, at a press conference in support of Books and Rattles members.



Gustavo Rivera (center and inset), 33rd S.D., Bronx, is looking to unseat Pedro Espada who really needs to be unseated for the health of New York State.



Aravella Simotas in 36th A.D., Queens.



Velmanette Montgomery, 18th S.D, Brooklyn.



Jerrold Nadler, 8th C.D., Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Workplace Literacy Program

The Education Committee is accepting registrations for the Fall 2010/Spring 2011 Workplace Literacy Program. For details, www.cwa1180.org and click on "Training."

Cancer survivors meeting

Beginning in September a cancer survivors group will meet at Local 1180 on a monthly basis. The first meeting will be on Monday, September 27 at 6 PM in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting will be led by Tonya Mackey, Mary Alston, and Arte Pearson who were featured in the March/April *Communique* cover article "Cancer. Illness. Baldness. Self image." The meeting is open to all cancer survivors. President Arthur Cheliotos, a cancer survivor, will attend the meeting.

A NOTE ABOUT THE WEBSITE

We promised you a tour of Local 1180's new website but because it is still being tweaked and improved we are waiting for the November/December issue.

COMMUNIQUE

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Retiree Division: 800-801-2882
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PHOTOS: GARY SCHOICHET

PHOTOS: GARY SCHOICHET



PAT ARNOW

Sarah Faust was excited that HRF was a union shop.

Get more young people involved

By Chude Mondlane

Sara Faust
Human Rights First
Program Associate

What brought you to Human Rights First?

I have been with Human Rights First since mid October 2009. Before that I worked at a community-based organization in a refugee resettlement program. I had always had Human Rights First on my radar. When the Program Associate position came up in the Refugee Protection Program I applied for it.

What made you run for Shop Steward?

I was really excited that Human Rights First was a union shop. Where I worked before was not a union shop and I could see a union was needed. The woman who had left the job I took was a shop steward and the position needed filling. Even though I was very new at the time I said it would be something I would do quite happily and I ended up becoming shop steward by default.

How old are you? Where are you from?

27. I was born in Brooklyn, Massachusetts and now live in Brooklyn, New York.

Is your interest in organizations that deal with social issues something your parents instilled in you?

My parents are definitely very political. My father drove a concrete truck for 30 years and was a Teamster. My mom was a speech

UNION PROUD

pathologist in public schools and a member of the teachers' union and a union delegate. She was involved in contract negotiations and when I was going through our contract negotiation I would sometimes vent to her. She gave me guidance in how to deal with my frustration. I learned there are some constants whether you are negotiating for teachers, coal miners, or human rights employees.

When did you realize that most people did not grow up around these issues?

I think gradually, but I think it was around the "Bush/Gore" election that I was surprised by a lot of talk about "working families," "working class," you know, using the kind of political terminology that is used in each election to talk about which party is better for the working folk in America. I was in high school at

the time and I wasn't very politically active so it took some time to realize that when they were talking "working families in America" they were talking about families like mine.

In college and graduate school my interests were French and post colonial studies. I learned about the very unfortunate aspects of colonialism and how after independence the countries of North and West Africa are still combating issues from colonial times like ethnic tensions, the inability to access their natural resources, and the persistence of dictators.

What are your day to day responsibilities at Human Rights First?

As a Program Associate for the Refugee Protection Program I help clients seeking asylum in the New York and New Jersey area. I evaluate their asylum claims and if we are able to take a client into the program we provide them with a team of pro bono lawyers who work in partnership with us to follow them through their asylum. Once they get asylum we help them get their families over.

What are your interests outside of work?

I run distance, marathons, and am currently training for a full one and I have always been a really big fiction reader. I run the boroughs. Outside of work and throughout my life I'd say those are my two things I've always maintained.

Where are you headed with your life?

I would like to eventually work with people who are displaced in either West Africa or the Horn of Africa on the behalf of the US government or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or another NGO. After that I don't know. It would be nice to have a family and raise them close to my family in Boston.

What would be your message to your fellow members?

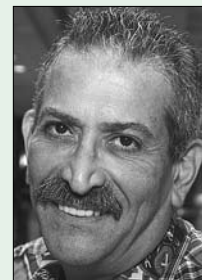
Please do your best to get more young people involved. There are a lot of misconceptions about unions and what they do and their benefits. I think a lot of it is driven by the media. The more young people that get involved the easier it will be to sustain a strong labor movement in the United States for years to come.

ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

What would you have liked to do if you didn't work for the city?

Arye Sivion
Health and
Hospitals Corp.,
PAA

First I need to win the lottery. My goal would be to open a gay nursing home or I would like to be a real estate broker. My experience/service on my co-op board has shown me how important it is to have knowledge. I know I could be successful making presentations and selling apartments. Another option would be to be a New York City Council member. I am capable of being a leader and negotiating and reaching agreements.



PAT ARNOW

Michelle Hall-Mangum
HRA-CASA,
PAA

Track coach. I ran track for August Martin H.S. and loved to run. I enjoyed winning, pushing myself, the wind hitting my face, the sense of accomplishment. I also might like to be a baker. I love baking, love feeding my neighbors and co-workers. Actually, both coaching and baking make people happy as well as making me happy.



GARY SCHOICHT

Lisa Lloyd
Health &
Hospitals Corp.,
PAA

An advocate. Help people get stuff they deserve instead of getting stuck in a loop. If you don't know, you don't become successful. I'd like to help push the agenda. I'd like to help others to know how to get things accomplished, for example jobs for young people. Things are not organized. For example my daughter can't get work even though she has working papers.



GARY SCHOICHT

When they were talking "working families in America" they were talking about families like mine.

Regina McGrann is the Roving Reporter.



United Food and Commercial Workers member hands out leaflet asking consumers not to buy Mott's products.



Solidarity is everything

By Gary Schoichet

When my sister and I were young, I eleven and she eight, we made a pact.

No matter what our parents had on us, no matter what one of us might do, we would stick together. It was us against them. We never wavered in the years we lived in our parents' house.

It was an early lesson in solidarity on a very personal level. It made sense. Families are not built on equality; they are built on power that may be benign, that may be loving, but it is still power.

Our schooling years are another such power relationship and then, as we enter our adulthoods and the world of work, we enter into another power relationship, that between employee and employer.

Solidarity is unity

The word solidarity comes from the French *solidarité* (1841) and means *unity, as of a group or class, that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards* (dictionary.com).

In the union movement solidarity between workers has been the thread that holds the coat together. Without it the cloth is rent. Robber baron, financier, and railroad operator Jay Gould knew it when during the Great Southwest Railroad Strike of 1886 he told striking union workers, "I can hire one half of the working class to kill the other half." He did; he hired strikebreakers to work the railroads, Pinkerton detectives to break up meetings, attack strikers, and generally intimidate striking workers, and bought the services of local and state politicians in Texas

and Missouri where the state militias were called out to protect railroad property and scabs.

The solidarity element that failed was the Brotherhood of Engineers not honoring the strike and continuing to work. That might have been the deciding factor in the strike being broken.

125 years later is still the strongest bond, and sometimes the weakest link, when struggle is in the air.

In Williamson, in upstate New York, solidarity is king as 300 full time workers at the only plant where Mott's makes apple sauce, the one many of us grew up on, and organic apple juice concentrate, have been on strike since March because in negotiations Mott's decided that the workers were making too much money and wants them to give back wages, pay more for health insurance, and take a 20 percent cut in 401(k) contributions. The company—Dr. Pepper Snapple Group—earned \$555 million in 2009 and the CEO received a 113 percent increase in compensation to \$6.5 million annually. Corporate greed rules.

In solidarity, we can stop consuming their products that include, besides Mott's products, Snapple, Yoo-hoo, A&W and Hires root beers, Crush, Sunkist, Hawaiian Punch, Canada Dry, Squirt, RC Cola, Diet Rite, and Schweppes. And let them know you're doing it by going to this website http://www.iuf.org/cgi-bin/campaigns/show_campaign.cgi?c=513 and signing the letter to Larry Young, CEO of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group.

In subsequent issues of *Communique* we will continue this solidarity thread.

Solidarity can be easy.

LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE 2

Fired for non-cause and made whole

By Gary Schoichet

CONZALES TURNER, more than 30 years on the job, was fired as director of medical records at the Renaissance Health Network on May 8, 2007. On June 8, 2010 an arbitrator ruled that she was improperly terminated, must be made whole, and get her job back.

In May of 2007 Barbara McDermott was fired from her job as liaison between Bellevue Hospital and its Community Advisory Board. In December 2009 an arbitrator ruled that she was improperly terminated, must be made whole, and get her job back. [*Communique*, Jan/Feb 2009]

Both women held the title of Coordinating Manager, a title accreted into Local 1180 barely a month before McDermott's firing. Neither woman had a history of discipline. It was open season on Coordinating Managers at the Health and Hospitals Corporation and Turner and McDermott were among the prey.

According to staff representative LaChaune Hackett, at the Step III hearing someone in HHC realized that it would not win in arbitration and so they added another charge after she was terminated. According to the contract, common sense would tell you, since she was no longer working at HHC, since she was fired, they could not add any more charges. "Step IIIs are a waste of time anyway," said Hackett. "They just rubber stamp all terminations. Turner's supervisor testified that Turner had done nothing wrong. HHC persisted."

Local 1180 hired an attorney to represent Turner.

The charges

HHC terminated Turner for misconduct. Specifically, (1) Violation of Nepotism Policy; "You knowingly hired relatives in your department;" (2) Inappropriate conduct; "On or about February 28, 2007 you engaged in a verbal argument

with [a dental assistant]. This occurred in the presence of staff and patients;" and (3) "On or about February 28, 2007 you welcomed ... invitation to fight."

Sometimes charges are true and a clever union rep works her magic and the employee skates. In Turner's case the charges were false and HHC was adamant that she was going to go. And go she did for three years and counting.

Nepotism defined according to HHC

HHC's nepotism policy is: "whenever there are two or more relatives working in the same facility, no more than one of them shall be assigned to work in the same unit, even if no supervisory relationship exists; cannot be involved in the hiring or employment of a near relative nor supervise a near relative; when a nepotism situation arises the" employees involved must report it; and "this policy may be waived when such a waiver will serve the best interests of the Corporation." This last tidbit was put in, just to show that there is nepotism and there is nepotism.

Turner was accused of hiring and allowing supervisors to supervise their relatives. As it turned out, during the arbitration hearing HHC witnesses agreed "there was no evidence that the mothers had supervised their sons."* The same witness testified that she had had two meetings with Turner about two separate incidences of nepotism. Turner, who never got to tell her side of the story when she was fired because HHC did not want to hear it, who only got to go on record at the arbitration hearing, said they only met once and discussed both cases. HHC's entire nepotism case rested on "documents showing the employment status of the mothers and sons..."

At the arbitration hearing, Turner "reported [of] other instances of family members of employees working at HHC in supervisory and



Conzales Turner is still waiting to return to her job.

subordinate positions. Thus, the Director of Nursing supervises her sister who is a nurse. A custodial housekeeper is a relative of the Director of Housekeeping and is supervised by the Director.”

Fighting words

During a training session concerning sterilization protocols and procedure, which the center

Such a penalty [termination] is also disproportionate to any purported violation and shocking to one's conscience.

needed because it had failed an audit, a dental assistant started saying negative things to the presenter “in such a manner that it became apparent she was completely out of control.” When no other supervi-

sor intervened, Turner asked the dental assistant to stop interrupting and was challenged to “go outside.” Turner was accused of saying, “let's get it on now,” although she testified that she said, “You go outside.”

The arbitrator wrote, “None of the statements which Turner made at the meeting in an attempt to quiet and isolate the disruptive employee rises to the level of inappropriate conduct warranting termination. Such a penalty is also disproportionate to any purported violation and shocking to one's conscience.”

Back pay and made whole

He further said that had Turner not intervened the training session would probably have been terminated; that even though the charge was that patients were present, no patients were present; that Turner was appealing to all present “to be respectful of their guests who were there to educate us;” that he (the arbitrator) was “unwilling to credit [HHC's] testimony attributing fighting words to Turner ... and that it [is] difficult to believe that Turner, who appeared composed and restrained as a witness, would utter the fighting words of which she is accused.”

The result is full back pay less whatever interim earnings she had, including unemployment compensation, full restoration of seniority, vacation, and pension benefits, and her job back.

Why did HHC do this? LaChaune Hackett: “She was there a long time with a lot of authority and a new power group was ascending. They just didn't want her there anymore.” For this, three years were taken from Conzales Turner's life. An interesting note is that some of the key HHC players were demoted or fired after the arbitration decision.

**Quotes are from the arbitrator's report.*

A conversation with Conzales Turner

It never should have happened

They say I won. I was raped by HHC. Three years of my life. I was glad to be out, but I was screwed. Royally. Like in Macy's windows with red curtains.

I've been working most of my adult life. I was glad to be home. My mom was sick prior to my being fired. My being fired let me give my mom those things she needed and gave me the opportunity to reconnect with her before she passed away. That doesn't mean I liked being fired.

It caused a change in our lifestyle, adding budgetary restraints. We had to refinance our home to consolidate our bills because before we had two salaries. My unemployment ran out three weeks before my hearing. I got the whole pie, but it should never have happened. It was total nonsense.

All of the testimony those people made were lies.

They make a habit of lying to ruin the reputations of outstanding workers. I never had anything but outstanding evaluations and no history of discipline. My managerial style differs from most. I ran my department as per their policies and procedures, not on my personal feelings. That's the way I was trained. My unit was elite. We boosted morale; there was no absenteeism, no lateness.

In the new era of administrative staffing they have no idea of what the policies and procedures of HHC are and so they make up their own. HHC brings them in and drops them behind a desk and they have no idea of how to run their facilities and departments. Renaissance is a cesspool because these people took to terminating employees and reducing morale.

From 1989 when Renaissance was standing room only, it's now like standing in the middle of the Mojave Desert. The patients have left because of the lack

of quality services. As the administrations changed more and more patients leave because the quality of care is no longer there.

When it came to Renaissance I was the person. My boss was outside of our building and getting calls from Renaissance administrators that I should do things outside of policy. I wouldn't do that. I think they were targeting Coordinating Managers. If this had happened before the union I would not be going back. This craziness started right after they found out I was going to be the 1180 shop steward. I was on leave from my certified permanent competitive position; the title was mine. They should have sent me back to my previous title and then I could have grieved to get my CM title back.

I know there is going to be retaliation when I go back. As soon as they attempt it there is going to be trouble.

GS

Mission Accomplished: **The assault on democracy**

ACORN: The community organization that worked too well

In 2003, President George W. Bush stood on the deck of the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, a huge banner behind him with the words "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" in two-foot high white letters on a field of red, white and blue. He was supposedly referring to the end of the conventional war in Iraq. But, more likely he was referring to the assault on democracy that started in modern times with the Reagan administration, reached its peak with the Bush presidency, helped by the Supreme Court, and now we are in the time of Obama and we shall see.

Communique is beginning a new feature that will explore the assault on our democracy. The first article is the story of the attack on and demise of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now—better known as ACORN.

By **Lourdes Marte**

Two men walked into a bar... no, wrong story. A pimp and his prostitute walked into an ACORN office—hidden cameras somewhere—and snookered, after considerable editing, two ACORN employees into telling them how to evade taxes on the work they were doing. Fox News took it up, followed by the more “respectable” media. A bandwagon of horrified conservatives and liberal congressional representatives, and a president, took to the low road—and an organization that did more for people needing housing than ever before, and registered more than 1.3 million poor people and people of color to vote, was knocked off the road; consigned to the scrapheap of history.

Guilty by unproven suspicion

In September 2009, “activists” James O’Keefe III and Hannah Giles released a series of videos “exposing” ACORN employees voluntarily assisting a pimp and prostitute with tips for tax evasion, human trafficking of underage girls, and prostitution.

Conservative-leaning media news outlets touted O’Keefe and Giles as young “courageous” journalists who had infiltrated ACORN offices to expose the wrong-doing that Republicans and conservative groups were saying all along that ACORN was guilty of. Video clips shown of the pair sitting in ACORN offices were alternated with clips of employees nodding and responding to “questions” dubbed by O’Keefe.

“This was a strategy that took time, energy, forethought, and planning,” says former ACORN national spokesman Scott Levenson.

By the time the dust settled and the tapes exposed as frauds, the U.S. Census Bureau had terminated their partnership with ACORN for the 2010 Census. The Senate and House of Representatives had voted to cut all federal funding to ACORN, its subsidiaries, and collaborative partners. The IRS had removed ACORN from its Volunteer Tax Assistance Program, which had been essential to the free tax-preparation programs ACORN had been providing to mid-



Bertha Lewis

and low-income people within the communities for years.

By April 2010, ACORN’s remaining offices were closed. After forty years of service, ACORN was destroyed.

Why ACORN?

“In 2004, we came to the attention of (President) Bush and Karl Rove,” says Bertha Lewis, former Chief Executive Officer and Chief Organizer of ACORN. “We were active and vocal around the issue of voter suppression... We were very efficient and effective in voter registration, which we did in a non-partisan manner. The people we registered were poor and

people of color and tended to vote Democratic.”

According to Lewis, ACORN was changing voter patterns that led to the election of Barack Obama. ACORN registered and involved blacks and Latinos and young people in the process. “When people conducted voter registration drives, they didn’t follow up. There was no attempt to hold local politicians accountable. ACORN followed up.

“The rubber hits the road in city halls and state houses...We were moving people to the polls locally,” says Lewis. “We became dangerous because we got people involved in local politics. We challenged the status quo—left, right, Democrats, and Republicans. We shaped and advocated public policy and we had the troops to move them.”

By 2008 ACORN had 1.3 million people making the first step in participating in the democratic process—registering to vote.

Fact-checking optional: One-sided coverage of ACORN in the media

Investigations conducted by both the Brooklyn District Attorney Hynes and California Attorney General Brown discovered the exposé tapes’ spliced footage. Between the time of its release in 2009 to the confirmed findings released by the attorneys general in Spring 2010 the tapes had been thoroughly presented as pure fact and indisputable proof of ACORN’s alleged misdeeds.

The mainstream media was outed as being dupes of the right wing media once the tapes were confirmed to be complete fakes. Huffington Post writers Peter Drier and John Atlas didn’t spare any of the harsh criticism of *The New York Times*’ reporting on the ACORN tapes. The *Times*’ public editor, Clark Hoyt, addressed the reporting faux-pas in his March 20th column, revealing “editors were considering a correction” on the lop-sided reporting of the ACORN tapes.

The blatant lack of fact-checking throughout the media’s presentation of the ACORN tapes failed to uncover O’Keefe’s and Giles’ political identities or associations; it was only after the tapes were uncovered

as frauds that the question of who these “journalists” were came to the surface. The level of influence O’Keefe and Giles may have had from conservative groups—O’Keefe with the Leadership Institute, a conservative training organization with ties to the Tea Party, and Giles with Andrew Breitbart’s blog *BigGovernment.com*—was hardly touched. A year after the ACORN videos were released, O’Keefe was arrested for entering the office of Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu in an attempt to tamper with her phones. He received three years probation.

“The amount of time Fox (News) spent on attacking ACORN and the amount of time MSNBC spent on defending ACORN showed a huge difference,” says Levenson. “Fox (News) and the Republicans had no qualms about what they did or said. Once it sells itself to populist fervor, the liberal media always caves to it.”

“They used all the outlets with a unified message and talking points and then the other media didn’t do their homework,” agrees Bertha Lewis. “They didn’t do their investigating, and they went along, and the politicians went along.”

The “down with ACORN” rant, pushed by conservatives for so long, became less outrageous, but not because it became true. Far from it—it became a constant mantra repeated by the media, politicians, and pundits from both sides of the political spectrum.

“Democrats are less disciplined and less tough. When orchestrated attacks come from the right, and find popular approval, Democrats lay down,” says Levenson. “ACORN’s greatest defenders and friends became supporters of the attack. They became apologists for the right wing.”

Truth vs. Scandal—ACORN’s mission versus hidden agendas

Although the linchpin of the right-wing anti-ACORN campaign were these “exposé” tapes created by conservative activists posing as undercover journalists, ACORN has been a whipping boy for the right for years.

The claims of voter fraud began to surface as early as 1998. They steadily increased as more and more voters were registered through the

nocracy

organization's massive voter registration drives, particularly hitting a frenzied pitch during election years. In 2008, ACORN was accused of deliberate voter fraud in "swing states" Nevada and Missouri, and between 2004 and 2006, the same accusations were made in several other states like Wisconsin and Ohio.

The anti-ACORN campaign spread to Capitol Hill by Republican congressman and chair of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Darryl Issa (CA-49). His two congressionally unauthorized reports published between the summer of 2009 and early 2010 flat-out accused ACORN of being a "criminal enterprise" set to defraud the American people.

The Defund ACORN Act

In September 2009, Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) proposed two measures that would end ACORN's receipt of federal funds for housing and transportation, and from the Department of the Interior. The first measure passed the Senate vote with an 83-7 majority. The second measure also passed the Senate vote—this time with an 85-11 majority.

The bill that incorporated Johanns' measures, H.R. 3571, deemed that the Federal government was "prohibit[ed]... from awarding contracts, grants, or other agreements to, providing any other Federal funds to, or engaging

in activities that promote certain indicted organizations."

H.R. 3571 did not just seek to end ACORN's funding stream, but to punish every group and organization that worked and stood alongside ACORN, forcing a financial "leprosy" on the organization. The bill's short title, listed in the first section of H.R. 3571, could not be any more clear: "This Act may be cited as the 'Defund ACORN Act.'"

ACORN was treated as "the canary in the right wing coal mine," says Lewis. "Was it a coincidence that a community organizer was elected president, and then the right decided to take down the country's largest community organization?"

It was a coincidence hard to ignore; In October 2010, President Obama signed H.R. 3571 into law.

Illegal Bill of Attainder

ACORN promptly sued the United States Government for the passage of H.R. 3571, citing it as an unconstitutional Bill of Attainder, which is an act of the legislature declaring a person or group of persons guilty of some crime and punishing them without benefit of a trial.

Julie Hurwitz, an attorney from Goodman & Hurwitz, PC, one of the law firms working on ACORN's appeal, notes the significance in addressing this case. "Few had been willing to stand up to the thugs and

bullies on the right," she said.

Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties was one of the very few that did stand up. He denounced the law as a "direct violation" of the constitutional right that guarantees judicial process before punishment.

In his statement on the House floor, Nadler said, "playing politics at the expense of (our) laws and principles has no place in American government."

"Congress was out of control and willing to shred the constitution," says Hurwitz.

The reputational harm compounded by the Bill of Attainder prevented ACORN from receiving

any fiscal relief from private funders and grants—the only other funding source the organization would need to continue its operations. Even though Nina Gershon, the judge presiding over ACORN'S lawsuit, ruled that there was no system-wide charge that could survive against ACORN—due to a lack of proof—the damage was done.

Not only was the damage already done, but ACORN would not be able to take any legal recourse for the reputational harm suffered due to government's "sovereign immunity."

"This solidified, for me, a conspiracy; in the words of President Eisenhower, a conspiracy that

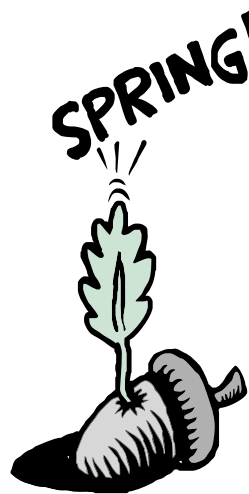
showed a 'true power elite' that collaborates to retain and sustain their hold on our country's democracy," says Levenson. "In the ACORN case, those folks reared their heads in a way I had never seen before."

Final Elimination

The intensity with which the conservative collective went for ACORN was a classic example of "by any means necessary." This meant that controversial video footage, without being checked for accuracy, would air and be reported as fact. This meant questioning the validity of efforts to get people to vote and have a real voice in the direction their government was heading. This meant endangering and ending the resources that were provided to people on the verge of losing their homes and their hope. This meant that the voices advocating for better education would be silenced. This meant that the voices demanding accountability—from banks up to the government—would also be silenced.

"ACORN always believed in direct action. We put all the locals together to form a national organization. We organized those who wanted to take action. We acted in a unified manner with an overall plan and strategy to effect change for poor people in this country," says Lewis. "Our successes were mounting. Over forty years, ACORN challenged the very pillars of power. We were challenging the empire, and the empire struck back.

"If you can take down the largest community organization in the country, you can take down anyone."



By Gary Schoichet

With ACORN down, the Working Families Party is in the sights and next in line in the right wing shooting gallery. What makes the WFP so dangerous?

The WFP suggested that before public services and workers' salaries, benefits, and pensions are slashed that the wealthy might pay a higher percentage of their salaries and perks in taxes. Then the WFP became the champion of paid sick leave for workers in New York and are vociferous in their support of rent regulations and the end of vacancy decontrol of rent stabilized apartments.

In Staten Island, Republican political hacks led by aide and hitman for former mayor Rudy Giuliani, Randy Mastro, is leading the charge, claiming that the WFP gave, through its for-profit arm, Data and Field Services, newly elected city councilmember Debi Rose a substantial discount on the

work it performed in her campaign. Makes good tabloid reading and FOX network watching, but like the smears on ACORN, was unsubstantiated and untrue.

Meanwhile, the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan is investigating the financial workings of the WFP and its interconnectedness with Data and Field Services and has subpoenaed its financial records and those of the candidates it worked for.

Working Families Party co-founder Bob Master says "you know how well you're doing by the enemies you make." He lists the Business Council, the New York City Partnership, Unshackled (billionaire Tom Golisano's organization, Golisano, who left Buffalo rather than pay an increase in his income taxes), Mayor Michael Bloomberg, The New York Post and the Daily News, and on and on.

According to Dan Levitan, the communications director of the WFP, "For the elite in the finance and real estate [industries] we have become the symbol of the bloated public sector and the anti-business environment that believes in spending too much money on services for poor people. They want to move the state in a more socially conservative direction.

"They can't beat us on the issues or at the ballot box so they bloody us up. They make us toxic so Democrats distance themselves from us." They also cause the WFP to use its resources on defending itself rather than on working the issues.

Part of the problem is that the right is driving the conversation and the mainstream media reports without fact checking. The more often the media repeats it the more true it becomes.

WFP is next

And yet another victim

Never letting up on its attack, Shirley Sherrod, a black woman and U.S. Department of Agriculture official was vilified by Andrew Breitbart, a conservative blogger, as being a racist, accused of only being willing to help black people. He used an edited video [Breitbart also used edited tapes in the attack on ACORN] taken out of context, the Department of Agriculture fired her, and then the full version of the tape was produced, and Sherrod was not a racist but a race heroine who helped blacks and whites alike. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, at the urging of the White House that had supported the firing, rescinded the firing and said, "... she's been put through hell and I should have and could have done a better job."

This was an example of right wing media power that backfired. Mostly it doesn't.

NYC's latest middle class squeeze

On Sunday August 1, 2010 the *Daily News* published an op-ed by Jonathan Bowles, Director of the Center for an Urban Future. He concludes that the city that already had the highest cost of living in America before the downturn is getting even more expensive, with much of the burden felt by New York's middle class and those who aspire to rise up to the ranks of the middle class. This all adds up to a huge headache for cash-strapped families, and comes at a time when record numbers of New Yorkers are out of work, and as wages for those who still have jobs are stagnating.

City workers are caught in a double squeeze. Mayor Bloomberg and Governor Paterson and those running to replace Paterson propose to freeze government workers' wages, reduce pensions, and make public sector workers pay more for health benefits. They are against increasing taxes to the mayor's friends on Wall Street



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Arthur Cheliotis acheliotis@cwa1180.org

Public workers are the core of the middle class in neighborhoods throughout New York.

who, they say, will leave the City if income taxes are raised, but who have done so well thanks to the taxpayers bailing them out. Stephen Goldsmith, the new deputy mayor, was the former mayor of Indianapolis. There he privatized that city's trash pick-up, golf courses, swimming pools, and bus routes and cut the workforce. We can expect nothing less from him in New York. He is, in fact, the city manager and will no doubt be challenging unions wherever he can.

The mayor and governor fail to recognize that public workers are the core of the middle class in neighborhoods throughout New

York. We are the economic foundation and can be the economic stimulus of New York City's neighborhoods. Our wages, benefits, and pensions help pay mortgages and rents; we assure the jobs of thousands of doctors, dentists, and other medical professionals.

Public workers stimulate economy

Many retirees and members volunteer in our communities improving the quality of life beyond the public services they already provide as public workers. Our wages, benefits and pensions support neighborhood retailers including drug stores, grocers, diners, dry

cleaners, and laundries. And yes, we pay the same damn taxes as everyone else and a far higher percentage of our income than most hedge fund billionaires.

The wage increases we negotiate plows money back into New York's economy. Letting Wall Street keep it promotes risky financial gambling and overseas investing. Taxing Wall Street magnates and hedge fund managers to get the money to pay for the public services we provide is a better economic policy that benefits all of us. The mayor's rich friends socialized their gambling losses and we and future generations of average working Americans will have to pay for it. Why not invest in the American people?

Bowles is right in pointing out that it's time for the city and state to start addressing the long-term crisis facing New York: the challenge of retaining and attracting ordinary working families. Not the narrow, greedy interests of Wall Street gamblers.

Underserving and underfunding education

It seems that we are watching the end of public education in this country. There are forces, political, corporate, and religious, looking to destroy the public school system and privatize education. There is definitely a conservative agenda that over the last thirty years has been driving so called "education reform." While they failed to implement government funded school vouchers they have been successful in putting in place "reforms:" testing, charter schools, contracting public education to private corporations, etc. that drain needed funding from public schools.

Bush's "No Child Left Behind" and Obama's "Race To The Top" are not the mechanisms to improve education for all of America's children. No Child Left Behind was passed with bipartisan support in 2001 and was supposed to bring national standards, accountability, and choice. It mandated testing and allowed for the creation of privately owned but publicly funded charter schools. The use of testing to evaluate schools and to reward or sanction



1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Linda Jenkins ljenkins@cwa1180.org

We are creating inequity, winners and losers, and leaving children behind.

schools based on the test results has led to educators teaching to the tests. The goal of producing well-educated people is abandoned in favor of producing the numbers because it's the numbers that count.

Leaving children behind

Charter schools have skimmed off the most motivated students with the most committed parents and drained millions of dollars from the public school system. However, studies have shown that charter schools don't necessarily outperform regular public schools. While charter schools get to select their students, public schools have no say in which students can attend their schools. Public schools must serve everyone:

the poor, immigrants, and the disabled. By defunding public education in favor of charter schools that serve a limited population we are leaving millions of the most disadvantaged children behind.

The Obama administration's "Race To The Top" awards federal education dollars to states based largely on how many public schools they disband and privatize, and how many public school teachers they fire. The administration seems determined to promote testing and choice despite data challenging their benefits. Again we are creating inequity, winners and losers, and leaving children behind. This doesn't seem like a very productive way to engage in major education reform. A prime

example of this inequity is NYC Chancellor Joel Klein's recently taking over space from a program for autistic children to give it to a well-funded expanding charter school. There is no information on where these autistic children, children who need stability, will be placed.

There are profound consequences to our children and our country if we continue to deeply underfund public education. In this technological age, with the huge decline in America of manual labor jobs that are being off-shored or digitalized, the majority of jobs are knowledge based and require an educated citizenry. We need to be developing all of America's children. We cannot afford to create a population that does not have the educational or critical thinking skills necessary to compete in this global economy. There are real issues that need to be addressed to improve the quality of public education such as curriculum, class size, instructional technology, and teacher training, and deeply underfunding public education as we are doing does not make any sense.

City Time meter just keeps on running

By Dan Cunningham

Soon the meter will read \$1,000,000,000. Yes, City Time will be a billion dollar baby before long—its contractors kept in clover with New Yorkers' tax dollars. Many Local 1180 members already use City Time to clock their arrival and departure times and record absences. For those not yet familiar, City Time requires employees to use hand scanners or computers to record time and attendance. The web-based system then interfaces with the City's Payroll Management System to process pay and leave transactions. Conceived in 1998 during the Giuliani admin-



Comptroller John Liu thanking Local 1180 members after his election.

istration, the contractor for the project, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), promised City Time would be fully implemented in five years at a cost of \$68 million.

\$650 million overbudget

The price tag for City Time has already reached \$722 million, with only about one-third of the City payroll on-line with City Time. But despite being seven years overdue and \$650 million over budget, Mayor Bloomberg apparently intends to dump another \$100 million of taxpayer money into the coffers of City contractors come this September. Strange indeed, since

I made over \$120,000 in eight months and probably did real work for only two weeks. Most of the time we browsed the Internet and hung out. The unwritten rule was to keep billing for the hours you showed up, not the work you did.

ANONYMOUS CONSULTANT

our Mayor has already dubbed the City Time project "a disaster." This billion dollar baby will be a teenager in 2011. Who knows how much more time and taxpayer dollars it will take to bring this troubled youth to maturity.

Brooklyn City Council member Letitia James says City Time should be shut down. "They should not be spending that money when they are closing senior centers, day care centers, and laying off city workers. It's a complete and disastrous failure. Even the mayor admitted as much. There's a contract in place. The City cannot cancel it midstream without being exposed to a lawsuit. Comptroller John Liu stands with me in opposition to any new City Time contracts."

Latrice Walker, who is running for Democratic Party District Leader in the 55th Assembly District in Brownsville, knows what programs like City Time cost in human terms. "The city workers being laid off in my district are mostly women, single mothers in one income families. Without incomes they lose their apartments or homes and then become dependent on social services, starting a downhill spiral that is so destructive. The mayor hires private companies instead of reinvesting in the stock of competent city workers who cost so much less."

Boondoggle for Taxpayers; Boon for consultants

Much of the credit for first bringing the City Time boondoggle to public attention goes to Daily News columnists, most notably Juan Gonzales. The Daily News commentaries laid bare excessive spending, inefficiency, and the cozy relation-

ships between contractors and city officials that have marked this project from birth. The News articles shined light on the following:

● **Money Pit:** New York City pays 230 consultants \$400,000 (on average) per year for City Time work. Forty of these earn over \$500,000 per year. Eleven earn over 600,000 per year. Some of these consultants have worked at these rates for nearly a decade.

● **Gravy Train:** One SAIC manager made \$524,000 in 2009 for his work on City Time. He has been on the project for 10 years. SAIC's project



It really outrages me that he [Bloomberg] is laying off low income workers, mostly women, to hire consultants, some of whom make \$600,000 a year.

LETITIA JAMES

manager for City Time charged \$653,554 for his services in 2009.

● **Scanning or Scamming:** In his column dated December 18, 2009, Juan Gonzalez printed the following quote from a former City Time consultant: "I made over \$120,000 in eight months and probably did real work for only two weeks. Most of the time we browsed the Internet and hung out. The unwritten rule was to keep billing for the hours you showed up, not the work you did." The piece goes on to say that the former consultant quit in disgust.

● **Crony Time:** A company called Spherion was hired to oversee City Time's main contractor (SAIC.) Spherion has more than 12 contractors overseeing City Time until at least 2012. All twelve make over \$300,000 annually. Joel Bondy, a former Spherion employee, was tapped by Mayor Bloomberg in 2004 to be New York City's Payroll Director. In his role as Payroll Director, Bondy supervised his former Spherion co-workers working on City Time. Bondy never listed his former involvement with Spherion in his official biography on the City's web site. When Bondy took over New York City's payroll agency, he immediately got Spherion to bring Mitchell Goldstein onto the City Time project. Goldstein, a former business partner of Bondy's, makes \$490,000 per year as head of a quality control team overseeing City Time. Bondy left the City after the scandal of City Time became public. Great job Bondy.

City Comptroller John Liu has pledged to stop City Time. In a letter to Mayor Bloomberg he wrote, "It is clear from the funds already expended, and the lack of results shown that this project has ballooned out of control. It is time for City Hall to finally rein in this spending spree and put these funds to better use.

"I will take whatever steps within my authority to ensure that taxpayer funds no longer fall victim to this endless money pit. I am confident that my review of Office of Payroll Administration's oversight of Spherion and the full cooperation of your office will help us ensure that this type of bloated spending does not repeat itself."

James added, "It really outrages me that he [Bloomberg] is laying off low income workers, mostly women, to hire consultants, some of whom make \$600,000 a year. There is money when he wants it."

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2010

Call to order: 6:15 pm

Present: Arthur Cheliot, 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.

Guests: Ed Ott, Bob Master, Venus Williams, Gary Schoichet, Nadya Stevens

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, corrected, and adopted.

Bob Master spoke about the legal issues that the Working Families Party is facing. Much of their revenue is being used to defend themselves against a charge that is not valid. He asked that we contribute \$25,000 to help replenish WFP's treasury.

President's Report:

- Arthur reported on the Democratic State Convention. On Andrew Cuomo's agenda is a wage freeze for public workers. Cuomo's speech could only be perceived as an attack on public workers.
- Arthur met with Chris Shelton about the proposed CWA Convention changes. CWA is hemorrhaging money. There has to be changes to save money.
- EFCA is dead.
- Arthur met with Councilman Sanders on May 27, 2010 to discuss the DCAS proposal to eliminate provisionals.
- On June 15, 2010 Arthur gave testimony before the City Council on the DCAS proposal.
- The MLC Steering Committee authorized a demonstration on the budget cuts to be held June 16, 2010. Several of our members will be interviewed about the impact of the budget cuts, and those interviews will be shown on the jumbo-tron.
- We met with the Admin. JOS in preparation for arbitration. They were asked to locate certain documents that may help our case. Our attorney will meet with the arbitrator and the City's attorney on June 28, 2010 to go over OCB rules.
- Meetings have been scheduled at Harlem and Lincoln Hospitals to mobilize our members for politicians we will support.
- The CWA National Convention opens on July 25 in Washington, DC.
- Report accepted.

1st Vice President's Report:

- Care-Manager-RN: We have a mediation ses-

First graduates of CUNY SPS Advanced Certificate Program in Health Care Policy and Adm



(left to right): Latrelle J. Windsor, Enelda Shan, Lelina Morris, Marle Momplaisir, and Bernard Lapomarede.

PERSONAL NOTES

PASSINGS

Our condolences to retired member **Vivian Johnson** whose son, Nathaniel "Chuck" Johnson, died on June 9.

sion on June 10, 2010 at 1PM to discuss a proposed settlement.

- Customer Information Representative: We are still awaiting a decision.

- Assistant Director, Hospitals and Associate Director, Hospitals: I spoke to our attorney, Amy Young, who will be filing the petition. She will speak with Gwen Richardson about someone to do an affidavit to file with the petition. She would also like us to identify people who had their title changed from Coordinating Manager to Assistant Director or Associate Director.

PERB

- The first conference meeting on the petition for the Administrative Manager title in the Department of Education was held on May 27, 2010.

- Naomi Drake, the Director of Labor Relations at the Transit Authority, told Gloria Middleton that if we get signed cards from the AMS they would give us recognition as long as we dropped the PERB case. Our attorney, Amy Young, advised that she has an information request out to the Transit Authority regarding their administrative levels, which are different from the City. She thinks that what we want to do must be determined by whether the Admin. Mgrs. actually share a community of interest and are low enough on the totem pole so that they are not managerial. She said that some will be confidential as well and that we need to get that together.

Civil Service Committee

- The Officers proposed establishing a Civil Service Committee. The attached is a draft statement of goals and objectives.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DCAS has opened filing for the open competitive exam for Legal Coordinator, #0129. The filing period is from June 2 thru June 22, 2010. The exam is an Education and Experience exam. We are conducting prep classes for our members in the title on June 7, 14, and 21 from 10 AM to 12 PM. We have 28 members in this title in Corrections - 18 are provisional.
- The next meeting of the Book Club is Thursday, June 24, 2010. The book selection is *Brown Girl Brownstone* by Paule Marshall.
- Report accepted.

JULY 14, 2010

Call to order: 6:00 pm

Present: Arthur Cheliot, 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.

Guests: Venus Williams, Nadya Stevens.

President's Report:

- Arthur reported on his activities for the past month. The highlights of which were:
- Lunch with Speaker Sheldon Silver
- MLC meeting with the new Deputy Mayor
- Testimony at the City Council civil service hearing
- Meetings in Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens with members and residents of those boroughs to discuss and encourage participation in campaigns of candidates that the Union is supporting.
- Meeting with John Liu re. training
- Meeting with WFP Chairman, Dan Cantor
- Meeting with CWA District 1 Presidents re. CWA finances, and Telecom VP proposal
- Report accepted

1st Vice President's Report:

- OCB
- Care Manager-RN - Settlement reached giving representation to NYSNA but limiting use of the title to Bellevue and Jacobi Hospitals.
- Customer Information Representative - OCB ordered an election. A pre-election conference is being scheduled for the first week in August.
- Assistant Director Hospitals and Associate Director Hospitals - Our attorney filed the petition on June 14, 2010 and requested information (functional job description) from HHC by July 6th. HHC requested an extension to answer until August 20, 2010. There are over 600 employees in the title.
- PERB - Administrative Manager
- Dept. of Education - Our attorney attended the May 27, 2010 conference and says that DOE agrees to levels 1 and 2, a total of 6 or 7 (1 may

2nd Vice President's Report:

- Bill reported on bargaining:
- Human Rights First: Settled, 4 year deal.
- Sustainable South Bronx: Bargaining continues.
- NY Foundation for Senior Citizens: Bargaining continues.
- Amnesty International: 3% offered. Not final.
- ASPCA: Bargaining continues.
- The NYS Leadership Council is on a hunger strike in an effort to bring attention to immigration reform. Tenants Pac is putting pressure on Senate Democrats for tenant friendly legislation.



- Bill proposed that we have CWA take up, as part of their political agenda, the attack on programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

- Report accepted

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

- Gloria distributed the Profit and Loss, and Transaction Detail Reports. The TD Bank checking account has a balance of \$766,352.56 and the Smith Barney Money Market account remains at \$150,133.76.
- Our convention delegate count is 8,133.
- The Minority Caucus registration forms were distributed.
- We have a total of \$3,100 in the Haiti Relief Fund. The money will be donated to Doctors Without Borders. Kingdom Church International made a donation to Haiti through the Local.
- Gloria informed the Board that given the many and varied responsibilities of her office, she needs an executive administrative assistant. She asked Board members to submit resumes, if interested, before she looks elsewhere.
- Report accepted

Recording Secretary's Report:

- Gwen reported that we won an arbitration for a member who was terminated approximately 3 years ago on trumped up charges. The member was awarded reinstatement with full back pay, seniority, and benefits.
- Report accepted
- Jerry reported that 12 members of the City Council have formed the Progressive Council. They will focus on the budget.
- The Political Action Committee interviewed 5

be confidential). DOE has levels 1 through 5 (approx. 35 people). He requested the functional job descriptions for all levels in DOE.

- NYCTA - Our attorney has requested functional job descriptions for all levels in Transit. Transit levels are different from the City.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER LIST

- Agencies with provisionals that have not moved their lists: DOI, DOE, ACS, OPA, TLC, Business Services, HPD, Sanitation, and DOITT.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE

- The Officers proposed establishing a Civil Service Committee. Five Board members volunteered to serve on the committee: Gina Strickland, Michael Lamb, Lenora Smith, Alan Goldblatt, Hazel Worley (see attached draft of statement of goals and objectives).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- There are no meetings for the Education Committee in July and August. The next meeting of the Book Club is Thursday, September 23, 2010. The book selection is *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende.
- Report accepted.

2nd Vice President's Report:

- Bill reported on bargaining:
- ASPCA - close to an agreement, meeting next week
- NY Foundation for Senior Citizens - haven't met in a month
- Sustainable South Bronx - made some progress, money is the problem
- Javits Center - impasse a possibility.
- Amnesty USA - continue refining proposal
- Bill also reported that the Early Retirement Program is in place for state employees.
- There is a demonstration re. Housing on Monday, July 12, 2010.
- Bill provided a script for members to use in telephone calls to their State Senators' district offices urging them to bring rent reform legislation to a full vote.
- Report accepted.

Senate candidates:

33rd SD Bronx: Gustavo Rivera and Desiree Hunter: The committee recommends no endorsement, but will send letters to members in the district so they can make up their own minds. Both candidates are good.

32nd SD: Carlos Rivera Jr.: The committee tabled the vote.

31st SD: Mark Levine and Adriano Espailot: The committee recommends endorsement.

The Board endorsed the following candidates:

- 15th CD: Manhattan, Queens, Bronx : Charles Rangel
- 12th SD: Queens: Michael Gianaris
- 31st SD: Manhattan, Bronx: Adriano Espailot
- 25th AD: Queens: Rory Lancman
- 35th AD: Queens: Jeffrion L. Aubry
- 36th AD: Queens: Aravella Simotas
- Jerry discussed the issues facing the Minority Caucus.

Clarona reported that the Women's Committee raised \$680 at their Gospel Brunch.

Charles reported on the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. Assembly and Senate bills have passed, they must be reconciled and the Governor must sign.

- A tribute to labor educator, activist, and organizer, Edward "Eddie" Gonzalez will be held on June 18, 2010 at 330 W. 42nd Street from 6 PM to 9 PM.

- A retirement celebration for former member and shop steward, Luis Mojica, will be held on July 16, 2010 at Fleur de Lis, Ridgewood, Queens from 6 PM to 12 PM.

Alan reported on the site visits he made to ensure that HRA is in compliance with the law re. Violence in the Workplace. HRA is creating a manual.

Gina reported that the Caribbean Heritage Committee's May Day Carnival was a success. They used all of the money they were allotted, spent their own money, and asked to be reimbursed.

Good and Welfare:

- Jerry reported that former shop steward Deta Hylton passed away.

We adjourned at 8:50 PM. The next meeting is July 14, 2010

Respectively submitted,
Gwen Richardson Recording Secretary

Secretary /Treasurer's Report:

- Gloria distributed the Profit and Loss, and Transaction Detail reports.
- The announcement of the date and time of the PHEARN meeting was distributed.
- In June, we gained 15 new members, 3 terminated, 1 was fired, 1 deceased.
- The TD Bank checking acct. has a balance of \$690,093.70, and the Smith Barney money market has a balance of \$150,134.97.
- Gloria reported that we are sending 4 buses to Washington, DC on Oct 2, 2010 for the Civil Rights March.
- The CWA-COPE Convention is August 15- 16, 2010. Arthur, Gerald, and Michael will attend.
- The CWA Convention credentials were distributed.
- Gloria distributed registration forms for the CWA National Committee on Equity Conference, Sept. 24 - 26, 2010. The chairperson of the Hispanic Committee, Board members, and the Rep. staff were invited. A maximum of 15 can attend.
- Hazel Worley was chosen to fill the job as executive assistant to the Secretary/Treasurer. A motion to give her the job passed unanimously. Report accepted.

Jerry reported the following endorsements:

- NYC delegation for Congress. For State Senator Bill Perkins and John Sampson.
- The 32nd Senate District was tabled until after the primary.
- Additional endorsements in the following senate districts will be made.

Gina reported on the lay-offs in HHC.

Clarona reported that Sept. 22, 2010 is the Labor Appreciation Celebration at Woodhull Hospital. She requested \$500 dollars for food and necessities. The Board approved her request.

Adjourned 7:30pm. Next meeting 8-11-10.

Submitted by Gwen Richardson
Recording Secretary

Voices from the 2010 CWA Convention and Legislative-Political Conference

The Committee on Equity changed its name to the CWA National Committee on Civil Rights and Equity in order to better describe its mission. In its report to the Convention it stated:

“CWA has joined with the NAACP, La RAZA, and other civil and human rights groups to help organize tens of thousands of activists to march on Washington [Oct. 2] to help bring back the American Dream. Our goal is to achieve the American dream to have a stable job, a home of our own, opportunities for our children, a chance to become an American citizen, regardless of national origin... In keeping with the CWA Committee on Equity principles of reaching out and forging realistic, actionable relationships with these nationally recognized institutions we are helping to guarantee the principles of social justice espoused by our respective organizations for the sake of all American families.”

Nancy-Anne Deparle

Director, White House Office of Health Reform.

“My children, when they grow up, will be amazed that there was a time when people couldn’t get health care when they were sick because they didn’t have health insurance.”

Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

“Republicans are looking back at the Bush Administration with ‘fondness’—an era that left us with a deep financial crisis, a deep recession, and deep deficits. Democrats are standing up for the middle class—and we are not going back.

“Republicans are signing pledges to protect tax breaks for companies that ship American jobs overseas—to preserve business as usual. But that isn’t the leadership America needs.”

Joe Micali

T-Mobile worker

“A clear majority of my co-workers want to join your union. In America we have the right to do so. But unfortunately, that right is only on paper. Corporate America



Nancy Pelosi: We are not going back.

has gotten very good at busting unions. And T-Mobile has gotten particularly good at keeping unions out.

“Their weapon? Fear.

“I had a supervisor literally tell me, ‘If you care about your job, don’t even think about the union.’ This threat has proven very effective. All employees had to take a mandatory on-line training course that ...explained how unions interfere with the business. T-Mobile even has an anti-union manual they give their supervisors. The manual explains how to keep their employees without a voice on the job.”

Ado Wilhelm

Mobile Communications Divisional Director, ver.di. ver.di, with 2.1 million members is one of the largest individual trade unions in the world representing all sectors, including Deutsche Telekom known in the United States as T-Mobile, a virulently non-union company that CWA is trying to organize. In Germany DT boasts of its respect for workers’ rights while in the U.S. it stomps on them.

“We, the members of the ver.di in Germany, are appalled at the way this company is intolerant of union rights, doing its utmost to render union work almost impossible by using a great deal of money, pressure and highly dubious legal procedures. That’s something we can’t and won’t accept...”

“When Deutsche Telekom tried to purchase shares in the Greek national telecom company, the unions protested vehemently and vigorously. Their reason for rejecting a sale to ‘the Germans’ was that they had heard Deutsche Telekom was preventing workers in the US from organizing. A company like that was not wanted in Greece.

“We will continue to expose and denounce both the German and American management for their reprehensible conduct towards workers at T-Mobile-USA and CWA. We’ve shown that Deutsche Telekom has two faces: the nasty grimace it makes here in the USA and the one we see back in Germany.”



Nancy-Anne Deparle

CALENDAR

September 1 (Wednesday)
People with Disabilities Committee
(chair: Alan Goldblatt)

September 2 (Thursday)
Equity Committee
(chair: Gloria Middleton)

September 7 (Tuesday)
Arts & Entertainment Committee
(chair: Harlan Reid)

September 8 (Wednesday)
Community Services Committee
(chair: Pat Ruffin)

September 9 (Thursday)
Hispanic Committee
(chair: Venus Williams)

September 14 (Tuesday)
Education Committee
(chair: Linda Jenkins)

Women’s Committee
(chair: Bernice Selman)

September 15 (Wednesday)
General Membership Meeting
at Local 32 BJ, 101 Avenue of the Americas

September 16 (Thursday)
Retired Members Chapter 12:30
(president: Adelle Rogers)

September 22 (Wednesday)
Caribbean Heritage Committee
(chair: Gina Strickland)

LGBT Committee
(chair: Robert Ortiz)

October 5 (Tuesday)
Arts & Entertainment Committee
(chair: Harlan Reid)

October 6 (Wednesday)
People with Disabilities Committee
(chair: Alan Goldblatt)

October 7 (Thursday)
Equity Committee
(chair: Gloria Middleton)

October 12 (Tuesday)
Education Committee
(chair: Linda Jenkins)

Women’s Committee
(chair: Bernice Selman)

October 13 (Wednesday)
Community Services Committee
(chair: Pat Ruffin)

October 14 (Thursday)
Hispanic Committee
(chair: Venus Williams)

October 20 (Wednesday)
Caribbean Heritage Committee
(chair: Gina Strickland)

LGBT Committee
(chair: Robert Ortiz)

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

October 27 (Wednesday)
General Membership meeting
at Local 32 BJ, 101 Avenue of the Americas



Inside Communique

**Endorsements for
Congress and NYS
Assembly and Senate** **2**

**Conzales Turner:
3 years out of
work; made whole.** **4**

**CityTime:
What a racket** **9**

**2010 CWA
Convention** **11**



Upcoming DC demo

“Putting Americans Back to Work, Bringing America Back Together” is the theme of an October 2 demonstration in Washington, DC brought to you by CWA and other unions, the NAACP, and immigration, community, and environmental groups.

Local 1180 has reserved four buses. For further information and to reserve a seat, call Gloria Middleton at 212-226-6565.



Puerto Rican Day Parade

It was a great day to march up 5th Avenue. That's why Lourdes Acevedo is smiling.



PHOTOS: GARY SCHOICHIET