



The Community Minded Union

Locally Speaking

The People Minded Local

Representing: Verizon-NJ Commercial & Marketing, Occupational Center of Union County, North Haledon Police Dispatchers, Data-Tele, Elizabethtown Gas, Cingular Wireless and American Labor Museum Botto House.

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 3

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

LOCAL 1023, CRANFORD, NJ

NOVEMBER 2006

CWA President Larry Cohen Blasts NLRB Decision



Following is the text of the letter sent by CWA President Larry Cohen to Robert Battista, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, on the board's Oakwood Healthcare decision that will enable employers to strip workers' rights from millions of workers.

Disgrace is the only word that describes your decision in Oakwood.

However, we are using it to urge hundreds of thousands of CWA members to dedicate 10 hours, not 10 minutes, talking to coworkers, friends and families about the November elections and rejecting your party. Decisions do have consequences.

There has never been a Labor Board in the history of this country that has done more to destroy collective bargaining rights. There is nothing like it anywhere among the Democratic countries of our global economy. Collective bargaining density, described by the percentage of the workforce covered, is expanding around the world while you and your colleagues on this NLRB do everything possible to eliminate collective bargaining in our nation.

This will be your legacy forever.

Larry Cohen, President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JO ANN DIANA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

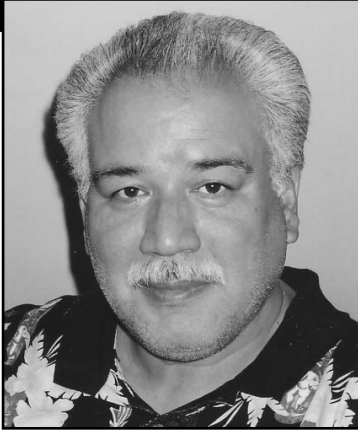
BARGANING DEMANDS

UNIVERSITY OF ADVOCACY 2006

. . . AND MORE



IN SOLIDARITY



Election Day is almost here. I hope you're planning to vote. Unlike most other mid-term elections, this one is crucial to America's future, and if you care about what happens to our nation at this important crossroads in our history, then I expect you will be voting.

The current overwhelmingly conservative Congress has been sitting more or less unchanged since 1994.

It has been almost seventy years since one political philosophy has had such a strong and long lasting influence over all three branches of our government. Unfortunately, the current batch of Neo-conservative politicians is nothing like the New Deal leadership that carried us safely through the grim Depression of the 1930's and a terrible World War.

George Bush has proven to be an incompetent, corrupt, and small-minded man who is not up to the challenges of the job of Chief Executive of the United States of America. He needs to be neutralized before he destroys what is left of the middle class, of our union movement, of our federal budget, and of our nation's standing in the international community.

Most Americans agree with my assessment of Mr. Bush. At this writing, his approval rating is a mere 40%.

The Senate and the House of Representatives are drowning in scandals ranging from bribery to influence peddling to rigging election districts to charges of child molestation to outright thievery. Then the rascals attempt to cover all these crimes up, spinning them, burying them in committees, lying about them in the press. Two Republican Speakers of the House (Gingrich and Hastert) and one Majority Leader (Tom DeLay) have been pressured to resign under a cloud.

Only the wealthiest Americans and powerful special interest groups have enjoyed the past twelve years of Neo-conservative rule. They all got what they wanted.

What did we get? What did the ordinary working

families of America get out of this government? Nothing. We lost. We lost big time.

The Minimum Wage hasn't been raised in years. Overtime over forty hours is now straight time. Jobs were outsourced to other countries. Debtors can no longer seek the protection of the Bankruptcy Courts when they cannot pay their bills. Social Security is still under attack. Don't think for a minute that that battle is over. If Bush can muster the votes, he'll try to kill Social Security again — and cut other benefits like Medicare in order to finance his wars.

By shrinking the federal government, Bush transferred the financial burden of providing services to state and municipal governments. That's why your property taxes have doubled in the past few years. There's a national debt in the trillions of dollars that we'll all have to pay for sooner or later in the form of higher income taxes. Five hundred billion dollars (still growing at a rate of two billion dollars per week) of that deficit went to finance a war in Iraq that we can't win. Enough is enough.

So you see what happens in this election is very important. And we, the ordinary working people who've been strained to the breaking point, have a chance to take ownership of our country back.

The polls are very encouraging. But they're based on one simple fact: you have to go out and vote for the candidates that represent your interests, not the interests of Mr. Bush's friends and cronies, including Republican candidate for the Senate in New Jersey, Tom Kean Jr. The wealthy and privileged Mr. Kean has always had a warm and cordial relationship with the current Administration.

In New Jersey, I like Bob Menendez for the Senate. His record shows that he's for working families. The other guy isn't. He opposed raising the minimum wage, sent jobs overseas, and his voting record is clearly anti-union.

The future can be yours. But only if you get out there and vote for the candidates who represent your interests.

Rey Massa

President
CWA Local 1023



UNIVERSITY OF ADVOCACY 2006

Over 250 Futurelink advocates attended The Futurelink University of Advocacy from September 25 to September 29, 2006 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

This event, which has been held three times since its inception in 2000, provides your local Futurelink Learning Advocate with intense training in the Verizon PED and RAMP processes, resume writing, interviewing skills, and orientation to educational resources all of which will help our members' in achieving their career advancement goals. For those Verizon workers who are thinking of retiring, the conference offered training in retirement options, and life after retirement.

Guest speakers included CWA National President Larry Cohen and Jack Navarro, Vice President of Labor Relations for Verizon Communications.

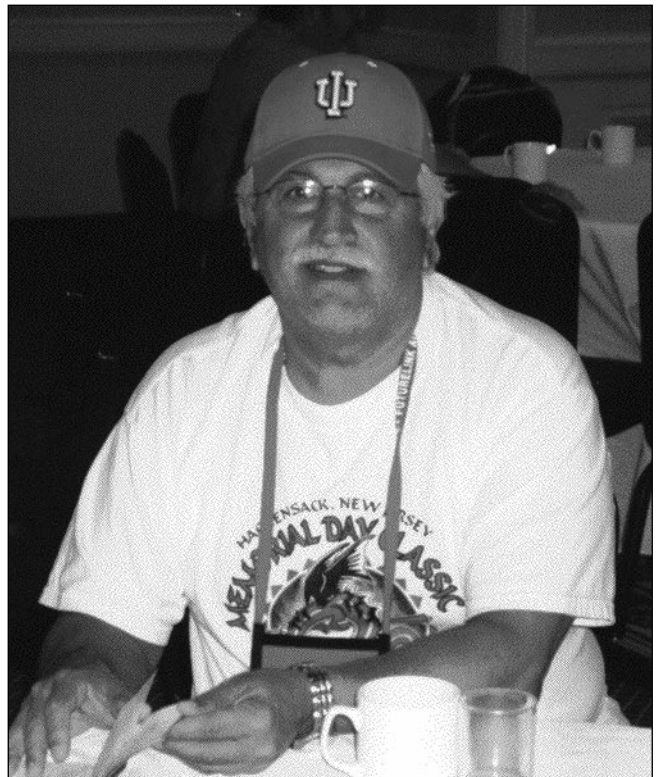
The Futurelink program is a joint initiative of CWA and Verizon, and administered by TABEC (The Training Advisory Board Executive Council).



Trish Kessell – Learning Advocate



Ann Gilliard – Learning Advocate



Joe Granziano – Learning Advocate

EDITORIAL
THE ATTACK ON SOCIAL SECURITY ISN'T OVER YET

Outspoken Neo-conservative talk show diva Ann Coulter said that if she could have one wish granted it would be to have herself reincarnated as Franklin D. Roosevelt so that she could stop Social Security from ever being born. That view is shared by President Bush and many of his supporters in Congress. Hence, the attack on Social Security is far from over.

Pending the outcome of this Fall's Midterm elections, we are very likely to see so-called "privatization" of Social Security on the Congressional agenda once again.

According to WORKING AMERICA, On June 27th of this year, President Bush told the members of the Manhattan Institute, "If we can't get it done this year, I'm going to try next year."

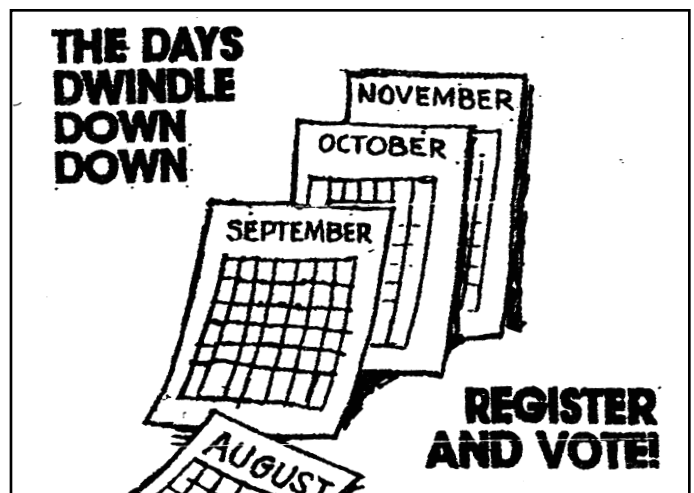
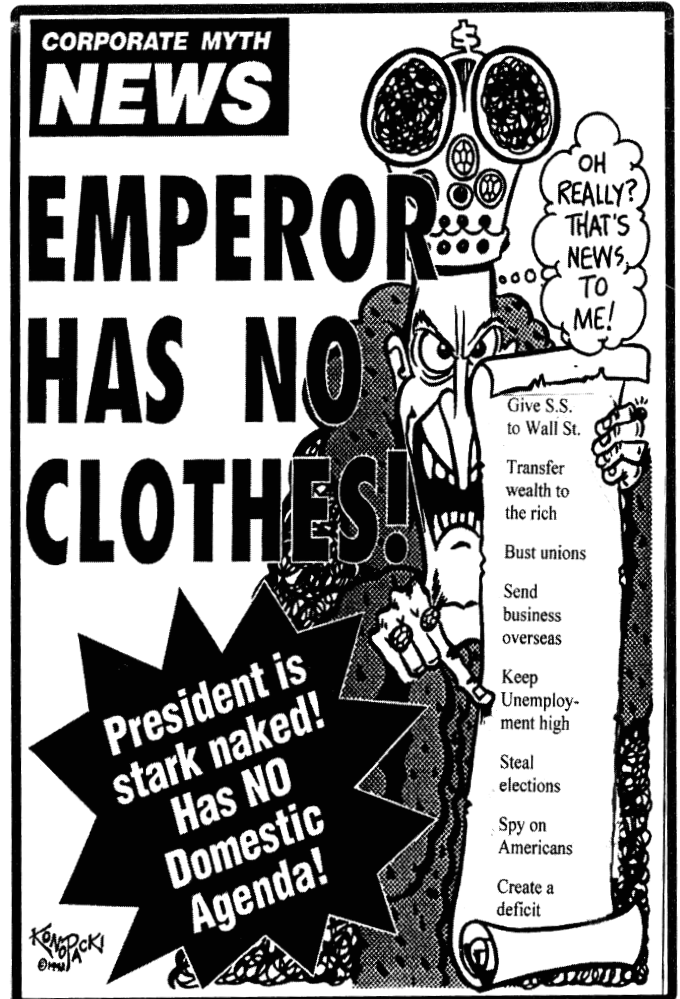
In July, Representative Jim McClery (R-La), the likely next chair of the House Ways and Means Committee said that overhauling Social Security should be the top congressional priority in 2007.

House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) agrees with McClery. "If I'm around in a leadership role come January, we're going to get serious about this."

A little over a month ago Bush told the press, "I'm going to continue to work with the Congress and call on the Congress to work with the administration to reform these programs" (Social Security and Medicare).

Bush really has no choice. He has to dismantle Social Security (and Medicare) in order to pay for the war in Iraq and to reduce the deficit created by his tax cuts. The fact that these programs are crucial to the security and even the survival of millions of Americans never occurs to him because he comes from substantial personal wealth and will never need to draw a single penny from Social Security.

But Bush needs control of the Senate and the House of Representatives in order to succeed. If you the voter choose qualified candidates who are opposed to Privatization, then the threat to your future retirement can be averted. So on Election Day, think hard before you push that button.



CWA PROUDLY SUPPORTS
AIR AMERICA RADIO
WWRL 1600 AM ON YOUR RADIO DIAL

Verizon Bargaining

Our current contract with Verizon expires on August 2, 2008. Now is the time for all of us to start preparing for the next contract. The Local has begun assembling a binder with issues that need to be addressed at the bargaining table. We need **all** of you to take some time to think about the issues that you feel are important and put them in writing on the form below. Please, **only one demand per form** – feel free to duplicate the form as many times as needed. Now is the time to make your concerns heard. They can't be addressed if we don't know what they are!

2008 Verizon Bargaining Demand

CWA Local # 1023

Issue: _____

Name of Member Submitting Demand: _____

* Signature: _____ Work # _____ Date: _____

Demand: _____

Reason: _____

Specific Examples: _____

* Signature of Local President: _____ Date: _____

Please use attachments if additional space is required. Return proposals to Local Office.

* *Member and Local President must sign and date.*

SEPTEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Executive Board of Local Conducts Business at September Membership Meeting



**Want to Know What's Going On? Come to a Membership Meeting
Like These Folks Did!**



(From Left to Right) Lois Eelen of TABEC, Rey Escalon – Nathaniel Novick – Learning Advocates




(From Left to Right) Charlene Johnson – Learning Advocate, Carolyn Benson – Futurelink

Welcome New Members

Jorel Antonio – Cingular, **Rafael Arroyo-Morales** – New Jersey Encore, **Shyrl Beckwith** – New Jersey Encore, **Mark Bilowchtchuk** – Cingular, **Nicole Brookins** – New Jersey Encore, **William Brown** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Jeanine Burgess** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Aretta Carrasquillo** – Teaneck BSC, **Angie Ceballos** – Newark MSSC, **Gary Coy** – Cingular, **Lucy Cruz** – Teaneck CSSC, **Ruth Cuevas** – Newark MSSC, **Charlie Deer** – Cingular Wireless, **Salvatore DeLorenzo** – Cingular, **Orietys Diaz** – Newark MSSC, **Awenda Disla** – Newark MSSC, **Miguel Duque** – Cingular Wireless, **Ivin Dye-Henderson** – Teaneck CSSC, **Sara Eltorkey** – New Jersey Encore, **Jilika Farley** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Andrea Fish** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Christopher Fong** – Cingular Wireless, **Maria Formeza** – Newark MSSC, **Sharon Gibson** – Teaneck BSC, **Alesha Goldberg** – Cingular Wireless, **Nicole Golden** – New Jersey Encore, **Stacey Goods** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Keisha Griffin** – New Jersey Encore, **Frances Guido** – New Jersey Encore, **Nathaniel Harp** – New Jersey Encore, **Rhonda Harris** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Monique Hatcher** – New Jersey Encore, **Mary Hernandez** – Newark MSSC, **Sydney Hicks** – New Jersey Encore, **Barry Holland** – Cingular, **Damon Ivey** – Cingular Wireless, **LaToya Jeffery** – Teaneck CSSC, **Yan Jia** – Cingular, **Keasom Johnson** – New Jersey Encore, **Sakina Kidd** – New Jersey Encore, **Marilene Kondrasky** – Teaneck BSC, **Quincy Laing** – Cingular Wireless, **Nicole Lawrie** – New Jersey Encore, **Taheerah Lawson** – New Jersey Encore, **Ailetha Leverett** – Cingular, **Kia Lewis** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Vernita Lockhart** – New Jersey Encore, **Aurelia Lopez** – Newark MSSC, **Ronda Mahmoud** – Cingular Wireless, **Kenneth Martelli** – Cingular Wireless, **Johann McKay** – New Jersey Encore, **Andrea Mickens** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Ebony Mincer** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Liz Montalvo** – New Jersey Encore, **Desiree Morales** – Newark MSSC, **Gilbert Munn** – Teaneck BSC, **Talitha Navedo** – New Jersey Encore, **Sherrie Nuttall** – Cingular Wireless, **Julian O'Hare** – Cingular Wireless, **Meegan Peebles** – New Jersey Encore, **Ervin Peterson** – Teaneck CSSC, **Daron Redd** – New Jersey Encore, **Sandy Reyes** – Teaneck BSC, **Victoria Rivera** – Cingular Wireless, **Alicia Robinson** – New Jersey Encore, **Monique Rock** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Francisco Rojas** – Newark MSSC, **Elisa Rosario** – Teaneck BSC, **Amanda Rottenkolber** – Cingular Wireless, **Michael Ruggiero** – Cingular Wireless, **Anthony Ruiz** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Matula Saint Pierre** – Cingular Wireless, **Jasmin Santos** – Teaneck CSSC, **Yvonne Scott** – Teaneck CSSC, **Janeen Sivills** – New Jersey Encore, **Jacqueline Smith** – New Jersey Encore, **Jerome Smith** – Teaneck CSSC, **Kemly St.Juste** – New Jersey Encore, **Kimani Stephenson** – Teaneck CSSC, **Stanley Thomas** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Keisha Thomas** – New Jersey Encore, **Peter Urato** – New Jersey Encore, **Mikhail Veltman** – Cingular Wireless, **Charnea White** – Scotch Plains BSC, **Ameena Wiley** – New Jersey Encore, **Stephanie Winder** – Teaneck BSC, **Raymond Young** – New Jersey Encore, **Derrick Young** – Teaneck CSSC

WANT ADS

309 Child Care Services, Etc.	315 Position Wanted, Part Time	326 Office & Clerical	328 Health Care	330 Sales & Marketing
<p>CHILD CARE: meals provided, planned activities, large playroom, fenced yard. Lots of hugs and kisses. 18 yrs experience. References. Start Sept. 1. 363-7488</p> <p>CHILD CARE: Mother of 2 needs pay raise. Meals, responsible rates, flexible hrs. Michael Ford Burck School Area. 785-9201</p> <p>CHILD CARE: full time, 1st shift, 800-Ward, fenced park-like back yard, excellent references. 338-0232</p>	<p>GENERAL OFFICE: Mature, dependable professional to make Days only. 256-1379</p> <p>HIGH PRESSURE FIREMAN: STATIONARY ENGINEER. FULL OR PART TIME. 287-4781</p>	<p>CLERICAL SUBSIDIZED HOUSING: Increasing opportunity for a nice ambitious person to work in friendly, no smoking environment for an aggressive sales side (down town) property management company. Full time position, good hours and good starting salary. Free parking. Benefits package. VARIOUS DUTIES. Some experience in government subsidized housing programs helpful. Should like working with cars and adept with figures. Must have sufficient driving skills, and is expected to possess good telephone answering skills. Must be able to relate to people. Call Care 272-1518. Equal Opportunity Employer.</p> <p>CLERK: Various duties, some typing, full-time. Pleasant Office Co. 2014 W. Banker Rd. 201-944-9887</p> <p>CUSTOMER SERVICE SALES CLERK: Fast paced American model agents, opportunity for advancement, benefits, good working environment immediate opening. Apply in person. 2201 W. River Spring Dr. Glendale 228-7070</p>	<p>DENTAL RECEPTIONIST AND ASSISTANT POSITIONS: Both full time, experience preferred, good salary. Glendale 327-1809</p>	<p>AUTO SALES: Due to serious sales growth we need 1 additional combination man and used salesperson. WE OFFER: *2014 Plan *GM Career Builder</p>
<p>WANTED</p> <p>Corporations to send jobs overseas, millionaires to receive huge tax breaks, Wall Street businesses to make billions gambling with Soc. Sec. at expense of American public, CEO's who make 431 times more than their employees, and politicians who will support all this.</p> <p>Apply at White House, Wash., DC</p>		<p>WANTED</p> <p>For rewarding only 1% of Americans with huge tax breaks and trying to take away Soc. Sec. & Medicare from 99%.</p>  <p>GEORGE BUSH</p>		

2006 JO ANN DIANA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year CWA Local 1023 funds four scholarships for the children of members of our local who are attending college. Winners are determined by lottery.

The four winners of the 2006 Jo Ann Diana Memorial Scholarships are as follows:

- Benjamin R. Berman**, son of Cindy Strienfield – MASST, Scotch Plains
- Carl F. Wolkovitsch**, son of Nancy Wolkovitsch – RMCC, Fair Lawn
- Katelyn Elizabeth Krynski**, daughter of Stephen Krynski – VCC, So. Pif
- Carly A. Weisel**, daughter of Fredric Weisel, Enterprise, South Plainfield

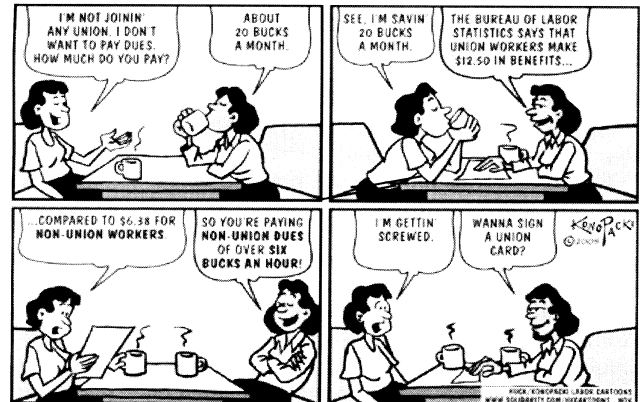
On behalf of the Executive Board and membership of Local 1023, best wishes to all for a successful and fulfilling college experience.

MOVING?

Please remember to give your new address and phone number to the Local Office when you move.

- ✓ You can call: (908) 709-1023
- ✓ You can Fax: (908) 276-8921
- ✓ You can e-mail: cwa1023@verizon.net
- ✓ You can send by mail:

CWA Local 1023
118 South Avenue East, Cranford, NJ 07016



The Community Minded Union
Locally Speaking
The People Minded Local

The voice of local 1023 endeavors to provide factual, informative and relevant comment on matters of interest to the Membership. Reprint permission is granted to All Union Publications, with credit to the author. All inquiries concerning this publication should be referred to the Editor.

- EDITOR** Ward Riley
ASSISTANT EDITOR Paula Belmonte
PRESIDENT Rey Massa
VICE-PRESIDENT Trish Kessell
SECRETARY Kathleen Forté
TREASURER Sharon Davis

Union Office (908) 709-1023 Fax (908) 276-8921
 Announcement – (908) 276-7771 • Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9-5

LOCALLY SPEAKING
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
OF AMERICA – LOCAL 1023
118 SOUTH AVENUE, EAST
CRANFORD, N.J. 07016

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 514
CRANFORD, NJ

DO NOT FORWARD
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME VALUE