



CWA 1141

ALLIANCE

President Michael Ostrander  
 Executive VP Thomas Slavin  
 Headquarters VP Jennifer Deso  
 Upstate VP Bonnie Balok  
 Downstate VP Theresa Rampello  
 NYSNA VP Michael Collins  
 UUP VP Kenya Coleman  
 Secretary Teresa Swartz  
 Treasurer Clare Miner

# Why We Wear Red

In 1989, along with many of our Union Brothers and Sisters across the country, CWA was on strike against Bell Atlantic. This strike was successful in providing the language which assured us all the work in the outside plant associated with the fiber network. It was a long 18-day strike but we stood strong and we still enjoy many of the protections that we achieved during the strike. The company looks at a strike as business as usual and in a very impersonal manner but this is our livelihood and it affects not just us but our families as well. A strike is never easy and it is always our last resort to protect our future.

One of our Members walking the picket line was E. Gerald Hogan, chief Steward, CWA Local 1103. On August 15, 1989, a Thursday morning, Gerry Hogan was killed. His death was a result from injuries he sustained when he was run down by a "scab" as he walked picket duty. The driver of the vehicle which killed him was a manager's daughter who was working as a "scab" during the strike. In CWA's long storied history, he is the only Member to be killed on a picket line.

The idea started small, we asked our Members to wear red on Thursday to remind the company of the blood they had spilled and to show support for our failed Brother. But it quickly spread

nationwide as a sign of solidarity every Thursday at CWA locations. Across the country, a sea of red has become an ongoing sign of solidarity. Wearing red is a simple although an effective way to show the company that we stand united as a Union. We all have personal lives and beliefs but in the workplace every Member needs to share the same goal, better wages, job security and respect in the workplace.

No company that CWA represents can take away the wages and benefits that we have fought so hard to achieve when we stand together. Our solidarity will make these companies prosperous and provide good jobs for generations to come, but only when we stand united.

*Submitted by  
 Lisa Mitchell  
 CWA Local 6300*



## NYSUT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS YEAR!

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# Just for "FUN!"

We are looking for fun facts, jokes, a personal amusing experience, ANYTHING, that will make us smile. Please submit to Kathy Robinson at [krobinso@nysutmail.org](mailto:krobinso@nysutmail.org).



The following "fun" was submitted by Maureen Karius, UUP

Instructions: Just read the sentence below straight through without really thinking about it.

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in what oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a total msees and you can sill raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?



## PRESIDENT'S PEN



Ever since I was a young kid I have always loved rooting for the underdog when it comes to sports. Whenever I watched sports and my favorite teams were not playing, I always rooted for the underdog. Unfortunately, since I am a Jets fan, I always seemed to be rooting for the underdog. Based upon everything I heard and all of the predictions, the Colts were picked to win the super bowl and there I was rooting for the Saints. I remember having dinner out the night when the Yankees were one game from winning the series against the Red Sox and saying that if I could place a bet I would bet on the Red Sox to come back and sweep. I really wished I had put some money down on that one.

In many ways, we could be looked on as an underdog. We are unionists when unionism in this country is hurting. At times we feel that where we are and what we have is it and there is no end in sight. We feel that we have so much more to offer but there doesn't seem to be any takers. We come up with great ideas and as great as they may be, many times a less lucrative direction is taken. Usually with us thinking to ourselves, "You should have listened," when it is all said and done.

Well I am here to tell you. Take heart! Yes we may be the underdog in the eyes of various people, but I have every confidence that we will prevail. This is our union, your

thoughts and ideas are valued and always welcome. Also, there is always room in our contracts for change and when days turn to weeks, months and years, change can be a very good thing.

All of the officers and stewards put forth a tremendous amount of time and energy to seeing this local move forward for the betterment of everyone within it. Much of that time and energy comes at a price for our own families and friends. My family just recently lost our babysitter of three and a half years with three days notice. My wife has to use almost two weeks of her own vacation just to stay home so that I can conduct various union meetings for the benefit of this local. As inconvenient as that may be, this local and all of its members are as important as my family and friends. Quite frankly, this local is also my family and friends.

Just like in so many examples, the underdog can and will prevail. All it takes is a strong team with good leadership and you will see those mountains moved. So in the eyes of local 1141, stand up and be proud and let's get some of our own mountains moved.

In Solidarity,  
*Michael Ostrander*

# Guess the Baby Photo Contest

We are having a "Guess the Baby Photo Contest". All CWA members are encouraged to submit his/her baby pictures. The photos will be posted on the CWA website. The first member to correctly guess who these adorable CWA members are, will win a \$25 gift card. Photos can be submitted by e-mail to [krobinson@nysutmail.org](mailto:krobinson@nysutmail.org) or mail a hard copy photo to Kathy Robinson at NYSUT, Utica RO,

7 Ellinwood Court, New Hartford, New York 13413. Please be sure to include your name with the photo. All photos must be submitted by **April 1, 2010**. The submitted photos will be posted on the CWA1141 website Monday morning, April 5, 2010. The winner will be announced on the website on Administrative Professionals Day, April 21, 2010.

*Editor's Note: Thank you to Bonnie Balok, Southern Tier-Vestal RO for this idea!*



## Online Tax Preparation Services

The Union Plus Online Tax Preparation Services offers filing fee discounts for union member. Visit the website at <http://www.unionplus.org/money/taxes/online-tax-preparation-services> for more details.



## The Water Cooler!



### Did You Hear?

- Maureen Karius (UUP)** celebrated two milestones in late 2009. She turned 60 years old the day after Thanksgiving. Six days later, she celebrated 25 years of service with UUP. Maureen tells us she is excited about getting her senior discount at local restaurants, stores, and theaters! Maureen also shares a couple quotes with us that she said she can now relate to: "Growing old is like being increasingly penalized for a crime you have not committed." Anthony Powell. "Call this an unfair generalization if you must, but old people are no good at everything." Moe, from the Simpsons
- Shawna Lambert (Albany Legal), Jo Valle (NYC Legal) and Linda Sandner (Capital District RO)** Congratulations to them, they have announced their retirements.
- Traci Szalkowski (Rochester RO)** and her husband Pete have both recovered from a serious car accident just outside Syracuse on the NYS Thruway while en route to NYC for the Ticker Tape Parade to celebrate with the NY Yankees on their 27th World Series Win. While they did not make it to the Parade, they are both feeling optimistic that the Yankees will win #28, and perhaps they will "fly" to NYC next time!
- Ginnie Fagnan (Rochester RO)** and her husband Mike welcomed their 4th grandchild. Their daughter Christine and son-in-law Chuck of Stanton, Texas gave birth to a second beautiful baby boy named Michael Charles. He arrived on January 7, 2010, weighing 7lbs, 6oz. & 20.5" long. They were lucky enough to be present for the birth, even though he decided to arrive at 3:23 a.m.
- Warren Turner (NYSUT Polling Center)** bought a \$5.00 scratch off ticket and won \$50,000 grand ticket. CONGRATS!!
- Jim MacFawn (Capital District RO) and Cashella Cheatam (NYSNA New York City)** Please welcome them as new Stewards.
- It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Lucy Mysiak (UUP)**. She was a UUP member and long-time chapter assistant at Buffalo HSC. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.

Please submit any "tidbits" you would like included in our next issue to [krobinso@nysutmail.org](mailto:krobinso@nysutmail.org)



# Miss York State Pageant Contestant Update

Samantha Mower, 19 year old daughter of Lisa Perrin (NYSUT Jamestown RO), was not among the 10 finalist of the Miss New York State Pageant. Although Samantha was not crowned the winner, the opportunity to participate was priceless. The bond in which she made with young women all over the state is still growing strong and the experience is one that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Many thanks to all that helped with fundraising, sponsoring, locating "pageant props," or just there for moral support; this is an experience WE will never forget.



Please remember when a member is out sick, has a death in their family, etc. you **should always inform your steward so that they can notify the CWA "Sunshine Fund."** The Local Secretary will administer the Local's "Sunshine Fund" as follows:

### Sunshine Fund Policy:

The Local Secretary will administer the Local's "Sunshine Fund" as follows:

- \$50 Wedding/Birth or Adoption of a Child (members only)
- \$50 Flowers/Fruit-major illness/surgery/hospitalization of member
- \$50 Charitable Contribution/Flowers/Fruit-death of member's immediate family (spouse, parent, child)
- \$100 Retirement of member
- Sympathy Card-Death of member's sibling, grandparent, in-law.



## CWA Joe Beirne Foundation Scholarship Program

Fifteen partial college scholarships of \$3,000 each are being offered for the 2010-2011 school year. Winners, selected in a lottery drawing, also will receive second-year scholarships of the same amount contingent upon satisfactory academic accomplishment. Part-time students, less than 12 credits, will receive half of the scholarship monies. Eligible for the awards are CWA members and their spouses, children and grandchildren, including those of retired or deceased members. Visit the website <http://www.cwa-union.org/members/beirne/> and click on General Information for more details.

## CWA 72nd Annual Convention July 26-27, 2010



Mike Ostrander, CWA 1141 President and Tom Slavin, Executive VP, will be attending the Convention in Washington, DC July 26-27, 2010. They will have a full report upon their return.

## CWA DAY 2010

We are already working on CWA Day 2010. Lisa Perrin and Karen Field from the Jamestown RO are this year's Co-Chairs. Linda Watkins, Jeannine Badgley, Diane Miller, and Andrea Tersigni have all volunteered to serve on the committee. Please contact any committee member if you would like to volunteer or have any suggestions/ideas for CWA Day 2010. Please remember that this is a "negotiations year" for NYSUT CWA members and it is important you attend CWA Day!

## NEWSLETTER TEAM...

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We want to hear from you!  
**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

Please submit your thoughts, suggestions and ideas to Kathy Robinson at [krobinso@nysutmail.org](mailto:krobinso@nysutmail.org)