

# THE ELEVENEIGHTEEN EDGE



From back: Duncan Johnson, Brian Hill: Front row: Jim O'Hare, Dom Patrignani , Anita Bobersky, Deb Lamountain, Ruth Heim, John Burkett, John Lebel, Don Rychcik, Lisa Dicaprio, Captain Jack

## 6/22/15 - Rally in Rye

By Theresa Devine

Quarterly Paper

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What better place to start a rally in support of our bargaining team than the CWA 1103 office, **Horgan Hall**, named in honor of our union brother Gerry Horgan who lost his life on the picket line in Valhalla during the strike of 1989.

With the Verizon contract expiration looming over our heads and the bogus "offers" from the company, (read more page 3) union brothers and sisters from around NY, New England and Connecticut, joined together and marched from Horgan Hall to the Rye Town Hilton where hundreds gathered to hear from our new District One Vice President, Dennis Trainor, members of the bargaining team and local political leaders.

VP Dennis started things off by asking members **"Are you ready to stand up and fight back?" YES! "Are you ready to tell Verizon you are tired of their Bull Shit" YES! "It is time to draw a line in the sand and tell the company enough is enough."**

We need to educate all working people that corporate America can do more. It is time to raise the living standards for all workers and their families. We are not just fighting for us, we are fighting to restore the middle class.

Everyone must take part and fight - MOBILIZE - this is OUR UNION - we must BE PROUD and STAND TOGETHER! Together CWA and IBEW will win!

## 6/22/15 - Rally continued

By Theresa Devine

The crowd became more encouraged and motivated as the event progressed.

Dennis advised that the company wants us to “share more health care costs for less coverage, pay more of a premium, higher copay, higher prescription drug costs as well as eliminate the right to fight for retiree healthcare”, the very people who built the network that all the corporate profit is tied to. SHAME ON THEM!

Verizon reported \$40 million in profits in 2014. If the company needs cutbacks, the district suggests starting with the top 6 executives and working their way down to save money and stop when you get to us as we already gave.

Miles spoke of taking on the greediest corporation in the world and of our obligation to our children and grandchildren to fight for more FiOS and get into wireless. “We must not give back!”

Kevin Schiele, President CWA 1103, encouraged attendees to imagine a Verizon where everyone had job security: where working hard and playing by the rules were rewarded with a fair contract.

Verizon profit is immune from recession - they have not paid federal taxes in years but still they want everything back from you. Solidarity motivates us to Fight One Day Longer, One Day Stronger.

Steve Otis, Assemblyman in 93rd District stated his belief in collective bargaining and the right to organize and importance of fair negotiations and expressed his hope that Verizon

would “do right by the men and women who built this company”.

## HEY - HEY - HO - HO, CORPORATE GREED HAS GOT TO GO!



Tony Spina, President CWA 1109, spoke of being insulted by Verizon at the bargaining table and how they want to “gut us”; look what they did to their own directors, 2nd levels and 1st levels. He further stated if Verizon wants give backs they should start with the executives:

- executive cafeteria serving cornflakes not caviar
- instead of town cars, give executives metro cards
- municipal golf clubs, not country club membership
- instead of golden parachutes have them live by same benefits they provide workers
- instead of corporate card, pay as you go

Who is going to take care of you? The country can't rise if only a few people rise.

Keith Purce, President CWA 1101, expressed his incredulity in the company's plan to eliminate Family Care Leave which is unpaid and enables employees to care for their family members.

Gil Carey, President, CWA 1118 stated he was proud to be part of the

bargaining team - they didn't come to beg, they came to demand job security, wages, benefits, pension, FiOS build. Gil told of his members being forced out of town for years now to build FiOS downstate and now

is the time to bring his members home and do a FiOS build Upstate.

Finally Gil asked members to stand strong and do the mobilization that is asked of them expressing the need for each and everyone of us to stand strong.

Bill Henderson, President, CWA 1298 stimulated the crowd further expressing his locals solidarity to “fight with us when and where we need them.”

Donnie Dunn, President, CWA 1108 reminded members that “Verizon is not successful without us!” They are looking to take away everything we fought for in the past and we need to do everything we can to win a successful contract.

No matter who the speaker the message was clear - we have an uphill battle ahead of us.

The only thing workers have to bargain with is their skill or their labor. Denied the right to withhold it as a last resort, they become powerless. The strike is therefore not a breakdown of collective bargaining-it is the indispensable cornerstone of that process.

~ Paul Clark, 1989



# HEY VERIGREEDY, We Need GOOD JOBS & Customers Need FiOS.

We're fighting for good jobs building and servicing FiOS, and properly serving copper network customers.

**Yet instead of building FiOS throughout its footprint, which would create good jobs, Verizon wants to gut our job security.** And while they're at it, they're aiming to slash our pensions and send our health care costs skyrocketing.

In the last five years, Verizon piled up \$28 billion in profits and paid its top executives \$249 million dollars – a quarter of a billion dollars. Verizon can afford to build out FiOS AND preserve good jobs.

**Send Verizon a message: We need good jobs and a fair contract! Build FiOS for all!**



## MASS RALLY

**Saturday, July 25th  
11:00am  
Verizon HQ  
140 West Street**



## WEAR RED!

[www.StandUpToVerizon.com](http://www.StandUpToVerizon.com)

**Don't Miss the Next Rally: GET ON THE BUS!**

Bus leaves Exit 16 @ 6:30am, Exit 8 @ 7am; Exit 2 @ 7:30am; Exit 21 Catskill @ 8am - Rally begins @ 11am: NYC by 4pm.

Friends and Family welcome - reserve your seat today by email [theresadevine@me.com](mailto:theresadevine@me.com) or call 518-782-9977.

## Verizon Contract Deadline Fast Approaching

By Theresa Devine

As the Verizon contract deadline fast approaches and the company spins their tale of the union turning down raises for all, the local would like to remind members what is really at stake.

Taken from Regional Bargaining Report # 5

- **JOB SECURITY**- Remove the protections against layoffs and forced transfer.

- **NO COLA**

- **CORPORATE PROFIT SHARING** at risk if not settled by certain date. Eliminate the minimum payout.

- **DIFFERENTIALS AND PREMIUM PAY** - Eliminate Saturday and Sunday Differentials and premium pay. Tour differentials only paid for time worked between 9pm and 6 am. Eliminate all but 10% differential.

- **SUNDAY TOURS**- Include Sunday as part of basic work week.

- **OVERTIME** – only paid after 40 hours worked. No payment of more than one and half time (1 1/2 X). Eliminate caps on Overtime.

- **TECH CHANGE NOTICE**- reduce notice given to the Union of any major technological change

- **BENEFITS**- the Company proposes major reductions in medical benefits

including higher deductibles, co-pays, premiums and co-insurance. The Company also proposed to remove the Unions ability to negotiate retiree health care benefits. **Eliminate Class II/Sponsored Child coverage.**

- **PENSIONS**- Eliminate the lump sum pension. In addition, employees would have to choose between a pension which would be frozen and an enhanced 401K. If you choose Pension – No 401K match. If you choose 401K enhanced (100%)-Your Pension freezes.



- **401K Plan** changes- begin charging a quarterly administration and a \$50 fee for processing new loans.

- **DISABILITY BENEFITS**- Eliminate Accident Disability Plan. Establish a rolling 5 years period for 100% payment on Sickness Disability. Once 100% is used – members are paid 50% (currently full pay benefits recycle after being back at work for 13 weeks)

- **CALL SHARING**- give the Company additional leeway to route calls out of

our bargaining units and to contractors while giving contractors the handling of all new products and services.

- **TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS**– Ability to transfer employees to any state in Verizon footprint.
- **TUITION ASSISTANCE**- Expanding the list of “Excluded” studies
- **FORCE ADJUSTMENT PLAN**- changes to the FAP that would eliminate job security provisions.

- **WORK FAMILY**- Reduce funding by \$900,000. Added limitations if not agreed to by a certain date.

- **FAMILY CARE LEAVE**- eliminate

- **EXCISE TAX**- Company wants ability to change medical plans, health care spending account or premiums to avoid excise tax without negotiating with the Union.

- **PRE TEST TRAINING** - Eliminate

- **INCOME PROTECTION PLAN** - Would require employees to sign a Disclaimer to receive an IPP.

This is not a Company facing a financial crisis. They are extremely profitable. This is not a Company coming to its union employees seeking ways to work together to face the challenges of the future. Their proposals seek to destroy our future.

We need to send a very clear message that this is not acceptable, that we will not be passive as they seek to gut our contract.



## You Broke My Heart on the Picket Line

By Slim Pickets

You broke my heart on the picket line  
Oh, Verizon, you dirty swine  
All I want is what is mine  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

Corporate greed, corporate perks  
You guys are just a buncha' jerks  
Things were good, things were fine, til  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

You don't care for the cust'mers need  
And squeeze the labor til they bleed  
So now I pray to Lord divine, cause  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

You once were a respectable boss  
Now OMP, it's such a loss  
I'll drown my sorrows in a glass o'wine  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

Long August day in the State Street sun  
Walkin' back 'n forth ain't no fun  
Read the message on my protest sign  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

It's Christmas Eve in the snowy cold  
Walkin' back 'n forth sure is getting old  
No Christmas turkey on which to dine, since  
You broke my heart on the picket line.

Deco-rashin Day has come to pass  
Warm spring breeze is here at last  
Whoda believe were the month number nine  
All broken hearts on the picket line.



Plattsburgh

## Informational Picket Lines



94 4th Street, Troy



Watt Street, Schenectady



3rd Street, Albany

## CWA 75th Convention - It's Our TURN!

The 75th Convention was held in Detroit this year and CWA 1118 was represented by Delegates Gil Carey, Theresa Devine, Deb LaMountain and Rachel Bailey as well as Alternate Bill Kelly.

The convention began with President Larry Cohen reminding attendees that when unions win, all American's win. We will never abandon our dream; a fair days pay for a fair day of work; we must take care of our children and help the elderly. Who are we as Americans if we have kids that are attending crumbling schools? This is about who we are as a nation - **it is our time - our moment in history to rise as one solid union and to take back our country.**

Dennis Williams, President of the United Auto Workers spoke on how the middle class is under attack designed to diminish workers rights and put an end to collective bargaining - it is important that we change things - any child born today should reach further then their parents.

Participants were encouraged to "march out of here fiercely determined to make our union stronger - the 1% that controls the nation now believe they can control our workplace, politics, and environment. We can not allow it, it is not hopeless, there is always a path to resist to stand up and fight back - by ourselves unions are no longer large enough to accomplish this, we can't negotiate alone - we must go deeper and grow our traditional CWA triangle nurture our activists and leaders. We must get the members involved and mobilized."

President Cohen stated that even though he isn't running for President again he is still committed, honored and excited to building this movement. "I will not rest until we are well on the path of economic justice and democracy."

It is time we rededicate ourselves every day to kicking ass for the working class.

Focus on our priorities:

1st and foremost strength of union built on unity and militancy at the bargaining tables - with the help of all we can build that unity and militancy

2nd - 100% determined to carry forward movement - must unite with community groups, women, civil rights - all have same powerful elements - power progressive anti-management movement.

CWA needs each and every one of you to join the fight - union where every member has ever other members back - no phony dividing lines - we must build a union where we all fight side by side. Our foundation comes from SOLIDARITY.

We must be able to discuss controversial issues in our house if we want to build a movement.

## Chris Shelton, President, CWA

Christopher Shelton was elected the new president of the Communications Workers of America by acclamation of delegates to the union's 75th convention. He succeeds Larry Cohen who stepped down after serving as president for ten years and spending 39 years organizing and working in CWA.

In 1968, Chris became a technician at New York Telephone and joined the Communications Workers of America and became a steward, working his way up to Chief by 1970. At 21 years old he was on the street for seven months in the longest strike in telephone company history.

"I had a union job—and I was a member of a fighting union. And we fought for everything we got from the phone company.



New York Telephone—NYNEX—Bell Atlantic—Verizon—none of them ever gave us a damn thing. We battled for every measure of fairness and dignity and justice we ever got. Most of the time, we had to strike them to get what was rightfully ours.

I owe all of it—I owe everything I have in my life—to my union—to our union—the Communications Workers of America.

My union made me—and tens of thousands of women and men just like me —just like all of you—middle class. The American Dream? Yeah, I've lived the American Dream. But not because of some bogus, flag-waving, right-wing, rugged individualist fantasy about how every man can make it on his own.

I lived the American Dream because I was lucky enough to have a union job, a CWA job, and CWA knew how to fight so that all its members could enjoy their piece of the American Dream. And I will never, ever forget that."

Go to: [cwa-union.org](http://cwa-union.org) to listen to President Shelton's inspiring speech on the convention floor. He is a strong leader we can be proud of!

## Dennis Trainor, CWA District 1 Vice President



Vice President Trainor spoke to a packed room declaring:

"I feel like the luckiest trade

union leader on the face of the earth. I feel lucky because you have chosen me to be the Vice President of the strongest, the most united district in our union. My number one priority will be to keep our district united and strong and so that we can do the work that needs to be done for our members, for our union for the labor movement and for the working class. I am not blind to what is happening in this country - the war of the 1% against the 99%. The big corporations trying to convince working people who don't have a union that we are the problem.

Chris Christy has turned the idea of class warfare on its head - not rich against poor - but worker against worker - he wants the public to believe workers with pensions and their unions are the problem.

I am very proud and I know that you are proud of the benefits we fought for over the years. I believe and I know you believe that every working person deserves the same level of benefits. We should never ever be ashamed of what we won. It's time to reach out to educate all working people that corporate America can do more. **its time to stop allowing corporate America to define our pensions and health benefits as what's wrong with America - it is time to raise the living standards of all working people**

The key to raising those standards is collective bargaining - we need strong contracts - I will fight to keep our contracts strong with good wages and good benefits.

We need to build a progressive movement in this country that embraces all working people and their allies - a radical movement that will challenge corporate America and shake things up - we need to reach out to allies across our districts - everyone here must be involved - stand ready to work with your locals to help build a radical movement which is critical to the future of all people in this country. **"Corporate America you have had your decade. Now is our time."**

## Resolution - It's Our Turn

It's our turn. Working families and our communities deserve to share in the productivity gains that our work has produced.

The top one percent is booming. Their lives, their families, their standard of living could not be better.

Only through collective bargaining are workers able to gain our share of productivity gains in improved wages and benefits. Today, just 6.6% of US private sector workers and 35% of public workers are union members. Those rights continue to be attacked by employers who intimidate and harass workers who want union representation and by elected officials looking to strip

away decades of rights from workers, with public sector workers on the front lines of the attack.

That is what we are up against as we bargain in 2015. This year we are negotiating more than 180 contracts in every CWA sector, covering 200,000 workers. Bargaining has gotten harder then ever, but we are ready for the fight.

The CEO's of our major employers are doing well. Management compensation has benefited directly from higher share prices with free stock options and other linked bonuses. The average CEO makes almost 400 times as much as a front line worker. We have to put all of our employers on notice; It's our turn. CWA

families need a raise. We want secure sustainable jobs, real improvements in our standard of living, and above all end the race to the bottom.

In bargaining this year, we have reached tentative agreements covering 17,500 workers at AT&T Midwest and AT&T Legacy that met our goal of ensuring an overall improvement in workers' standard of living.

Verizon Communication has posted an increase in corporate profits of 215% since 2009. CWA members in Verizon East want to expand and keep good jobs and gain a fair share of those profits.





**“Unity at AT&T Mobility”** - For the most up to date information on what is going on w/our AT&T brothers and sisters, “friend” them on FaceBook



### Stop TPP

AT&T and the other corporate backers of the Trans-Pacific Partnership -- the biggest, most destructive trade deal in history -- only care about one thing: rigging the system against workers. And right now, the only thing standing in their way is the U.S. Senate.

We MUST keep fighting. Share this if you agree that the Senate needs to vote NO on fast-tracking TPP.

Why do we need to keep fighting against TPP?

Because the Senate votes on “fast tracking” TPP this week ... and because “NAFTA on steroids” is a nightmare for American workers.

### “Our Verizon Brothers and Sisters Need our Help”

With the midnight August 1st contract expiration hanging over the heads our Verizon union brothers and sisters and our President Gil Carey in regional bargaining on their behalf, I wanted to remind you how they have stood behind us and beside us in our struggles over the years with AT&T; picketing our stores, hand billing customers and sharing our struggles most recently with the absence plan.

Now is our turn to show them that mobility members are there for them too. Please take a moment to log in to our website, [www.cwa1118.com](http://www.cwa1118.com) and look at the latest Verizon Bargaining reports for an update on their struggle.

Let's show our support and join our union brothers and sisters on a bus trip to NYC for a rally to support their contract.

Saturday, July 25th      11am      Verizon Head Quarters, 140 West Street, NY  
 Bus Pick Up Locations:    Northway Exit 16 @ 6:30am      Exit 8 Park and Ride @ 7am  
    Exit 2E Target Albany @ 7:30am      Exit 21 Catskill @ 8am.

Reserve your seats today - call Theresa Devine on 518-782-9977 or email [TheresaDevine@me.com](mailto:TheresaDevine@me.com)



July 6, 2015

## One Step Closer to a National Agreement

*American Red Cross Union Coalition*

Our Union National Bargaining committee continued meetings with American Red Cross in Washington DC and came very close to reaching a Tentative National Contract. When we do, we will be creating a powerful, united voice to enable us to tackle more and more issues together.

We made significant progress on some of our core issues including **Wage Increases Across the Board, Ratification Bonus, and better Healthcare Coverage with lower deductibles.**

We still have some outstanding issues to continue negotiating over and your committee will give fuller updates as we come closer to a Tentative National Contract with National Red Cross!

If we reach a Tentative Contract Agreement, you will have the opportunity to vote to adopt the Agreement as an addendum, or addition to your local union contract.



*[Above] Union members, leaders, and staff working together at the Teamsters National Headquarters in Washington DC.*

*The Red Cross Union Coalition is 4,000 union workers across the country represented by American Federation of Teachers ♦ American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees ♦ Communications Workers of America ♦ Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters ♦ Service Employee Int'l Unions ♦ United Auto Workers ♦ United Food and Commercial Workers ♦ United Steel Workers ♦*

## Town Hall Meeting - FiOS for Troy

By Theresa Devine

On Thursday, June 11th, I attended a Town Hall meeting in Troy focusing on the need for competition with Time Warner and the need of FiOS build out.

President Carey spoke to attendees requesting that they support our members. By doing so we will support the community as we will bring FiOS to Troy, which will bring patronage to local businesses while our members work and will tell others about the community.

Welcome to the next generation of technology. Politicians in attendance advised they have urged their colleagues to do the right thing and urge VZ to bring FiOS service to the capital district.

A representative for Assemblyman Santabarbara spoke about customers paying for broadband but not actually getting broadband service and the need for FiOS to aid the community

in education, health care and economic development.

Pete Sikora, research economist for CWA District One, advised that high speed internet and reliable phone service should be available to all. VZ network used to be reliable until the PSC (public service commission) deregulated.

Sadly VZ is cherry picking where it puts FiOS and there are winners and losers - we don't want the Capital District to be on the losing end. Pete encouraged the company to "not just maximize profits, maximize customer

service as well." PSC must make internet affordable for all. If VZ won't do it willingly - we need to get the PSC to make them do it.

Senator Breslin has pledged his support.

We need to make the governor and legislature do their jobs for the public and not just corporations.



Rodney Wiltshire, Pete Sikora, Assemblyman Phil Steck





## Restore Mandatory Fines and Effective Measurements for Violating Service Quality Standards

Bill Status: Legislation will be introduced soon in the Senate and Assembly

**Background: The PSC implemented deregulation for telephone service, leading to lost jobs and atrocious service quality.**

One paper, the Public Service Commission requires high service quality from Verizon, the telephone company in most of NYS. For example, the PSC requires the company to repair at least 80% of out of service telephone lines within 24 hours. In reality, these service quality fines on the theory that “competition” would guarantee that all customers would receive the best services at the lowest prices. But eliminating service quality fines actually allowed Verizon to cut jobs and maintenance, leading to the elimination of good jobs and to declining customer service quality.

**Background: PSC Eliminated Mandatory Fines and Gutted Service Quality Measurement**

In 2004, Verizon paid over \$50 million in mandatory fines for violating service quality standards, which gave the company a substantial financial incentive to ensure good service. But in 2005, over CWA’s objections, the PSC eliminated mandatory fines. Predictably, service quality plunged. By the last quarter of 2010, only 1.7% of out of service telephone lines were repaired within 24 hours. Yet instead of restoring mandatory fines, the PSC stuck with deregulation. In order to mask the rapid decline in service quality, the PSC changed the measurement system for service quality by **eliminating 92% of customers from service quality measurements**. By eliminating proper measurement, the PSC allowed Verizon to claim that it met the service quality standards, even though in reality service quality continued to decline. By the next quarter of measurement under the new monitoring metric, Verizon had performed a service quality miracle on paper by fixing over 85% of out of service telephone lines within 24 hours.

## Service Quality Standards and Penalties & Effective Measurement Standards Should be Restored and Enforced

CWA has approached Senate and Assembly sponsors for soon to be introduced legislation that will restore mandatory fines and proper measurement of three crucial service quality standards: 24 out-of-serve (OOS) repairs, 48 hour “service affecting” and 5 day installations. Legislation will be introduced requiring Verizon to once again pay substantial fines for not meeting properly-measured service quality standards, which would protect jobs as well as improve customer service quality. The legislation will also restore the system of metrics used by the PSC before it gamed the service quality statistics on Verizon’s behalf in 2010/2011.

Protect Telephone Workers and Consumers by Restoring Telephone Service Quality Standards and Effective Measurement of Violations.

For more information contact CWA District One at 212-344-2515

## Press One for America

**It’s time for Congress to pass common sense legislation to keep call center jobs in the United States and protect consumers from identity theft.**

Are you tired of big banks and corporations cutting costs by using overseas call centers? Not only do they put Americans out of work, they put all of us at greater risk for identity theft. Overseas call center

## REPORT: How Overseas Call Centers Threaten U.S. Jobs, Consumer Privacy, and Data Security

employees have been caught selling credit card numbers, mortgage information and even medical records.

The United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection



Act of 2013 (House bill H.R. 2909 and Senate bill 1565) solves this problem by making sure that the people who answer your customer service calls let you know where they are located and give you the option to be transferred to a U.S. based representative. It also stops rewarding companies that ship jobs overseas with federal loans and grants.

## Social Committee News:

### Get to know your Union Brothers and Sisters:

By Theresa Devine

Did you know that CWA Local 1118 represents not just Verizon, but AT&T Mobility, Avaya, American Red Cross, PSO's and TSA's, SuperMedia and NextRidge?

Currently Verizon and Red Cross members are in the middle of contract negotiations.

Some of you may remember a few years back when our Verizon members were called on to picket at AT&T stores - many even took a bus trip to Syracuse to picket the Destiny AT&T store.

The Executive Board would like to encourage members to get to know each other - not only those we work with but those in other companies within our local and to become familiar with their struggles and triumphs. One way to do that is at our membership meetings and another is through our "social committee events".

Don't miss out on the events of our local. Check the events calendar on our website and step out and enjoy quality time with your union brothers and sister.

In the past month we have had our annual **golf** tournament , **Great Escape, Bronx Zoo** and two **Yankees** games - as well as tickets to **shows at Proctors**.

If you would like to suggest a future event for your peers, contact social committee chairs Mike Panzarino on 518-441-0751 or Theresa Devine on 518-782-9977.



### Membership Picnic

Sunday, June 18, 2015 was a rainy day but that didn't stop CWA 1118 members and their families from gathering at the American Legion Post on Grooms Road for an afternoon filled w/solidarity, conversation, laughter and fun.

If you didn't have the opportunity to join us please consider joining us next year, it is a fun day for the whole family.





## Social Committee Events:



Saturday, 11/21/15  
8pm - \$70



Thursday, 2/25/16  
7:30pm - \$50



Saturday, 12/12/15  
2pm - \$70



Sunday, 1/24/16  
2pm - \$59



Sunday, 4/3/16 - 1pm - \$90  
Saturday, 4/9/16 - 8pm - \$80

Reserve your seat today by calling Theresa Devine on 518-782-9977 or email [TheresaDevine@me.com](mailto:TheresaDevine@me.com)

Deposit due: \$10 per ticket due within 2 weeks of order  
Balance due 60 days before the show

Mail Deposit to: CWA 1118, 4 Wembley Court, Albany NY 12205

Checks Payable to CWA 1118 - Event Name in Memo Field

## Community Service Committee News



### March for Babies

On Sunday, April 26th approximately 1,000 people participated in a march to help raise money to improve the health of babies in the community.

Once again, Don Rychcik, Anne Slaton, Jim O'Hare, Mike Panzarino, Dan O'Sullivan and Duncan Johnson were on hand to hand out water again this year for the 2015 March for Babies that was held on Sunday, April 26th at the University at Albany.

### CWA 1118 Community Service Committee

**Dan O'Sullivan.....Chair**  
**Duncan Johnson**  
**Dave LeFlech**



With the the kids being out of school and the majority of our membership working at Verizon and facing a possible strike in August, the Community Service Committee is taking the summer off from collections but asks that each member keep in mind our fall drives.

### Cup of Joe for a Soldier

The CWA Local 1118 Social Committee will once again be collecting coffee, tea, creamer, sugar, cups, stirrers, etc. for our Veterans at the Stratton VA Medical center with an anticipated delivery date of Veterans Day.

### Food Drive

2015 Food Drive will be held in time for Thanksgiving again this year.

### Toy Drive for the Children's Hospital @ Albany Med

The 7th Annual Toy Drive will becoming in early December for delivery to the hospital on or before December 15th.

Please watch your union boards and the website for updated information on the collections for these three events beginning in October 2015.

## Work and Family Committee News

### Summer Camp 2015

By Theresa Devine

Reminder that all paperwork must be completed and **postmarked on or before Friday, August 10, 2015.**

To ensure payment, before you seal the envelope please verify all of the following information enclosed:

- 2014 W2 for self and spouse
- 2014 IRS 1040 for self and spouse
- Completed and signed Application

- Completed and signed Reimbursement Form
- Proof of Payment
  - ACH payment receipt, cancelled check, money order or credit card receipt

**I would highly recommend that you:**

- **keep a copy of all paperwork submitted**
- **send "return receipt requested" and/or "delivery confirmation"**

Following these steps will help in the event of a work stoppage as there could

be a delay or hold on mail during that time and your receipt and copies will help us process payment if something is lost enroute.

Currently **Summer Camp Payment is scheduled for October 30, 2015 however this date could be extended if there is a work stoppage.**

If you have any further questions or want your information reviewed please do not hesitate to contact me on 518-782-9977 or email [TheresaDevine@me.com](mailto:TheresaDevine@me.com)



## Thank you

To My Union Brothers and Sisters:

Nancy and I would like to sincerely thank you for all your incredible generosity and your wonderful support at a difficult time for us. It was so very much appreciated

and we are filled with gratitude. It is a true reflection of the spirit, integrity and kindness of CWA Local 1118, of which I am so proud to be a member. Local 1118 and all of the members is what makes this Union what it is today - our hard

work, efforts and professionalism has made Verizon a successful giant. We stand together, thank you again and CWA STRONG!

Sincerely, Duncan and Nancy Johnson

### June 2015 Retirees

CWA Local 1118 would like to congratulate our latest group of retirees. Enjoy your summer off!

Alfonso III , Eugene  
Brown, Mary  
Carlson, Mark  
Carroll , Kathleen  
Cook, Diane  
Cox, John  
Daigle, Gary

Davies, William  
Donlon, Stephen  
Doran, Leo  
Kondrat, John  
Kress, Jane  
Kriser, Diane  
Kroup, Elaine  
Lasell, Vaughn  
Legnard, Gary  
Madara, Harry  
Maddalla, Shirley  
Marcklinger, Paul  
Martin, Jack  
Martin, John

McBrayer, Daniel  
Morris, Alexander  
Myhrberg, Kristy  
Nigriny, John  
Page Jr., Donald  
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## WORKERS' COMPENSATION & THIRD PARTY (PERSONAL INJURY) CLAIMS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Vincent Rossillo, Attorney  
Partner, Fine, Olin & Anderman, LLP

Whether you are a telephone technician, a home health aide or a social worker, certain types of employees are required to go to private homes or commercial establishments in order to perform their jobs. As anyone who has worked these types of jobs can tell you, some of these establishments are not in good condition and as a result of unsafe conditions, an accident occurs.

Many people are aware that they may have a Workers' Compensation claim as a result of having a work place injury, but they may not be aware that they may also have a lawsuit against the negligent owner of the property.

Under the Workers' Compensation law, a person who is injured in the course of their employment, regardless of where that accident happened, is entitled to apply for Workers' Compensation benefits. The law, also generally prevents an injured worker from suing his employer for a workplace accident. However, the law does allow an injured worker to sue a negligent third party.

If the worker suffers an accident due to a landlord's negligence, the worker may have a cause of action against the landlord for negligence.

As an example of such a scenario, Fine, Olin & Anderman, (FOA) represented a worker whose job was to visit homes and businesses to read gas meters. On the day in question, the worker was

visiting a private home. When she got out of her vehicle, she slipped and fell on black ice on the customer's driveway. The driveway had been plowed but salt or sand was not put down.

Due to the fall, she injured her neck and lower back. As a result of the accident, she eventually underwent neck and back surgery to repair herniated disks. She was never able to return to work.

Upon reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding the accident, FOA determined that in addition to a workers' compensation claim, the injured worker also had a cause of action against the homeowner for negligence - a personal injury claim, also called a third party lawsuit.

Proving negligence in such a situation was difficult as the accident had happened three months before the worker contacted us. Among the many issues were notice, reliability of weather reports, the credibility of witnesses, the degree of disability and liability.

After a lot of preparation and review of records and discussions with experts, FOA placed the case in suit. Eventually, the insurance company for the homeowner agreed to pay this injured worker 1.6 million dollars for the injuries she sustained as a result of the accident.

Since the injured worker was unable to return to work, FOA advised her that she could also



be entitled to Social Security Disability in addition to Workers' Compensation benefits. FOA represented her in the Social Security Disability claim and she was eventually awarded lifetime benefits.

The case highlights the fact that workers injured in the course of their employment in some instances may be entitled to a Personal Injury claim as well as Workers' Compensation benefits.

It's important that if you are injured at work, you contact Fine, Olin & Anderman (FOA), at 1-800-522-9001 as soon as possible after the accident/injury. FOA is the law firm endorsed by your union to represent members for injury-related matters and has expertise in Workers' Compensation, Personal Injury and Social Security Disability matters.



This article is not intended to provide legal advice. For legal advice you should consult an attorney. Certain aspects of the procedures and legal requirements have not been set forth in complete detail. This article only pertains to New York State Law. Procedures and laws vary in other states.



## WORKPLACE ASBESTOS EXPOSURE – FILING A WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIM

By Vincent Rossillo, Attorney  
Fine, Olin & Anderman, LLP

### Why is Asbestos Dangerous?

Asbestos exposure occurs when a person is subjected to the inhalation of asbestos fibers. Most asbestos diseases require regular exposure over long periods of time. These small fibers have the ability to implant themselves deep into soft tissue of the body and cause inflammation and changes to the cells in that area.

The most common way for asbestos fibers to enter the body and cause disease is through breathing them in. Asbestos containing material is not generally considered to be harmful unless it is releasing dust or fibers into the air where they can be inhaled or ingested. The most common form of asbestos-related disease is asbestosis. The risk of asbestosis is minimal for those who do not consistently work with asbestos.

### When should I file a Workers’ Compensation claim if I have been exposed to asbestos?

The short answer – maybe never. Remember, a Workers’ Compensation claim can not be established without a diagnosis of a medical condition. For any Workers’ Compensation claim, you must have a medical diagnosis and a doctor

who relates that diagnosis to a workplace injury or disease.

But if I know I’ve been exposed shouldn’t I file a claim to protect myself in the future?

If you file the Workers’ Compensation Board form (C-3 form - Employee Claim) without the supporting medical documentation, the claim will not be established. Once filed, a claim must be established within 7 years. The symptoms of diseases related to asbestos inhalation usually will not appear immediately and usually take approximately 15 to 40 years to develop, unless there has been a massive exposure, like occurred on 9/11.

If you have been exposed to asbestos, it is important to file an incident report with your employer. If there was an exposure, you should keep your own records to help with any claim in future years. Obtain any records available from the employer including asbestos air, bulk or wipe sampling results. Under OSHA regulations employees have the right to copies of these test results.

If you are diagnosed with an asbestos related disease you should file a claim immediately. There are very strict time limitations in which to file a claim, if you don’t file the claim timely, you may be forever barred from pursuing it. This is when your own records will be critical.

### Is there a medical test to determine whether I have been exposed to asbestos fibers?

The most common tests used to determine if you have been exposed to asbestos are chest x-rays and pulmonary function tests. These tests do not detect the asbestos fibers themselves, but can detect early signs of the lung diseases caused by asbestos exposure. Often times, asbestos related disease can only be diagnosed with a special x-ray, which is read by a specially trained x-ray technician called a B-reader.

But remember – it takes from 15-40 years before symptoms develop, so having a chest x-ray after exposure will only serve as a baseline – meaning at the time of the exposure you were symptom free. If as the years progress, you begin to develop asbestos-related disease symptoms, your doctor may then be able to relate those symptoms to the exposure.

### Who will pay for the chest x-ray?

If you are a worker that handles asbestos as part of your regular job duties, your employer will be providing to you, at no cost, annual medical assessments that must include the chest x-ray. If you have an asbestos exposure and are not included in one of these programs, please contact your union. Your union representative can try to negotiate with the employer to pay for the x-ray and other appropriate medical tests. Workers’ Compensation will not pay, since you don’t have an established claim.

If you have questions, call **Fine, Olin & Anderman (FOA) at 1-800-522-9001**, the statewide law firm endorsed by your union to represent members and their families for Workers; Compensation, Personal Injury, Social Security Disability and Veterans Disability claims. This article is not intended to provide legal advice. For legal advice you should consult an attorney. Certain aspects of the procedures and legal requirements have not been set forth in complete detail. This article only pertains to New York State Workers’ Compensation benefits. Procedures and laws vary in other states.



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#### General Membership Meetings:

- Capital District Area: 9/16 at 6pm
  - Polish American Citizens Club, Commerce Ave, Albany
- Plattsburgh/Saranac Lake Area: 10/22 at 6pm
  - Hi Falls Lounge, Saranac
- Glens Falls/Saratoga Area: 10/29 at 6pm
  - VFW Cooper Street, Glens Falls, NY



"Remember that you are fighting more than your own fight. You are fighting for the entire working class and you must stand together."

~ William Dudley





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(Effective 6/1/15)