



# CWA LOCAL 1032

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September 6, 2010

Dear CWA Local 1032 Member,

I hope you were able to enjoy a restful summer with family and friends. I didn't plan it this way, but it happens that I am writing this letter on Labor Day. We typically associate Labor Day with the end of summer, but in reality this day means so much more to us as working people. More than just a symbolic passing, Labor Day is meant to honor labor's achievements and to celebrate the labor movement's role in creating a vibrant middle class, both of which are threatened in ways we could not have imagined just a short time ago. At a time when the labor movement is enduring relentless attacks on its hard-won rights and power, and when working families are seeing the benefits they have fought so hard to secure eroded, it is critical that we pause to consider where we are as a labor movement and as working families. We are at a critical moment, and I do not believe I am overstating it when I say that how we respond will determine if the labor movement can continue to be a force for social and economic justice in New Jersey and in the country.

Make no mistake; I believe that our movement is our greatest hope for justice and progressive change – on the job, at the state level and nationally. The last nine months in New Jersey have been unlike anything we have ever experienced. Whether you are a public sector worker or a private sector worker, Governor Christie has used his first year in office to create a narrative that makes us – all workers – the crux of the State's problems. That narrative has gained momentum and has continued to evolve in ways that are not only misguided and untrue, but ultimately will not address the crisis in New Jersey.

The choices made by the Governor in his first budget will impact all of us as both workers and as citizens. The cuts to municipal and school aid are among the most egregious. Many of our local government units have already suffered layoffs and Governor Christie's budget includes layoffs at the state level on January 1, 2011. Not only does this impact displaced workers, but it creates even more work to be done by the remaining skeletal staff. And that reality translates into service cuts that ultimately harm the public at both the state and local level and further devastate working families. This Governor, and to some extent the Democratic majority in the Legislature, have used public employees and their unions as the easy target while refusing to look at the long term structural reform that will be necessary if we are going to change New Jersey for the better.

Yet, despite efforts of the new Governor to cast us as the enemy, we have responded. We have lobbied aggressively against the toolkit and the Governor's attempts to destroy collective bargaining and civil service rights. Members have made phone calls and written letters to their representatives to make their voice heard. And on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 35,000 people came to Trenton to say that we want a different direction for New Jersey – one that puts working families first and doesn't provide tax cuts for the wealthiest individuals and businesses in our state; one that demands quality public education and effective public services for our citizens; and one that demands jobs with quality healthcare and retirement security for all New Jerseyans.

We know that in the coming months, the Legislature will continue deliberations on Governor Christie's toolkit and will likely revisit the pension and benefit "reforms" that began earlier this year. While it won't be easy, I am confident that we will effectively fight back against any and all efforts to undermine our rights as workers and that we will continue to be a strong voice for real reform in New Jersey that benefits all working families. Each of us has a responsibility to be a part of that voice and I look forward to working with all members of the Local to make it as strong as possible.

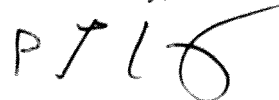
However, in this time of global economic crises and increased unemployment, we also must realize that if our labor movement is going to be the vehicle of progressive change we need it to be, we cannot do this alone. That is why CWA and CWA Local 1032 are supporting the ONE NATION March on Washington on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. As we did in Trenton on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, this march is our opportunity to send a message to Washington that we want real change in this country. The ONE NATION movement is dedicated to the core principles of putting America back to work, guaranteeing quality education for all and refocusing our country's fiscal priorities to ensure equality for all and not additional privileges for corporations and the Wall Street elite.

CWA will have buses leaving from every county on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and I encourage each of you to make a commitment to attend this historic rally. Please review the enclosed leaflet and send in your confirmation. As I said at the beginning, we are at a critical moment in our movement's history and it is incumbent upon each of us to say, without reservation, that the labor movement is a vehicle for change and for economic and social justice. It is incumbent upon us as union members to demand the change we voted for in 2008. You can learn more about the ONE NATION movement at our website ([www.cwalocal1032.org](http://www.cwalocal1032.org)) or at the ONE NATION site ([www.onenationworkingtogether.org](http://www.onenationworkingtogether.org)).

**On Thursday, September 23, 2010, Local 1032 will hold its annual General Membership Meeting at which we adopt the Local's budget for the coming year.** In addition, we will have updates on our legislative agenda and our mobilization planning for the coming months. I encourage all members to attend this meeting and make your voice heard.

Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to working with each of you to build our union!

In Solidarity,



Patrick Kavanagh  
President