



CWA LOCAL 1032

COMMUNICATIONS
WORKERS OF AMERICA
A.F.L. - C.I.O.

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September 10, 2009

Dear Local 1032 Member,

To say that the last 12 months have been difficult for working families would be an understatement. While we were not responsible for the unprecedented global economic crisis that has reshaped our lives – you can thank years of deregulation and corporate greed for that – we were forced to deal with those consequences as parents, homeowners, taxpayers, and workers. I think it's safe to say that, for most of us, this economic crisis was the worst in our lifetime.

Across the state every one of our bargaining units felt its impact. Local 1032 is a very diverse union, representing New Jersey state employees in the executive branch and judiciary, employees in over 35 municipalities, as well as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and a number of private sector units at Newark Liberty International Airport and elsewhere. Whether it was dealing with layoffs and facility closures, negotiating contracts in which proposals for wage freezes and health care concessions became the norm, or fighting mandatory involuntary furloughs, Local 1032 members found themselves in an ongoing and difficult struggle. While the crisis was real, employers tried to take advantage of the economic climate to trample on our bargaining rights and undermine collective bargaining.

It was only through our collective action that we were able to fight back and have a say in how this crisis would affect our working lives. Local 1032 members showed an incredible willingness to stand together in the best interests of the membership and the Union. I do not mean to suggest that the end results were to everyone's liking. Nobody takes lightly the idea of reopening existing contracts or negotiating over furloughs, but our strength as a union is our ability to collectively bargain with an employer and our strength at the table is directly related to our members. I am proud of the work we did to realize our strength in both areas.

As the summer ends and we look to the fall, we must realize that this economic crisis is not over and the recovery will not be smooth. There is no doubt that we will continue to face calls for givebacks at the bargaining table and there is no doubt that state and local budgets will continue to impact our members. Yet, as we have in the past, Local 1032 must renew its commitment to all three tenets of the CWA triangle – community and political action,

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organizing, and strong representation. We will continue to be active in each of these areas at the state and national level because our future as a Union and a movement depends on it.

Our annual budget meeting will be on Thursday, September 24, 2009. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more information. In addition to considering the Local's FY 2010 budget, we will also discuss many other topics of interest to the members, including updates on key legislation in New Jersey, a report on the current state of the pension system, the fall elections and our political agenda, as well as updates on our efforts to pass the Employee Free Choice Act and Health Care Reform at the federal level. I hope to see as many of you at the Local's meeting hall as possible.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to working with you to build the Union!

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Kavanagh'.

Patrick Kavanagh
President

P.S. It's not too early to start thinking about the holidays! The Local 1032 Holiday Party will take place at the Trenton Marriott on Saturday, December 12, 2009. See the enclosed leaflet for more information.