September 1, 2015

Dear CWA Local 1032 Member,

As I was preparing to write this yearly letter in which I both reflect upon our current issues and invite you to attend our general membership meeting in September, I briefly looked back upon the letters I have written in previous years for this purpose. I didn’t do so for inspiration – there’s certainly no shortage of issues to write about these days. I didn’t do so to depress myself – even though I knew I would find an unhealthy obsession with Governor Christie throughout those letters.

No, I looked back on those letters to members, each one detailing our many fights – for health care and retirement security, to protect our collective bargaining rights and negotiate fair contracts, and to build a better New Jersey for working families by strengthening our movement and engaging in meaningful electoral work – because I wanted to remind myself of the important work that we do, all of us, every day, year in and year out to build our union and build the labor movement.

Granted, I don’t have to detail how extremely difficult that work has been. But I needed that reminder because sometimes when you are in a fight, and when those fights are ongoing and taking place on multiple different fronts as they are today, we can be overwhelmed by any number of things – uncertainty, lack of resolution, perceived defeats. And the real risk of being overwhelmed is that we can lose sight of our work as union members committed to building stronger voices at work and in our communities, stronger voices that are united against corporate greed, that demand fairness on the job and will not give up the fight for democracy and social justice in our communities, our state or our country.

So, as we move into fall, I will certainly enjoy watching Chris Christie become increasingly irrelevant on the national stage, but I will also recommit to the work we do as a union and as a labor movement because it is so critically important to the fights of the past, present and future. And I ask you to join with me in that work by coming to a meeting at your worksite, signing a petition, calling your legislator, participating in mobilization activities and labor-to-labor election work, by making your voice heard through involvement in your Union. That is how we will move forward together, in unity and solidarity, and that is a welcome reminder for us all.

O-V-E-R
On Thursday, September 17th, 2015, Local 1032 will hold its annual General Membership meeting at which we adopt the Local's budget for the coming year. Please see the enclosed leaflet for details. I encourage all members to attend this meeting.

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

In Solidarity,

Patrick Kavanagh
President