

# Weekly Word

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John Vasko

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For the end of this year, the Mobilization Committee has decided to do three themed issues of the *Weekly Word*. Obviously the theme for Thanksgiving is what we are thankful for.

I am thankful for a lot of things. First off, I'm thankful for Cheryl, my wife of 27 years. We've been through some tough times and some good times. It seems, though, that all the times are best when we're together supporting each other. Next, though they often drive me crazy, my two sons, Jeff and Tom. I'm thankful that Jeff made it back from Iraq and for all of you who supported Cheryl and me when he was gone. I'm thankful that Tom graduated from high school (actually, I'm thankful they both graduated). I'd really be thankful if Tom had a job and he'd be

earning his own keep.

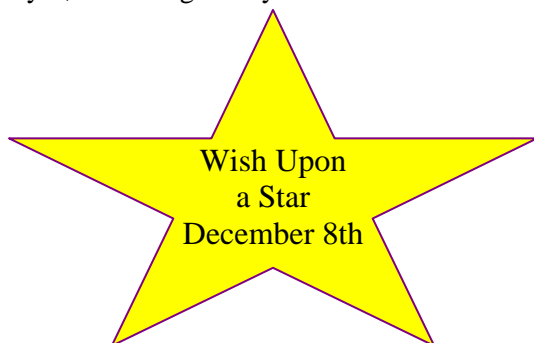
Another thing to be thankful for is a great, hard-working executive board, steward council, team captain structure, and member volunteers. The obstacles we've faced over the past three years would have been close to insurmountable without everyone pitching in to help, and, frankly, to keep me going. I'm thankful that when Richard Hutchings faced death a couple of times this past year and that he was stubborn enough to win. I'm also thankful that Peg Capuano put the Union needs to the top and filled in for Richard as VP and continued many of her regular duties as well. I'm thankful that she had this opportunity to grow in her knowledge and level of confidence in her own abilities. I'm thankful for the Mobilization Committee that has met faithfully over the past couple of years and has proven to be a place to cultivate future leaders for this Union. That is something for which you should all be thankful.

I could probably write forever about this, but the idea of this was to solicit thanks from other members, too. While the implementation of this was not as planned, I do have some items from other members. I want to give you a heads up on the future themes. In December, we want to do a special "Wish list." On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be distributing a flyer where you can fill in your own special wish, cut it out from the flyer, and bring it to your 10:00am break on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We will post these on the Union bulletin boards throughout the buildings and then print as many as possible in the *Weekly Word*. For January, we'll do the same with resolutions.

Now for some other notes of thanks:

**Sandi Hayflinger:** that she woke up this morning  
**Barb Miller:** for a job  
**Cindy:** working for DHS, Daisy Dukes, Barb  
**Alfreda Bradley:** my job, my health and that I live in New York State  
**Stephanie Henderson:** life in general  
**Danella Williams:** my coworker, Christine  
**Maggie Ho:** decent health insurance, Godiva, a job, sweet potato casserole, didn't get stuck with first tentative contract agreement, haven't called Altreya back  
**Jeanne:** same as Maggie plus...can stay with Blue Point 2 Select  
**Ed:** Rock and

I'm also thankful that Laurie Plummer has volunteered to be acting steward for the 5<sup>th</sup> floor at St Paul while Calvin Young is on sick leave. Thanks so much, Laurie!  
-John Vasko



**Rick Jacobs:** retirement is around the corner [*Editor's note: So he thinks!*]  
**Judy**  
**Gradford:** four holidays in November, folk music, Air America  
**Dorrie Champlin:** her family is healthy, Girl Scout cookies, don't have to work six days a week  
**Sue:** car is fixed and working