

Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



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COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

VERIZON/FRONTIER DEAL APPROVED

On May 13, 2010, Verizon gained the approval of the West Virginia Public Service Commission to sell its landlines in West Virginia to Frontier Communications. The approval came exactly one year from the company's announcement of the intent to sell landlines in West Virginia and 13 other states to Frontier. A week later, the Federal Communications Commission also approved the transaction.

The PSC decision, while split 2-1, was all that was needed for approval of the sale in the state of West Virginia. CWA leadership then began the process of evaluating the PSC order.

"After full review, we'll look at what we can do that will best serve West Virginia consumers and CWA members," said CWA District 2 Vice President Ron Collins.

CWA, led by Vice President Collins, met with Frontier leadership. After much deliberation and debate, an agreement was reached. The agreement includes, among other protections, extending the current Verizon contract until August 2, 2013; a commitment to honor all collective bargaining agree-

ments; and maintaining 84% unionization nationwide.

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin held a press conference on June 15th announcing guarantees from Frontier that include \$310 million of investments in broadband deployment and other capital improvements over the next three years. The guarantee of \$310 million in new investment will be backed by Frontier with a \$190 million irrevocable line of credit. Manchin said the \$310 million commitment, along with a \$126 million federal stimulus fund grant to expand broadband service in the state, and a \$72.4 million commitment from Verizon (see the article on page 3), will amount to \$500 million of new investment to improve communications networks in the state.

"We are at a half-billion dollars to transform the state of

West Virginia," he said.

Governor Manchin was joined at the press conference by Vice President Collins and Frontier executives. CWA leaders from across the state were in attendance. Governor Manchin applauded the parties for keeping the lines of communications and negotiations open.

A Final Bargaining Report, along with a ballot for ratification of the agreement between CWA and Frontier, has been sent to CWA members employed by Verizon West Virginia, also known as "Spinco". Ballots will be tallied on July 14th. Results of the ratification vote will be communicated once the tallies of all West Virginia Locals are combined.

A meeting has been planned for CWA Local 2001 members currently employed by Frontier. The meeting will be held on Sunday, July 18th 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Sutton/Flatwoods Days Hotel. The purpose of the meeting is to answer questions and address concerns on the impact of the sale on the CWA members at Frontier. Mobilization plans will also be discussed. The contract between CWA and Frontier for Local 2001 expires July 31, 2011.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7:00 PM

THURSDAY, July 8TH, 2010

THURSDAY, August 12TH, 2010

2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST

CWA LOCAL 2001

UNION OFFICE

RAINY BEGINNING

In spite of the rainy start, our annual picnic held Sunday, June 6, ended under sunny blue skies.

Children (and a few adults) played on the inflatable slide and braved the "Volcano". The big hit, as usual, was the spray tattoo. Almost everyone left the picnic with at least one.

Members and their families attending the picnic enjoyed fried chicken, freshly grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings and sides.

The food was purchased from Kroger, the union grocery store.

Thanks so much to the Entertainment Committee Chair, Anita Atkinson, and everyone that helped setup, cook, and cleanup.



D2 CONFERENCE

The CWA District 2 Conference was held April 7th and 8th in Baltimore MD. This year's session started with Central Labor Council Presidents Ernie Grecco (Baltimore) and Fred Mason (Maryland-DC). Guest Speaker for the morning session was Labor endorsed Congresswoman Donna Edwards of Maryland.

CWA International Staff Representative Elaine Harris introduced D2 Vice President Ron Collins who spoke on not only Verizon's then-proposed sale of West Virginia's landlines to Frontier, but many issues throughout District 2. While there were challenges to discuss such as the reform of labor law, the jobs bill to repeal the Reverse Morris Trust, and maintaining control of the House and Senate, there were also successes to recognize such as the NLRB appointments of Craig Becker and Mark Pierce, flight attendants gaining coverage under FMLA, health care legislation, and many organizing successes throughout our District.

On Thursday, conference at-

tendees rallied outside the Verizon building on Pratt Street and made it clear to Verizon how we felt about the declaration of 12,000 surplus union employees. In spite of the peaceful demonstration, it attracted almost a dozen Baltimore policemen on bicycles across the street who were poised "just in case", as well as, a hovering Baltimore City police helicopter.

Les Leopold, author, spoke in the afternoon session on the topic of his new novel "The Looting of America". Conference attendees were given a copy of the book.

On the final day of the conference, Annie Hill, CWA Executive Vice-President, spoke on Public Sector Organizing, the importance of Speed Matters, and the wonderful amount of calls and letters received for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) campaign. Over 90,000 contacts in 2009 were tracked for EFCA.

Maryland's Governor, Martin O'Malley, also a labor endorsed candidate, was a guest speaker as well.

The conference concluded with recommendations for the CWA National Convention from the CWA Executive Board. The Executive Board has been making recommendations since 2005 to allow our union to change with the needs of society, industry, and the economy. Because of their recommendations and foresight, we have made many advances, most notably the Strategic Industry Fund (SIF). The SIF has allowed us to be proactive on many fronts, the most recent being the Verizon/Frontier campaign.

After the conference concluded, CWA Verizon members remained in session to address Verizon specific issues.

Throughout the conference, West Virginia was mentioned many times and representatives of all West Virginia Locals were officially recognized not once, but twice, for their efforts in the Verizon/Frontier struggle. It was apparent that CWA Local 2001 and all of West Virginia had and still has the support of all of CWA District 2 and beyond.

PSC VERIZON SERVICE QUALITY RULING

The WV Public Service Commission ruled recently the Verizon has not done enough in recent years to care for its infrastructure and thus its customers.

This ongoing saga of PSC investigations into Verizon's service quality, or rather lack thereof, has lasted for years. In 2008 the PSC ordered Verizon to make improvements and in May of this year the commission has deemed it just wasn't happening. PSC spokeswoman Sarah Robertson said, "The Commis-

sion found there is absolute validity to complaints filed against Verizon through the Public Service Commission."

The PSC has ordered Verizon to place \$72.4 million into an irrevocable escrow account and will be drawn out with approval from the PSC for infrastructure maintenance projects.

"This PSC ruling confirms what we've been saying about the state of the phone lines in West Virginia for years," said CWA District 2 Vice-President Ron Collins.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

CWA retirees hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 12pm. The majority are held at the Local Union Hall. The well-attended meetings, chaired by President Elwood Brown, are both informative and fun.

In addition to lunch and fellowship with other retirees and friends, the meetings allow

retirees to share information relative to health, finances, political and a multitude of other topics.

A few of the activities this year have been bingo, a QVC auction, and a picnic at Wine Cellar Park in Dunbar.

We encourage all the new (and experienced) retirees to come out and join us!

CWA SURVEYING OUTSIDE TECHS ABOUT HEAT STRESS, EMPLOYER RESPONSE

As summer heats up, CWA is asking outside technicians to take an online survey to help assess how many members have suffered heat stress symptoms and what employers are doing to limit exposure and provide training.

The five-question survey is at http://www.cwa-union.org/pages/cwa_heat_stress_survey.

Potentially deadly, heat stress is a growing concern for CWA's Safety and Health Department, which just published a new heat stress brochure. It

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Local 2001 Advisor

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Letha "Lee" Perry.....	President
Kenny Williams.....	Executive Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Treasurer
Robin Young.....	Recording Secretary
Anita Atkinson.....	Vice-President
Brian Breittkreutz.....	Vice-President
Burma Lawson.....	Vice-President
Mike Smith.....	Vice-President
Shannon Soblit.....	Vice-President
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Dorothy Wilson.....	Women's Concern Committee
Kate Butcher.....	Election Committee
Anita Atkinson.....	Mobilization Committee

You can contact us at cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net

**Remember Your
CWA Dress Code:
Wear Red on
Thursdays**

**Visit the CWA Local
2001 website
www.cwa2001.org**

can be found on the Safety and Health webpage at www.cwa-union.org.

For questions about the survey, contact Local 2001 Safety Committee co-chair, Robin Young at (304) 344-2001.

ORGANIZING FUNDRAISER

CWA Local 2001's Organizing Committee held a fundraiser with an awesome "super blender" as the prize. The raffle for this blender with a 4-stroke, that's right, 4-stroke engine, culminated at the Local's an-

nual picnic on June 6. The Organizing Committee raised nearly \$300. The lucky winner was Chris Cummings, Verizon cable splicer. Congratulations Chris! What a great prize for the summer!



RMT UPDATE

The Reverse Morris Trust is the tax loophole that allows large corporations (like Verizon) to sell to small companies (like Frontier) without paying taxes

like the rest of America. This legislation was one of the driving factors for the Verizon/Frontier deal.

The bill that would eliminate

this loophole has passed the US House of Representatives and now, as this newsletter goes to press, must be passed by the US Senate.

CWA DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for the election of delegates to the 2010 CWA National Convention were counted by Election Committee Chairperson Kate Butcher and the Committee on May 14.

The elected delegates are Kenneth "Mister" Williams, Burma Lawson and Anita Atkinson. Alternates are Robin Young (1st) and Delinda Johnson (2nd). As Local President, Lee Perry will

serve as first delegate and chairperson of the Local's delegation.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the Election Committee for their hard work during the election.

ATTENTION ALL TECHS!! WORK SAFE/WORK SMART

Please report any and all safety issues (this includes your company vehicle) to your immediate supervisor. Keep record of when they are reported, and when the issue is addressed. If the issue is not addressed in a timely manner, contact your job steward. Do not work in an unsafe manner and put yourself or others at risk. In the event of an accident, who will the company say is at fault?

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Mara Hissom, daughter of Sandy Hissom, service representative in Verizon's Enterprise Solutions Group, was the winner of the Community Services \$500 scholarship.

Mara wrote an essay on the labor movement to qualify for the scholarship. She will be attending WVU. Congratulations to Mara and best of luck at school!

UNION Security Assistance Financial Education

Another program of Union Plus is Union **SAFE**. The Union **SAFE** program includes unique new benefits that meet the urgent needs of members facing economic hardship. By building on the foundation of Union Plus benefits already in place, the new Union **SAFE** plan expands the safety net for working families. To learn more, go to:

UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE

****REMINDER****

Learn more about other Union Plus programs and discounts available to your union, visit:

www.UnionPlus.org

AT&T AND UNION PLUS

3 great reasons



to choose AT&T for your wireless service—the preferred unionized wireless carrier.



UNION LEADERS CAN SAVE 22%

Union paid accounts are eligible to receive a 22% discount on qualified monthly service charges.

Call your union representative at **800-718-5005** or email **dave.frederick@attmobility-b2b.com** for more information.



UNION EMPLOYEES CAN SAVE 18%

If you are employed by the union and pay for your own wireless service, you are eligible to receive an 18% discount on qualified monthly service charges.*

To activate new lines for yourself or your family, call **800-869-3027** or visit your local AT&T store (att.com/find-a-store).

To get the discount on existing AT&T lines, visit your local AT&T store and reference **FAN #45842**.



UNION MEMBERS CAN SAVE 15%

Through the Union Plus program, union members are eligible to receive a 15% discount on qualified monthly service charges.* Just reference your union I.D. and **FAN #3508840**.

To activate new lines for yourself or your family, or to get the discount on existing lines, visit your local AT&T store (att.com/find-a-store).



Over 40,000 AT&T employees are members of Communications Workers of America. Support the union wireless carrier that supports unions with discounts—and the fastest 3G network in the U.S.**

Rethink Possible



*Credit approval and new two-year service agreement required. The non-3G iPhone, additional lines for family plans, unlimited plans and Unity plans are not eligible. Up to \$36 activation fee applies. Other conditions and restrictions apply. **3G not available in all areas. IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Limited time offer. Union Leader and Union Employee offers are available only to qualified unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO ("Unions") and their respective employees. Union Member offer is available only to qualified members of the Unions. Credit approval and proof of current union employment or membership is required. Two-year contract required for Union Employee and Union Member offers. Other conditions and restrictions apply. Phone Return Policy/Cancellation Fee/Early Termination Fee: No Cancellation Fee/Early Termination Fee if service cancelled within 30 days of purchase, but up to \$35 Restocking Fee may apply to device returns; thereafter, the Cancellation Fee/Early Termination Fee will be up to \$325 if purchasing certain specified equipment (check www.att.com/equipmentETF for list) or up to \$150 for other equipment. Independent agents may impose additional equipment-related charges. Sales tax calculated on un-activated price of handset. Cancellation Fee/Early Termination Fee subject to change. Unlimited Voice Services: Unlimited voice services are provided primarily for live dialog between two individuals. No additional discounts are available with unlimited plan. Offnet Usage: If your minutes of use (including unlimited services) on other carrier's networks ("offnet usage") during any two consecutive months or your data use during any month exceed your offnet usage allowance, AT&T may at its option terminate your service, deny your continued use of other carriers' coverage, or change your plan to one imposing usage charges for offnet usage. Your offnet usage allowance is equal to the lesser of 750 minutes or 40% of the Anytime Minutes included with your plan (data offnet usage allowance is the lesser of 24 MB or 20% of the MB included with your plan). Data Plans: An eligible data plan is required for certain devices, including designated Smartphones. Eligible data plans cover data usage in the U.S. and do not cover international data usage and charges. If it is determined that you are using a designated Smartphone without an eligible data plan, AT&T reserves the right to add an eligible data plan to your account and bill you the appropriate monthly fee. Sales tax: Calculated based on price of unactivated equipment. Monthly Discount: Service discount for Union Members is subject to the Business Agreement between Union Privilege and AT&T for wireless services. Applicable service discounts may be interrupted and/or discontinued without notice to the employee or member. Service discount applies only to the monthly service charge of qualified plans and not to any other charges. A minimum number of employees, minimum monthly service charge for qualified plans, additional AT&T services or other requirements may apply for discount eligibility. Discounts may not be combined. Offer subject to change. Additional conditions and restrictions apply. If you have a question about available discounts and/or your eligibility, you can contact your company's telecommunications manager. Apple is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc. ©2010 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo and all other AT&T marks contained herein are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

Sympathy

The officers and members of CWA Local 2001 would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to these members in their loss of a loved one and a prayer that God will be with them to give the strength and courage to meet each new tomorrow.

Trina Duncan – Loss of Son

James Kevin Quinn – Loss of Father

Barbara Carte – Loss of Mother

Andrea Terry – Loss of Mother-in-law

Paula Hall – Loss of Father-in-law

Terri Ranson – Loss of Father

Ted Ford – Loss of Grandmother

Brian Boley – Loss Grandmother

Sam Terry – Loss Mother

Cindy Delaney – Loss of Father

NOVEMBER MEETING CHANGE

NOVEMBER STEWARD AND MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MOVED FROM
NOVEMBER 11TH TO NOVEMBER 18TH

Some Information from articles in this newsletter were obtained from the CWA website (www.cwa-union.org) or from other union newsletters.

LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.

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