

Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



Adviser

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 4

JULY 2008

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CWA Local 2001 will conduct an election of officers and executive board members for the 2009-2011 term. Nominations will be taken during the regularly scheduled September 11, 2008

membership meeting. Nominees must be members in good standing with Local 2001. Nominees must be present to be nominated or the person making the nomination must have the written

consent of the nominee and present it to the Election Committee Chairperson. Information regarding general rules for the election is available at the Local Union office.

Relevant Dates

Nominations	September 11, 2008
Declinations.....	September 18, 2008
Ballots Mailed Out.....	October 24, 2008
Duplicates Mailed Out.....	November 7, 2008
Tabulation.....	November 21, 2008
Protest Deadline.....	November 28, 2008

STRIKE AUTHORIZATION VOTE

Bargaining continues between CWA Districts 1, 2 and 13, together with the IBEW, and Verizon. The current Verizon "East" contract, covering 55,000 CWA members, expires on August 2, 2008.

The company's proposals include cost shifting in healthcare for actives and retirees, elimination of the cash out option, elimination of the COLA, elimination of the Corporate Profit Sharing and other concessionary demands.

There are many issues that need to be resolved in order to reach a successful contract. Obviously, the goal is to reach an agreement. However, we must be prepared in the event

that we do not succeed at the bargaining table.

A strike authorization vote was held July 7-14. District-wide an overwhelming supportive vote is expected. By authorizing a strike, we send a clear message to Verizon management that we are prepared to do whatever it takes to secure a contract that reflects the contributions of our members to Verizon's success.

A vote to authorize a strike does not automatically mean there will be a strike. A strike will only be called if all other means fail. Mobilization is the key to our success. Wear red on Thursday. Wear black on Friday. Participate in informational picketing and other mobi-

lization activities. If you do not know who the Mobilizer in your work group is, please, call the Local. Stay informed by going to www.cwa2001.org.

If you have not completed a Picket Duty preference sheet, please, see a job steward or contact the Local.

You can contact us at
cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, August 14TH, 2008
7:00 PM
2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CWA LOCAL 2001
UNION OFFICE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"We will fight until Hell freezes over – then we will walk on the ice" is our message to Verizon.

Our CWA/Verizon contract expires August 2nd at 11:59 pm. As this Newsletter goes to print we are still in "early negotiations" with the Company.

Verizon is committed to bringing one item to the negotiating table and that is healthcare. CWA on the other hand has presented the company with multiple bargaining issues. The most important being "job security". Protecting our work is as important as protecting our healthcare. What good is our healthcare if no one is left in the bargaining unit?

Today only 30% of Verizon's revenues come from Union operations in comparison to just 6 years ago when in 2002 it was 70%.

In recent years the company has offered EISP and not back-

filled headcount, instead they contract out our work or move it to non-union entities such as Verizon Business (VZB). We know Verizon has call centers in Mexico, Canada, India and the Philippines. Of course none of these are organized union jobs. We have to be successful in bringing non-union jobs into our bargaining units. We can not rest until the Employee Free Choice Act has passed. Educate yourself on this important Act and join the fight.

Our fight is our future, our jobs

at Verizon. WE built this company, us and members before us, retirees who fought this battle long before we entered the workforce.

We will stand together and stand strong. Our strong strike authorization vote is a message to Verizon...

We will not give up.
We will not give back.
We will fight for a fair contract.
We will Fight on the Ice!
In Solidarity
Linda

GOLDEN AGE CLUB NEWS

CWA is currently negotiating a new contract with Verizon.

Being retired no longer means not having to worry about bargaining and possible work stoppages. One after another, corporations are turning their backs on retirees. Many have dramatically increased retiree health care costs or eliminated coverage altogether. Employers are failing to provide pensioners with cost of living raises. Others are not only terminating future pensions for active employees but also are leaving their retirees high and dry by forcing the government to take over pension plans.

CWA Retired Members Council represents retired members' concerns and issues with the CWA bargaining council before and during contract negotiations. Visit their website www.cwa-union.org/rmc to learn more.

Contact your Golden Age Club

officers or the Local Union office to see how you can help during negotiations or in the event of a strike.

**Attention retirees – The CWA Advisor is updating its' subscribers list.

If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter you must contact us by calling the Local at 304 344-2001 or by emailing us at cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net. Please advise us of any recent address changes.

Communications Workers of America	
AFL-CIO	
<i>Local 2001 Advisor</i>	
Published Monthly by CWA Local 2001	
Linda Miller	President
Debby Davis-Prince.....	Executive Vice-President
Letha "Lee" Perry.....	Treasurer
Robin Young.....	Recording Secretary
Kenny Williams.....	Vice-President
David Paugh.....	Vice-President
Susan Adkins.....	Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Vice-President
Burma Lawson.....	Vice-President
Mike Smith.....	Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Editor
Circulation.....	1200
Robin Young.....	Legislative Committee
Burma Lawson.....	Education Committee
Mary Aliff.....	Union Labels Committee
Rex Miller.....	Community Services Committee
Robin Young.....	Safety Committee
Debby Davis-Prince.....	Organizing Committee
Elwood Brown.....	Golden Age Club
Norm Connard.....	Audit Committee
Anita Atkinson.....	Entertainment Committee
Michael Walker.....	Civil Rights & Equity Committee
Jean Arthur.....	Women's Concern Committee
Debby Burdette.....	Election Committee
Letha "Lee" Perry.....	Mobilization Committee



BUILDING A POLITICAL MOVEMENT – 70th CWA CONVENTION

The 70th CWA Convention was held June 23-25 in Las Vegas. Delegates from Local 2001 were Linda Miller, Lee Perry, Ken Williams and Burma Lawson.

A big focus of the convention was on Labor 2008, CWA's political and mobilization program to elect a President and members of Congress who will support the Employee Free Choice Act, real health care reform, jobs and fair trade and retirement security.

Among the many resolutions approved, the Delegates approved a resolution to support Democratic Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States. Also approved was a resolution to continue to build for health care reform on the principles of: cover everyone; control costs; strong government role; improve health quality, and broad-based tax financing. Delegates also resolved that every

CWA local will educate its members on the need for the Employee Free Choice Act and mobilize a widespread grassroots support for its passage, part of which will include collecting signatures from at least 15 percent of its members as part of the Million Member Mobilization to restore worker's rights and the middle class.

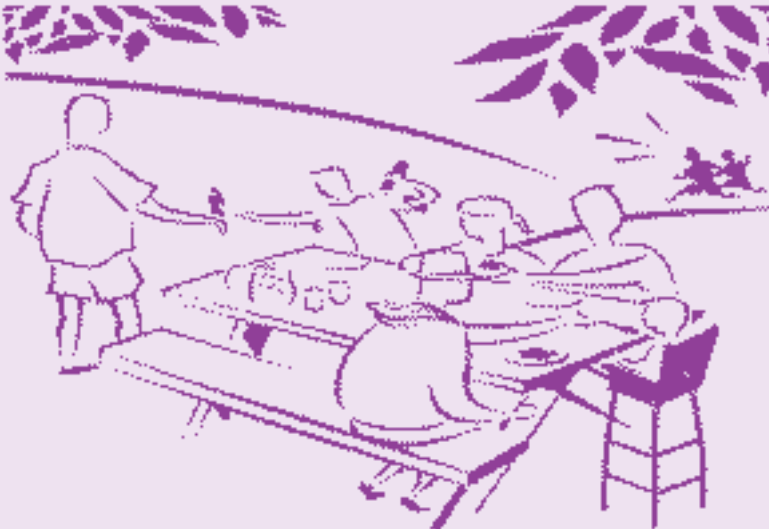
CWA President Larry Cohen was re-elected for a second three-year term by acclamation. Also by acclamation, delegates elected former executive vice president, Jeff Rechenbach, as secretary-treasurer and former District 7 vice president, Annie Hill, as executive vice president.

In district meetings, delegates elected vice presidents whose responsibilities include coordination of bargaining, organizing and other activities in their districts. Ron Collins was unanimously elected vice

president of our district, District 2. He succeeds Pete Catucci who retired after serving as VP since 1986 and who will continue to be a strong CWA advocate for stem cell research, the Employee Free Choice Act and other issues. Ron formerly served as Administrative Director to the VP Catucci.

Convention delegates also elected four at-large board members to the CWA Executive Board. Elected were Carolyn Wade, president, Local 1040, Northeast region; Nestor Soto, president, Local 33225, Southeast region; Claude Cummings, president, Local 6222, Central region and Madelyn Elder, president, Local 7901, Western region.

Visit www.cwa-union.org to view pictures from the convention and for more information on resolutions, other district and sector elections, and other convention news.



**** LOTS OF GOOD FOOD ****
*** MUSIC – DJ**
**** FUN FOR THE KIDS**
UNION FELLOWSHIP **

JOIN US !!!

**CWA LOCAL 2001 ANNUAL PICNIC
SUNDAY JULY 27, 2008**

**1:00P.M. – 5.00PM
SHAWNEE PARK
SHELTERS 2&3
INSTITUTE, WV**

CWA/AT&T MOBILITY BENEFITS

The CWA National Bargaining Committee for AT&T Mobility spent the month of June in negotiations with the company for a National Health Benefits plan. The bargaining committee is chaired by District 3 Administrative Director Betty Witte, and includes representatives from each of our four collective bargaining agreements: Paul Klable of the District 3 agreement; Holly Sorey and Joe Sison of the "Orange" agreement; Jim Murray of the District 6 agreement; Rafael Castro of the District 3 Puerto Rico agreement; and District 1 staff representative John Alphonse.

The previous agreement expired June 30th, however, benefits continue unchanged

through the rest of the year.

Company proposals call for high premiums, deductibles and out-of-pocket plans for our members, as well as, a new hire component that would make health care out of reach for many years. The company thinks that our members should pay up to double-digit percentages of their income in premiums and deductibles before the company proposed plan would pay a dime in benefits.

The union's goal was to reach an agreement that reflects our members' contributions toward making AT&T Mobility the number one wireless company in the United States.

With no agreement reached

by the June 30th deadline, mediation will begin July 14th. The union and the company will meet with a federal mediator who will attempt to facilitate a tentative agreement. If, through mediation, a tentative agreement is reached, our members will have the opportunity to vote for or against the plan. Mediation is not binding. Either side can reject the mediator's recommendation.

If mediation is unsuccessful, the company and the union will present their cases to an arbitrator for a binding, final decision.

AT&T Mobility members are encouraged to go to www.unionvoice.org/cwasbc/join.html to sign up to receive a monthly e-newsletter full of news, photos, and stories about CWA members working at AT&T.

LOCAL 2001 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Kassie Shank, 2008 CWA Local 2001 scholarship winner. Kassie is the daughter of Lisa Shank, a CWA Local 2001 member and consultant in the Verizon Enterprise Solutions Group. Kassie is returning as a senior this fall to Marshall Uni-

versity and will be graduating next spring with her degree in Nursing.

Each year CWA Local 2001 Community Services Committee makes available a \$500 scholarship to any member in good standing, their children or legal ward. Scholarship applications and essays are accepted each spring.

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

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE JULY 31ST

Just a reminder; In the May edition of the CWA Advisor we provided you with information on The Women's Concern Committee scholarship. At least one, possibly two \$500 scholarships will be available. The deadline is fast approaching. An essay of at least 500 words on "Labor in the Kanawha Valley" must be received at the local by July 31, 2008.

**Visit your Local's
website www.cwa2001.org**

**Remember: Wear
Red on Thursdays**

Million Member Mobilization for the Employee Free Choice Act

Information from CWA website

Who's losing out in this sputtering economy? Not some irresponsible corporate CEOs – they're sitting pretty, raking in huge salaries.

No, it's hardworking families, who face soaring health care costs, foreclosures, and an uncertain future. **The Employee Free Choice Act would help level the playing field** and get our economy back on track. That's why we've launched a **huge campaign to get one million people to support this bill: the Million-Member Mobilization.** As a CWA member, we need you to be one of them. In this economy,

middle-class families need union jobs more than ever. And that's why we need the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it easier for workers to join a union.

Maybe you're thinking "Great, but I'm already in a union. How would this bill help me?" The answer is simple: strength in numbers. The more people who are in unions, the more we build our collective muscle. That means we can raise living standards, improve health care, and stop corporate America's race to the bottom. **And that will help all of us.** It's time to bring back some basic fairness. That's why we need one million voices supporting the Employee Free Choice

Act. **But a million is a LOT of people. We won't reach our goal without YOU...**

Locally, Ken Williams, Executive Board VP for Local 2001 has been appointed by the District as the West Virginia co-coordinator. He will be working closely with other Locals within the state to help reach the goal of the Million-Member Mobilization for the Employee Free Choice Act.

Ron Collins, District 2 Vice President emphasizes the importance of our participation in the support of this Act. It will strengthen and reshape the Labor Movement as we know it today he explained. Every member will benefit from the passage of EFCA.

POT-O-GOLD WINNER

Jeff Halstead was the lucky winner of the Pot-O-Gold at the July Local membership meeting. Jeff left the union hall \$80.00 richer than when he came in. Congratulations to Jeff. Debbie

Burdette was not present at the June membership meeting when her name was drawn for \$60.00. The pot will now be back to \$20.00 for the August membership meeting.

Membership meetings are for you the members. It is your opportunity to become informed about issues that affect you and your family. Make plans to attend the August meeting.

CWA UNION PLUS BENEFITS

Whether you are an active or retired CWA member Union Plus has great deals for all of us. Just a few of their offerings to union members include a low rate credit card with no annual fee and strike skip payments, loans, online tax service, union-made checks,

deals on auto, life and pet insurance. Health savings for out-of-pocket health care expenses with discounts on dental and vision care, prescription drugs and many more offerings that work in addition to our bargained for benefits plan. Scholarships, Union Plus awards \$150,000

annually to members, their spouses and children. Discounts for legal services, travel and recreation, union-made clothing, flowers, magazines and many more. Visit www.UnionPlus.org to see the wide range of high quality benefits for union members.

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.

Mark Hadley - loss of Grandmother

Mary Jo Corbin – loss of Mother

Randy Martin – loss of Father-in-Law

Katie Bennington – loss of Grandmother

Marci Woodson – loss of Grandfather



LABOR NIGHT AT WV POWER BASEBALL PARK

**SPONSORED BY:
KANAWHA VALLEY LABOR COUNCIL**

Friday, August 22, 2008

Picnic – 5:30 P.M.

Game starts at 7:00 P.M.

**All local union members are invited along with their family and friends.
The Council has also extended an invitation to our
endorsed candidates and their families.**

**Tickets are \$20.00 each which includes the picnic dinner
and box seat for the ballgame.**

**To reserve tickets, please contact the Kanawha Valley Labor Council
at 343-6952 or the Local at 344-2001.**

LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.

2512 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, WV 25311

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Charleston, WV
Permit No. 1007