

Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



Advertiser

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MARCH 2010

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES

CWA Local 2001 will conduct an election for the 72nd CWA National Convention to be held in Washington, DC, July 26 – 27, 2010. The Local Election Committee will

take nominations from the floor during the regular membership meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2010.

Members must be present to be nominated or the person

making the nomination must present a signed statement from the member accepting the nomination. Nominees must be members in good standing of our local.

Important dates relevant to this election:

Nominations	March 11, 2010
Declinations.....	March 18, 2010
Ballots Mailed	April 9, 2010
Duplicates Mailed	April 23, 2010
Tabulation.....	May 14, 2010
Challenges	May 21, 2010

WEST VIRGINIA AFL-CIO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The WV AFL-CIO Legislative Conference was held February 3-4, 2010 at the Charleston Marriott.

Each year union members, representing unions from throughout the state of West Virginia, gather to discuss issues vital to working families with our elected officials.

Delegates from Local 2001 were Lee Perry, Ken Williams, Delinda Johnson, Robin Young, Dorothy Wilson and Vickie Cummings. Pending bills supported by the conference were public employees cost of living allowance, WV State Police manpower shortage, mandatory overtime, and paid break/rest periods.

Delegates were given helpful information on lobbying their legislators, directories for legislators, Capitol maps and instructions, as

well as transportation to and from the Capitol.

After spending the remainder of the day at the Capitol discussing issues with legislators and attending sessions of either the House or Senate, delegates then attended an evening reception. This provided another opportunity to speak with legislators that may have been missed at the Capitol during the day due to scheduling difficulties.

During the conference two resolutions were passed regarding the upcoming election. The first was a resolution to support re-election of Congressmen Alan B. Mollohan, First District, and Nick Joe Rahall, Third District, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The second resolution was to help elect Justice Thomas E.

McHugh to the Supreme Court. Justice McHugh was previously elected to the Supreme Court and served as Chief Justice for several years. After the death of Justice Albright in 2009, Chief Justice Benjamin appointed McHugh to serve in Justice Albright's position until the Governor named a replacement. In April 2009, Governor Manchin appointed Justice McHugh to the Supreme Court to serve until the 2010 general election, at which time a candidate will be elected to serve the remainder of Justice Albright's term, which ends in 2018.

Delegates to the conference left with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency for our labor movement.

ONE VOICE, ONE AGENDA, ONE MOVEMENT!

WOMEN'S DAY AT LEGISLATURE

The West Virginia Women's Commission annual Women's Day at the Legislature was held on Monday, February 1, 2010, at the Cultural Center.

Robin Young serves as Commissioner for Kanawha County on the West Virginia Women's Commission.

Also in attendance from Local 2001 were Anita Atkinson, Laura Beard, Shannon Soblit and Dorothy Wilson.

Women's Day at the Legislature affords the opportunity for participants to learn about laws, the legislative process, and pol-

icy-making. Meeting with legislators face to face about issues important to women is vital to the success of their issues.

Participants were able to select workshops from the following:

Tips to Ensure an Effective Visit with a Legislator.

New Year New You, Resume Development on-line and off.

Women Running for Office.

Elder Care, Options for Today's Families.

How to Use the Media to Your Advantage.

Let's All Get Involved.

Vendors provided beneficial information for the attendees covering areas such as elder care, credit counseling, retirement planning, domestic violence, child care, career and education planning, just to name a few.

In addition, all were afforded the opportunity to visit the Capitol, see legislators, and attend a session of either House or Senate. The day ended with a tour of the Governor's Mansion, and tea with the First Lady Gayle Manchin.

UFO 2010

The 2010 CWA/Verizon United Food Operation (UFO) food drive will be conducted during the month of March. Shannon Soblit, CWA 2001 VP and Community Services Chair will be heading our UFO drive this year.

Employee monetary donations of \$25 or more can be matched dollar for dollar by the Verizon Foundation. All monetary contributions must be in check form payable to UFO to be available for matching funds. The total does not have to be contributed in one

lump sum and may be donated over the 4 week campaign.

UFO is an independent, non-profit organization that relies entirely on donations and volunteers. Their purpose is to supply food pantries in Kanawha and Putnam counties with non-perishable food items. While the CWA/Verizon UFO campaign lasts only 4 weeks, the overall campaign runs from January 15 through April 3.

Bayer CropScience donates warehouse space for UFO. The warehouse is located just off the

main entrance at the Institute site. Volunteers are needed Friday and Saturday mornings at the warehouse. More help is needed on Friday. Please call Susan at the CWA Area office at 342-2023 if you or your group can volunteer any time during the overall campaign.

Our participation is critical to the success of UFO helping families in need. Watch for information in your work group on how you can make this year's campaign a success.

BILL FILED TO CLOSE REVERSE MORRIS TRUST LOOPHOLE

U.S. Representative Paul Hodes, D-NH, has filed legislation that would close the Reverse Morris Trust (RMT) loophole, which has allowed Verizon to reap millions of tax-free dollars in ill-gotten gains. RMT is a tax-avoidance technique that Verizon uses to sell off unwanted assets without paying taxes on their gains.

The bill immediately drew 21 co-sponsors and has been referred to the house Ways and Means Committee.

State regulators and legislators in several states currently are warily eyeing Verizon's proposed \$8.6 billion landline deal which would allow Frontier Communications to acquire 4.8 million land-

lines in 14 states.

It is ridiculous to use federal tax dollars to underwrite the sale of telephone lines to a financially weaker company which threatens our job security and leaves customers worse than before. Instead, Federal tax dollars should be used to finance a world class broadband network.

CWA MEMBERS AT VERIZON IN WEST VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 15, 2010

TO: CWA MEMBERS AT VERIZON IN WEST VIRGINIA

There have been many questions in reference to your retirement benefits as related to the Verizon-Frontier proposed transaction. I am hopeful that we can clear up any misunderstandings. The proposed deal has to be approved by the West Virginia Public Service Commission. In addition the Federal Communication Commission must also approve the transaction. If the transaction is approved by the regulators it should not be before April 30th, 2010. Please keep in mind, I am not convinced the transaction will be approved as written and we will continue to oppose the sale. If you are not involved in the fight please get in contact with your local.

If the deal is approved and you choose to retire before the transaction is approved, you would retire from Verizon. All of your benefits would be from Verizon, If you chose to retire after the deal is approved your retirement benefits would come from Frontier.

Solidarity Forever,

Ronald D. Collins
Vice President

CWA ASSESSING HEALTHCARE STRATEGY

CWA and its allies are assessing strategy for health reform in light of the Republican win in the Massachusetts Senate election. The win denies Democrats enough votes to block a filibuster in the Senate, making it nearly certain that Republicans can block action on

the current health reform bill.

“Over the next several days, CWA will continue to work with our coalition partners, other labor unions, and our friends in the House of Representatives to determine the best path for moving forward on any legislation,” CWA leaders said in a statement. “CWA remains opposed to the Senate bill as it currently stands and will continue the work we have been engaged in over the past several weeks to ensure that any legislation addresses our members concerns.

CWA remains committed to fixing a broken health care system with a system that provides

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

Communications Workers of America AFL-CIO

Local 2001 Advisor

Published Bi-Monthly by CWA Local 2001

Letha "Lee" Perry.....	President
Kenny Williams.....	Executive Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Treasurer
Robin Young.....	Recording Secretary
Anita Atkinson.....	Vice-President
Brian Breikreutz.....	Vice-President
Burma Lawson.....	Vice-President
Mike Smith.....	Vice-President
Shannon Soblit.....	Vice-President
Dorothy Wilson.....	Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Editor Local 2001 Advisor
Circulation.....	1000
Robin Young.....	Legislative Committee
Burma Lawson.....	Education Committee
Brian Breikreutz.....	Union Labels Committee
Shannon Soblit.....	Community Services Committee
Robin Young.....	Safety Committee
Kenny Williams.....	Organizing Committee
Elwood Brown.....	President Golden Age Club
Norm Connard.....	Audit Committee
Anita Atkinson.....	Entertainment Committee
Michael Walker.....	Civil Rights & Equity Committee
Dorothy Wilson.....	Women's Concern Committee
Kate Butcher.....	Election Committee
Anita Atkinson.....	Mobilization Committee

You can contact us at
cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net

secure and affordable coverage for all Americans, is financed fairly, controls cost escalation, curbs abusive practices by insurance companies, and improves quality.

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

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

LOCAL 2001 SCHOLARSHIP

CWA Local 2001 Scholarship applications are now available. The scholarship fund was established to provide financial assistance to Local 2001's active members in good standing, their children, legal wards and children/legal wards of disabled, retired or deceased members in good standing at the time of retirement or death.

- 1.) A brief **application form** must be completed and sent to the Local's office or be postmarked no later than April 30, 2010.
- 2.) Each applicant must submit a **type-written essay** of at least 500 words on Labor History.

- 3.) **Proof of Acceptance** to attend a nationally accredited college or trade school.

To receive your application form, or for further information, please call the Local office at 304.344.2001. The winner of the \$500 scholarship will be selected by random drawing at the May membership meeting.

This scholarship is made possible through the efforts of the Local's Community Services Committee and **your** support! Our proceeds come from raffles and many other fundraising activities. So far this year we have had a 50/50 drawing at the January meeting where Kate Butcher so graciously donated her winnings back to the scholarship

fund. We will be doing another 50/50 at the March membership meeting. The committee also raffled off a \$50 gas card. Christina Casto was the lucky winner. We will soon be taking orders for sub sandwiches to be delivered on March 19. Please see your job steward for details or call the Local.

The committee is always open to any fundraising ideas that you might have. If any of you have talents in crafts such as woodwork, ceramics, needlepoint, quilts, etc., and would like to donate an item for a raffle, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks so much for all your past and future support!

****APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGED****

At the February 11th meeting, the membership approved an E-board recommendation to change the date of our April membership meeting. The CWA District 2 Annual Conference will be held the second week of April, which conflicts with our normal meeting date. Our April steward and membership meeting will now be held on April 15. Meeting times remain unchanged; stewards 6:15pm, membership 7:00pm. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

WVU - EXTENSION SERVICE

CLASS: **UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE HISTORY**
 DATE: MARCH 8, 2010 (MONDAY)
 TIME: 6:30 (AFTER LABOR COUNCIL MEETING)
 LOCATION: WV STATE BUILDINGS TRADES
 ADDRESS: 600 LEON SULLIVAN WAY, CHARLESTON, WV
 QUESTIONS: CALL WVUS ILSR 304-255-9321
 EMAIL: RVMassey@mail.wvu.edu
 INSTRUCTOR: Robbie Massey

This free one hour class covers the history of the fight for universal health care in the United States from the early 1900's until the present. The class will examine the need for positive health care reform in the United States as well as the historical sabotage, distortions, myths, lies, and spin to prevent congressional action over the last several decades.

NEW STEWARDS

OUTSIDE TECH
JEREMY SWEENEY

1500 MACCORKLE
MARK RAINES
MEREDITH TAYLOR
ROSLYN (ROZ) WILLIAMS

Jeremy, Mark, and Meredith have recently completed steward training,

Roz will be in the next available class.

Congratulations and welcome to our new stewards.

Did you know that if you are a steward, committee-person, delegate or other union representative, you are a part of an extraordinary group, estimated to number more than 250,000 men and women, in 53,000 local unions across the United States. The role of a steward can best be described as that of a negotiator, leader, educator, communicator, organizer and political activist.

If you have a situation you are unsure about, discuss it with a job steward.

STOP THE SALE UPDATES

Sunday, January 10th, two days before the PSC hearings were to begin, hundreds of opponents of the proposed Verizon sell off of landlines to Frontier converged upon the Cultural Center in Charleston to rally against the sale. Political and Union Leaders stood shoulder to shoulder in a show of strength and solidarity for both the citizens and the workers of West Virginia.

CWA leaders President Larry Cohen and District 2 VP Ron Collins joined us along with our staunch supporters, AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue, Senator Jack Yost, Delegate Mike Caputo, UMWA President Cecil Roberts, Teamster Vice President Ken Hall, and many other labor and community leaders. Governor Manchin made an appearance to say he would do everything in his power to make the proposed deal work for working families of West Virginia, not just for the Wall Street bankers.

CWA District 2 VP Ron Collins stated, "Looking at the crowd here, there is no doubt that West Virginians aren't going to allow a raw deal on their watch. They are here because they are angry and are tired of policies that act in the best interest of corporations, not the people."

All the citizens, workers, and leaders gathered were clearly there to make their voices heard, to send a unified message to the PSC: Protect the people of West Virginia, do not allow this deal to go through.

The West Virginia Public Service Commission held formal hearings on Verizon's proposed sell off of landlines in West Virginia to Frontier Communications January 12th through the 15th.

The hearing opened with public comments from several politicians, community leaders, civic groups and

concerned citizens. Vermont State Senator Vincent Illuzzi and President of the Vermont Professional Firefighters Matt Vinci gave testimony before the PSC. Their testimony gave details regarding the disastrous results for their home state that followed the Verizon/Fairpoint deal in New England.

Senator Illuzzi stated, "As an elected official, I understand the difficult position that the commissioners are in. It's easy to feel pressured by the parties of the sale. Both companies promised expanded broadband, improved service quality, and seamless integration of new operations and computer systems. Both companies said they would cut annual expenses significantly and pay off their increased debt. The only new jobs that have been created have been for bankruptcy attorneys".

Vinci told commissioners about problems experienced by his state's 911 systems as a result of the Verizon/Fairpoint sale. "Our regulators in Vermont mistakenly sided with Verizon. These companies have put corporate greed over public safety, now Fairpoint is bankrupt."

The formal hearings lasted four days and contained powerful testimony from opponents of the deal. The PSC is now in its deliberation process. Legal briefs were to have been filed within a few weeks after the conclusion of the PSC hearings. Rebuttal briefs are scheduled to begin March 5, 2010. These will enable the parties to supply answers to any questions previously raised. Attorney Vince Trivelli will be filing briefs on behalf of CWA.

Although the PSC hearings have concluded, and we await information from the brief filings and rebuttals, our efforts to Stop The Sale are ongoing.

West Virginia Mountains (of opposition!) - Among our many efforts to Stop The Sale, we have conducted radio and television ads, bumper stickers, yard signs and petitions. In January alone over 2,000 individual HAND WRITTEN letters were sent to Governor Manchin, state legislators have received approximately 3,200 similar letters in recent weeks. We have had great success with our pledge and community cards with over 2,000 submitted. Our toll-free number (877 556-6929), that allows anyone to call in and record a message to express their opinion on the Verizon-Frontier deal, received hundreds of messages in less than two weeks.

CWA members, retirees and friends have participated in several lobby days at the State Capitol. With the PSC currently deciding the fate of our future, it's vital to keep our legislators abreast of the situation and remind them of our continued opposition.

GROVE INSIGHT POLL - A poll conducted during the last week of January 2010 found that 46% of West Virginia voters oppose the proposed Verizon/Frontier deal. This means for every voter who supports the deal, 2 more oppose it. It appears that our campaign to educate the public, including advertising and recent news stories detailing the troubled history of Verizon's past deals, have had a major impact on public perception. The poll shows when people are given the true information about the deal, they correctly view it unfavorably. So keep your voices raised and let's continue educating the public and ourselves about this bad deal and the possible consequences for West Virginia. Visit bad4wv.com and www.psc.stat.wv.us (case 09-0871) for more information.

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.

Jessica Jordan – Loss of Grandmother

Dwight Wolford – Loss of Sister

Deborah Snedegar – Loss of Mother

Paula Hall – Loss of Mother-In-Law

Heather Markham – Loss of Father-In-Law

Dawn Hale – Loss of Grandmother

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

CWA WOMEN'S CONCERNS COMMITTEE WILL BE SPONSORING A TEAM IN THE
SUSAN G. KOMEN BREAST CANCER WALK ON MAY 1, 2010.
 PLEASE WATCH THE UNION BULLETIN BOARD FOR DETAILS COMING SOON

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, March 11TH, 2010
THURSDAY, April 15TH, 2010
7:00 PM
2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CWA LOCAL 2001
UNION OFFICE

LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.

2512 Kanawha Boulevard, East
 Charleston, WV 25311

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