

# Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



# Adviser

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2008

## COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

### STEVE MOSS RETIRES

His is a workplace name everyone knows. His career has spanned decades.

The level of commitment to the betterment of our union and its members, you would be hard pressed to find anywhere else.

CWA International Representative Steve Moss has retired. As of October 1, 2008, he lives a life of leisure.

No more grievances, arbitrations, negotiating contracts, no more headaches (at least from us anyway).

Steve plans on spending some relaxing time at his camp on the

Greenbrier River and, in his spare time, Steve enjoys restoring antique hot rods.

Steve was active in Local 2001 from the beginning of his career with C&P Telephone. His first CWA convention was in the mid-seventies. He served as Treasurer of the Local in the early eighties and served as President of Local 2001 for an astounding 5 terms. In 1995, he retired from Bell Atlantic with 32 years of service. He then began the next phase of his career with CWA as an International Representative.

As members we reap the

benefits Steve has helped put in place for union workers. His years of hard work and diligence have made an impact on your life whether you know it or not. He was instrumental in negotiating many contracts that have set precedence for today's negotiators making sure our compensation and benefits were fair and equitable.

*Congratulations on your well deserved retirement, and we wish you happiness in the years ahead.*

*Thank you, Steve, for all of your many years of service.*

### CWA LOCAL 2001 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Nominations were taken at the September 2008 membership meeting for the upcoming CWA Local 2001 Officer elections. You will be receiving a ballot at your home address in the near future. As with any election, let your voice be heard. Be sure to VOTE and return your ballot by the deadline. The following individuals were nominated.

President - Linda Miller, unopposed  
Executive Vice-President – Letha “Lee” Perry, unopposed  
Recording Secretary – Robin Young, unopposed

*Congratulations to the above executive officers who were seated by acclamation.*

#### Nominees for Treasurer

Delinda Johnson  
Rex Miller

#### Nominees for Executive Board Vice-President

Brian Breitreutz  
Burma Lawson  
Mike Smith  
Ken “Mister” Williams  
Anita Atkinson  
Jeff Cumptan  
Dorothy Wilson  
Crystal Johnson Crisp  
Vickie Cummings

Ballots will be mailed October 24th. If you do not receive your ballot, please, call the Local before the duplicate mailing deadline of November 7th. Tabulation will be November 21st.

## ECONOMIC CRISIS WHO IS ON OUR SIDE?

### JOHN McCain

Still thinks the “fundamentals of the economy are strong” (9/15/08)

Built his campaign on lobbyists and Wall Street special interests

Promises tax breaks to the rich and Big Oil

Supports job-killing trade deals

Wants to gamble Social Security funds in the stock market

Wants to tax our health care benefits

Opposes workers’ freedom to form unions and bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions

**John McCain: Just Doesn’t Get It**

### BARACK OBAMA

Understands this economy is devastating working families

Turned down a lucrative job on Wall Street to help his community

Promises tax relief to middle class families

Opposes bad trade deals and wants to block tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas

Will strengthen Social Security, not privatize it

Will fight for high-quality health care for all

Supports our freedom to form unions and bargain for a better life to restore the middle class

**Barack Obama: Is on Our Side**

## OBAMA WILL PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS – IT’S A PROVEN FACT

### **ENDORSED BY THE AMERICAN HUNTERS AND SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION (AHSA)**

“Senator Obama will be a strong and authentic voice for America’s hunters and shooters and it is with great pleasure that we endorse his candidacy.” –AHSA President Ray Schoenke. AHSA is a non-partisan organization committed to advancing common-sense gun policy initiatives and supporting the right to keep and bear arms.

### **Obama WILL Protect Your Gun Rights**

“All I can do is describe to voters what I believe and what I think. And what I believe is that there is a Second Amendment right. I think it is an individual right. I think people have the right to lawfully bear arms.” (Obama

press conference, Watertown, SD, 5/16/08)

Obama will protect the rights of hunters, shooters, collectors, and other law-abiding Americans to purchase, own, transport, and use guns.

### **Obama Believes Americans Have A Constitutional Right To Bear Arms**

Obama believes that the constitution conveys an individual right to bear arms, not just a right of militias as some have argued. He respects the right of lawful gun owners to hunt, target shoot and use guns to protect their families.

### **Obama Is Against The Confiscation Of Guns**

When a vote came before the United States Senate to prohibit the confiscation of legally acquired firearms during an emer-

gency, Obama voted YES. Senator Obama is on record voting against allowing the federal government to confiscate guns.

### **Obama Will Support The Rights And Traditions Of Sportsmen**

Obama recognizes that American hunters are losing access to places to hunt. He will provide incentives to farmers and ranchers who voluntarily open their land to hunting, fishing, and other wildlife related activities. Obama is also fully committed to protecting wildlife habitat. He is an advocate for preserving our wetlands and supports a broad range of national conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the National Fish Habitat Plan.

## AFL-CIO ENDORSED CANDIDATES

Following are the United States and West Virginia State endorsed candidates we must elect in the November election. These candidates will support the working men and women of West Virginia:

**U.S. President:**  
Barack Obama

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
1st Alan Mollohan  
2nd Anne Barth  
3rd Nick Rahall II

**Supreme Court of Appeals**  
Menis E. Ketchum  
Margaret Workman

**Auditor**  
Glen Gainer III

**U.S. Senate**  
John D. Rockefeller IV

**Governor**  
Joe Manchin III

**Attorney General**  
Darrell McGraw

**Secretary of State**  
Natalie Tennant

**Treasurer**  
John Perdue

The list of your State Senate, House of Delegates, and locally endorsed candidates is available at the WV AFL-CIO website (click on COPE endorsed candidates): [www.wvaficio.org](http://www.wvaficio.org)

## ANNUAL PICNIC

CWA Local 2001's annual picnic was held July 27 at Shawnee Park in Dunbar. There was plenty of food and fun for all. The kids (and adults) had a great time playing in

the inflatable parachute and 3-in-1 slide.

Entertainment Committee Chair, Anita Atkinson did a great job organizing everything and everyone. Anita also would like to thank everyone that helped set up, cook, entertain, and clean up. Everyone working together made the day a great success!



**Communications Workers of America  
AFL-CIO  
Local 2001 Advisor  
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- 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



## AT&T MOBILITY CONTRACT EXPIRATION

The AT&T Mobility Contract expires February 7, 2009. Sharon Harrison, a Customer Service Representative in Norton Virginia (Local 2204) was elected to represent District 2 on the bargaining committee.

Our members were asked to complete and return a survey rating the importance of issues such

as wages, commission, job security, overtime, quota relief, reduction of contract labor, improved scheduling, and vacation.

All CWA members at AT&T are encouraged to visit the following web sites and sign up to receive up-to-date information on negotiations and other union activities that affect you:

[www.unionvoice.org/cwa\\_locals/join.html](http://www.unionvoice.org/cwa_locals/join.html)

[www.unionvoice.org/cwasbc/join.html](http://www.unionvoice.org/cwasbc/join.html)

This is the first of many AT&T contracts to be negotiated in 2009. There are 180,000 CWA members who will all be joining together to fight for fairness at AT&T.

## MESSAGE FROM THE VZ ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FAMILY CARE (ACFC)

The ACFC would like to thank you for utilizing the Kids in the Workplace program. The committee relies solely on bargained for money and has a budget to abide by for all of the programs that are sponsored. With utilization decreasing, late cancellations increasing, and the Backup Care program being

rolled out in 2005, a decision has been made to no longer provide the Kids in the Workplace program. ACFC apologizes for the inconvenience, however, welcomes you to utilize the Backup Care program that is now available. Additional information on this program and other available programs can be obtained

on the ACFC website [www.acfccares.com](http://www.acfccares.com).

The ACFC is always seeking to identify programs that can help all of the 27,000 CWA represented employees in NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, and WV. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to send emails to [acfc@verizon.com](mailto:acfc@verizon.com).

### RAFFLE WINNER

Mark Crumm, CWA Local 1103 Business Agent in New York, was the winner of the CWA Women's Committee raffle.

Mark purchased his ticket at the CWA National Convention in Las Vegas. When Mark was notified of his good fortune, he generously donated his \$200 winnings back into the scholarship fund.

Mark's kindness is very much appreciated. The money will be put to good use by our next scholarship winner.

Thanks again, Mark!

**Visit your Local's  
website [www.cwa2001.org](http://www.cwa2001.org)**

**Remember: Wear  
Red on Thursdays**

### ANNA CAUDILL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Anna Caudill, daughter of CWA member Kim Caudill, was the winner of the Local 2001 Women's Concern Committee Scholarship.

Essays were submitted on the subject "Labor in the Kanawha Valley". The essays were reviewed by members of the Kanawha Valley Labor Council and Anna's was chosen as the winner.

The \$500 scholarship will be deposited into Anna's account at Marshall University and may be used for any school related expenses.

Congratulations, Anna!

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

### MEMBERS MISS OUT ON \$\$

Absent members missed out on the Pot-O-Gold drawings held at each membership meeting. Gerald Clark's named was drawn in August for \$20, Andrea Carpenter's name was drawn at the September membership meeting for \$40 and Mary Jo Otey's at the October membership meeting for \$60.

The pot for the November 13 membership meeting will be \$80. Be certain to attend. The next name drawn could be yours.

**You can contact us at**  
[cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net](mailto:cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net)

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, November 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**  
**7:00 PM**  
**2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST**  
**CWA LOCAL 2001**  
**UNION OFFICE**

## GOLDEN AGE CLUB NEWS

At the September meeting of Local 2001's chapter of Retired Members' Council (A.K.A. The Golden Age Club), Robin Young, Local 2001 Recording Secretary and Legislative Chair, spoke about CWA's campaign for Health Care for All. Retirees are encouraged to participate in CWA's political activities, such as phone banking and door-to-door canvassing. Those who participate will receive a T-shirt that reads "RETIREEES ON THE MOVE". To volunteer, call the Local on 344-2001.

Two guest speakers were on hand at the October meeting. Linda Miller, Local 2001 President, who served on the Bargaining Committee, explained

the new Verizon contract as it pertains to retirees. Jim Bowen, WV AFL-CIO President Emeritus, spoke on the importance of voting in the upcoming election.

Meetings have been well attended by approximately 26 members each month. All retirees are encouraged to attend and bring a guest. Meetings are held at the Local on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 12PM. The next meeting will be on November 11.

Delegates to the 2008 Annual Meeting of the CWA Retired Members' Council voted overwhelmingly to resurrect *Journeys*, the Council's newsletter, in electronic form. Sign up to

receive *Journeys* by visiting [www.cwa-union.org/rmc](http://www.cwa-union.org/rmc).

The Obama Campaign has created "Seniors for Obama" – a group of individuals from across the country who are "older and bolder" and ready to stand up for Barack because he promises the change our country needs. Sign up today at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/seniorshome>.

**\*\*Attention retirees\*\*** The list of subscribers to Local 2001's Advisor is being updated. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter, you must contact the Local at 344-2001 or by email at [cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net](mailto:cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net). Please advise of any recent address changes.

## TAKING ACTION NOW

The annual Union Women's Concerns Conference was held September 12-14, 2008 at Lakeview Inn, Morgantown. This year's conference was attended by CWA Local 2001 members Jean Arthur, Crystal Johnson-Crisp, Robin Young, and Dorothy Wilson.

Friday's session, after welcoming remarks from WV AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue and Secretary-Treasurer Larry Matheney, began with guest speaker, Margaret Workman. Margaret Workman, candidate for WV Supreme Court, addressed the crowd on the issue of family violence.

Sherry Breeden, WV AFL-CIO, spoke on "The Fierce Urgency of Now". Sherry gave a moving speech that reminded us how important it is to remember how far we have come. Women have only had the right to vote since August 26, 1920. It is crucial that we appreciate all our ancestors

had to go through – the women's suffrage movement – to get us that right.

David Ross, Chief of Legal Process Division, Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, spoke on methamphetamines. The information learned in this session was enlightening and disturbing. Not only does this drug affect the users and their families, but also people that can come in accidental contact with them. Chief Ross is available to address groups by appointment. The information learned in this session is worth your time, and could save a life. He can be reached at 357-0166 or 542-2872.

Saturday and Sunday were busy days filled with workshops conducted by the WVU Institute for Labor Studies and Research (ILSR) and the Maroney Law Firm.

Workshops were Legal Envi-

ronment - P. K. Maroney, Taking Care of Your Life – Aaron Ondo, Union Leadership – Sarah Stevenson, Political Action – Tony Michael.

The Saturday Political Action workshop was conducted by Donna Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO.

Saturday night, the 9th annual auction was conducted by Clinton Durst. The auction is held to raise money for COPE, the Committee On Political Education. Everyone enjoyed the auction and was able to purchase some great items at bargain prices while raising money for a great cause.

The conference concluded Sunday afternoon and all attendees left the conference with the knowledge that "taking action now" is our challenge and responsibility.

# 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 Raines - loss of Mother  
 Scott Wegmann – loss of Father  
 Patrick Alley – loss of Mother  
 Steven Bumbaugh – loss of Father  
 Penny Foster – loss of Grandfather  
 Nancy Wayson – loss of Father  
 Donna Evans – loss of Mother  
 Phyllis Boggess – loss of Mother  
 David Randolph – loss of Grandmother
- Daniel Childers – loss of Grandfather  
 Christopher Elswick – loss of Father  
 James Gross – loss of Grandmother  
 Tricia White – loss of Father  
 Dolores Ramella – loss of Mother  
 David Paugh – loss of Father-in-law  
 Denise Scales – loss of Grandfather  
 Beverly Taylor – loss of Father

## CWA VERIZON CONTRACT RATIFIED

By over a 90% margin, CWA members voted to ratify the new three year agreement that covers more than 65,000 active and retired members in the northeast and mid-Atlantic.

The agreement achieves our key goals, including the creation of more than 2500 new union jobs through the elimination of subcontracting in many job areas, conversion of temporary jobs to permanent ones, and new work on Verizon’s cutting edge FIOS technology. It provides for a compounded

wage increase of 10.87 percent over the contract term, maintains quality health care for active and retired workers and increases pension bands.

The contract extends union recognition to several hundred former MCI technicians at Verizon Business who have been seeking union representation for nearly two years, and includes new opportunities for union workers to provide customer support and service at Verizon Business.

“This is a breakthrough agreement in

many ways,” said CWA President Larry Cohen. “It creates new union jobs including major growth areas like FIOS, it takes a big step forward on health care and brings hundreds of Verizon Business employees the union rights they deserve.” He said the settlement “provides a framework for growth at Verizon and a good standard of living with careers for our members.”

The wage increase and back pay will be effective on the October 31, 2008 paycheck

**LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.**  
2512 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25311

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