

MERGER OF DISTRICTS 2 and 13

Questions and Answers

Why are Districts 2 and 13 proposing to merge?

The labor movement and CWA have to change and adapt new realities. CWA lost over 30,000 members last year and it is important to try and right size our organization from top to bottom.

The Ready for the Future Strategic Plan was adopted by the delegates at the CWA National Convention. Step 10 of the plan called for the right-sizing and balance of the Executive Board by 2011. The merger of Districts 2 and 13 is part of the implementation of the plan and it makes sense for our Union.

First, the Districts have a long history of working together. The primary employer in both districts is Verizon. Districts 2 and 13 have jointly bargained the Verizon contract and locals and activists have worked together over the years in mobilizations, political, legislative and regulatory campaigns.

Second, the two Districts geographic boundaries abut. The new district, when merged, will form one contiguous district from Pennsylvania to Virginia.

Third, currently District 2 and 13 are the smallest Districts both in terms of geography and membership. District 2 covers three states Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia and District 13 covers two states Pennsylvania and Delaware. District 2 has 26,219 members and District 13 has 19,216 members. When combined the District will still be the smallest district within CWA, but more in-line with the other districts.

But more importantly we believe there is real synergy in combining the two Districts and the merger will make us stronger & enable us to better service the members of the combined district.

What are the savings if we combine the Districts?

We will have one less Vice President starting in 2011 and one less District office. The current District office will become a state office just as we have in Virginia and West Virginia. We estimate savings overtime by reducing cost of \$500,000 a year.

What is the process for the merger?

As a result of the 1983 merger between CWA & the “Federation of Telephone Workers of Pennsylvania” (F.T.W.P) District 13 delegates must first approve the merger. If approved by District 13, a resolution on the merger will be in front of the National Convention this year.

The delegates at the national convention will have to vote on a resolution implementing the merger.

When is the proposed effective date of the merger?

If the resolution is adopted at the 2010 convention combining the districts it will go into effect in July of 2011 with the election of a District Vice President.

Where will the District office be located?

Philadelphia. There will continue to be state offices throughout District 2.

Who will be Vice President of the newly merged district?

Any member in good standing can run for Vice President. If the merger is approved by the convention Vice President Ron Collins has indicated that he plans to accept a senior leadership position at the CWA National office & will support Ed Mooney for Vice President of the new combined District.

What impact will have this have on Locals?

Locals will continue to be serviced by staff representatives from their respective states. The state councils will continue to function and there will be regular state presidents meetings.

What will happen to the staff in both districts?

There are no plans to change any staff assignments.

What will happen to Local numbers?

The local numbers will stay the same.

Will there be any changes with the elected bargaining committees?

NO. The bargaining committee from D-2 will continue to be elected from the same areas as of today.