



Contract negotiations continue with Verizon with the hope of securing a new contract before the expiration date of August 2, 2008. This round of negotiations will be extremely crucial to all of us as a Union. We have numerous issues that must be addressed such as health care and job security. In order for us to achieve our reasonable bargaining goals, it is crucial that each and every member be involved. Your support and enthusiasm will play the most important role in the Bargaining Committee's ability to achieve success at the bargaining table.

Verizon is a profitable company thanks to our hard work. In return, all we want is a fair and equitable contract that provides improvements in wages, benefits and other conditions of our employment.

If an agreement is not reached before expiration, several things can happen. If necessary, CWA will call a strike. A strike is one of the most powerful mobilization tools that we have in our arsenal. As a concerted activity, a strike is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, as well as by our contract. Term employees and part-time employees have the same protections as full-time permanent employees. Verizon cannot intimidate you or coerce you into crossing a picket line by threatening your employment.

If a strike is called, it will be posted on the hotline 304 342-8000 and on the website www.cwa2001.org. If you are working at the time a strike is called, you will be notified by a steward and asked to leave your work location.

In the event of a strike, relief is available to members from the Local and the National. Local 2001's Strike Duty Fund provides for \$25 to be paid for each scheduled picket duty. The CWA's Members' Relief Fund provides a strike benefit of \$200 per week beginning with the 15th day of a strike and \$300 per week beginning with the 29th day. These monies are not retroactive. However, you will get one additional strike fund check seven days after the conclusion of the strike. Times and locations for the distribution of checks will be posted on the hotline and the Local's website.

To be eligible to receive strike benefits you must perform strike duty. If you are unable to perform picket duty due to a medical condition other duties can be assigned. If you have not turned in a Picket Duty preference sheet, please, see a job steward or contact the Local on 304 344-2001 as soon as possible. You will be advised as to your strike assignment in the near future.

In addition to the weekly strike benefit provided by the Members' Relief Fund, CWA's Defense Fund insures that **necessary** medical and dental care will be provided to you and your dependents in the event that Verizon stops medical coverage during a strike. (Verizon must notify members in advance before canceling benefits.) In some extreme cases, the Union will pay your medical premiums rather than reimburse you for "necessary" medical/dental care. If you or one of your dependents has ongoing or serious medical needs, you must contact the Local to advise as soon as possible after being notified of cancellation.

To receive benefits from the Members' Relief Fund, you must sign a "Striker Certification Form". Please see a job steward or mobilizer or visit the Local's website to obtain the form.

As a point of information, the IRS requires us to send you a 1099 Form in any year that \$600 or more in strike benefits is received. Strike benefits are taxed similar to the way your interest on a savings account is taxed.

The CWA Members' Relief Fund is extremely healthy. It currently has more than \$380 million dollars and contributions by over 700,000 members will continue during the time we are on strike, should a strike become necessary.

Strike related questions may be sent to cwa2001strikeinfo@verizon.net.

IT IS EVERY MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT OUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE DURING THIS TIME!

REMEMBER, UNITED WE BARGAIN DIVIDED WE BEG!!!