

# Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



# Adviser

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 3

MAY 2008

## COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

### MOBILIZE! CAN YOU HEAR US NOW?

The Verizon 2008 shareholders' meeting was held on May 1st in Lincoln, Nebraska. One must wonder if the company's decision to hold the meeting as far away as possible from most of its members was due to having had to face a room full of red-shirted union members at last year's meeting. If that was the plan, it didn't work.

Dozens of Union members delivered boxes of proxy votes with a message of no confidence in the Board of Directors. Although all shareholder proposals were defeated, the proposal to prohibit the same person from being both CEO and chairman of the board got the most support with 20% of the shareholders voting in favor. In other voting, 8.6% voted in favor of prohibiting executives from receiving stock options. (Next year when you receive the Notice of Annual Meeting of Sharehold-

ers, be sure to hang on to your proxy!)

In District 2, union members held information pickets at various work sites throughout the day. With contract negotiations starting up again this summer, employees are sending their message to the company: a fair contract in August that protects health care; every Verizon job a union job; and stop union-busting in Wireless and Business.

Local 2001 members held informational picketing at 1500 MacCorkle Avenue and 408 Leon Sullivan Way. In addition to focusing on the upcoming contract expiration and the company's ever increasing anti-union

tactics, we also concentrated on customer service issues here in West Virginia. All local TV stations, Metro News and the Charleston Gazette covered the story. Thanks to all who participated.

Please stay tuned for future mobilization activities. Past mobilization flyers can be found on the Local's website [www.cwa2001.org](http://www.cwa2001.org). If you are unsure who your mobilizer is or if you are interested in becoming a mobilizer, please, contact the Local.



### LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR VZ 401K INVESTMENTS

Bill Thomas with MetLife will hold a seminar at the Local on Thursday June 5th at 6:30pm. Bill visited with us last year to discuss investing in general.

At that time we requested he return to discuss specifically the Verizon 401k investment options. Just starting with the company?

Planning on retiring soon? This is a great opportunity to learn about your investments on a personal level. Bill will be discussing what action you may want to take now and in the future to benefit the most from your investments.

Plan on attending this informative session.

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

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, June 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2008**  
**7:00 PM**  
**2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST**  
**CWA LOCAL 2001**  
**UNION OFFICE**

## UNITED WE BARGAIN - DIVIDED WE BEG

**Below are excerpts borrowed with permission from Les Evans, President of CWA Local 2108 in Beltsville, MD.**

It is often said the most important part of the word "Union", is the first letter. The fact of the matter is, without the "U" the word becomes meaningless.

The same is true for our union.

With all of the changes taking place in every segment of our industry, what I hear the most often is, "What is the Union going to do about it?"

Each time I hear that I have to ask the questioner, "I don't know, what are YOU willing to do about it?"

You see, the union is really YOU.

Yes, it's true that I'm your

Local President. That makes me a Union Representative. While I know I have grown larger as I get older, I also know I am not large enough to be the entire union.

The whole concept of a labor union centers around the workers, plural, people like you and me standing up together against a company that has infinitely more money and resources than any one of us possess individually.

What we have that the company does not have is each other. Yet, it only really works if we all get involved.

The UNION, ladies and gentlemen, is you. You are the ones who make this whole thing work.

We cannot afford to stand back and wait for someone else to fight our battles.

The time to stand and fight is now.

However, no one can do it alone. These companies are too big, too rich and too powerful to fight as individuals. We must stand together, collectively demanding fair treatment and respect in the workplace.

What can you do? We have a Membership Meeting...every month...right here in the Local.

It is a small sacrifice of your time to come out and talk about what's going on in your workplace and talk about what we can do together to fight for the fairness and dignity we deserve as the men and women who make these companies' work.

United We Bargain –  
Divided We Beg

**Communications Workers of America  
AFL-CIO  
Local 2001 Advisor  
Published Monthly by CWA Local 2001**

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Jean Arthur.....	Women's Concern Committee
Debby Burdette.....	Election Committee
Letha Perry.....	Mobilization Committee

## SETTLEMENT REACHED REGARDING MASS DISCIPLINE

In March, District-wide 223 employees received written warnings and 32 were discharged as a result of alleged "unauthorized" access to account information. These disciplinary actions were taken as a result of a computer audit conducted by the company pertaining to employee access to accounts dating back, in some instances, several years. At the conclusion of the company's unwarranted and untimely audit, those employees who were identified as having obtained any

so-called "unauthorized access" were identified and disciplined.

Ron Collins, Administrative Director to D2 Vice-President Pete Catucci, along with other staff representatives from D2, worked to secure a settlement on behalf of the majority of the employees impacted. Most of the discharged employees were returned to work, "made whole", and related documentation was removed from their files. Warnings were removed from the files of those that had received written warning.

## HAVE BUDGET CUTS GONE TOO FAR?

Thursday, May 8th 1500 MacCorkle had a water service interruption. Shortly thereafter half a dozen port-a-potties were set up on the parking lot. OMG. The company has been preaching budget cuts for months now but this is going too far.

Reduction in headcount and cutbacks to overtime have left many departments overwhelmed with backlogs of uncompleted work. The requirements to do more with less is not only stressing to us but our customers as well. Most of you probably saw or heard about the articles appearing in the May 2nd Charleston newspapers regarding Verizon's service or lack thereof. Byron Harris, head of the PSC's consumer advocate division was quoted "They continue to set records for the number of complaints. We are going to have to address this at some point if the company hasn't taken any mea-

sures...it's just unacceptable. All they have provided is excuses."

Lee Perry, Local 2001 Treasurer was quoted, "We have a ready, willing and able workforce, Verizon has not provided us with the resources."

Verizon is talking out of both sides of their mouth again. Their excellent "customer service" is in every thing they publish on the web, it's required by every employee on every observation,

yet when you see how the company treats our customers with its 18 day repair commitments or orders delayed for engineering for months, it's evident their concern for "customer service" is not worth the paper they print it on.

Obviously, the port-a-potties were there in response to a building emergency and not budget cuts. But the picture sure does seem symbolic of the direction the company is heading in.



## MARKET IS DOWN BUT SEIDENBERG'S COMPENSATION IS UP

Ivan Seidenberg, Chairman and CEO of Verizon Communications Inc, received total compensation of \$26.55 million in 2007, a 25 percent increase over 2006. In addition, he received \$471, 467 for his part-time jobs serving on two other corporate boards. During that same period, Verizon's stock rose 17.3

percent. However, in 2008, the company's stock has lost all those gains and is currently about 7 percent below where it was at the close of 2006.

To see more information on the compensation of all top Verizon Executives, visit [www.cwa-union.org/verizon/executive-compensation](http://www.cwa-union.org/verizon/executive-compensation).

## WHO MISSED OUT ON EXTRA CASH?

At the April Membership Meeting, Michelle Eplion missed out on \$20. At the May meeting, Jeff Baldwin missed out on \$40. Their names were drawn but, unfortunately, they were not present so

"the pot" now grows to \$60. The next drawing will be at the June 12th membership meeting.

Make plans to attend; be informed about issues that concern you and your union.

## LOCAL 2001 PICNIC

Make plans now to join us July 27 from 1pm-5pm at Shawnee Park in Institute for our annual CWA Local 2001 summer picnic.

Our new Entertainment Chairperson, Anita Atkinson, is putting together a great time for kids and adults alike. Come and enjoy food, games and union fellowship. July 27 is 1 week from our contract expiration so there should be lots to discuss.

## PSC ASKED TO INVESTIGATE VERIZON COMPLAINTS

The Charleston Gazette reported in its Tuesday May 13, 2008 edition that the Public Service Commission staff and its Consumer Advocate Division have requested the commission to launch a formal investigation into Verizon's quality of telephone service.

"This really started ramping up in 2004, 2005, and started getting progressively worse," said Byron Harris, director of the consumer division.

Verizon has 10 days to respond

### SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE WOMEN'S CONCERN COMMITTEE

The Women's Concern Committee will be sponsoring a scholarship for the upcoming year. The criteria will be an essay of no less than 500 words on "Labor in the Kanawha Valley". An independent panel will judge the qualified entries and the scholarship will be awarded by the August 2008 term. Mail your entries to:

CWA Local 2001

Attn: Women's Concern Scholarship

2512 Kanawha Blvd, East  
Charleston, WV 25311

Entries must be received by July 31st. The judging will be done by August 11th and the winner will be notified by August 15th. Information on the scholarship will be available at the union office.

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

**Remember: Wear  
Red on Thursdays**

to the petition under PSC rules.

Harry Mitchell Company spokesman said, "We don't feel a proceeding is needed. We feel our West Virginia service is good." Mitchell was also quoted as saying, "We still maintain our network. I'd take issue with anyone who says we're neglecting it. It's simply not the case." (Harry needs to have a ride-a-day with the outside techs)

Customer complaints basically fall into two categories Harris said. "First, just plain quality of service, static on the line, can't hear, their phones don't work well."

The second issue relates to repair problems. "People don't show up for appointments and (customers) never are contacted. It's ironic for a telephone company, but they have

trouble communicating with their customers." (and their employees; we've said that for years)

In a settlement with the PSC two years ago from a previous CAD petition concerning customer service, Verizon agreed to hire 18 new outside technicians. The article states, "What appears to have happened is they hired the new ones but reduced the total amount of technicians by twice that many." In reality, they did not hire new technicians; instead they moved existing technicians (we call this the hide-a-tech program) to a newly created Proactive Preventive Maintenance crew and then offered EISP to outside technicians, thus reducing headcount instead of increasing as the settlement was intended.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars for the Advisory Council on Family Care (ACFC) Fair on July 15th. The fair will be in the cafeteria at 1500 MacCorkle Avenue. Stop by between 11am-3pm

and tour the vendors which will include representatives from ACFC and VZ Life. (As we go to press, we do not have a complete list of participating vendors.)

## CWA AND VERIZON TO RESUME EARLY NEGOTIATIONS

CWA Districts 1, 2 and 13, together with the IBEW, have agreed to resume early negotiations with Verizon, covering the Verizon "East" contract, with a tentative start date of May 27 to begin the talks.

The parties initially engaged in early contract bargaining beginning last November but the talks were suspended earlier this year. Verizon has continued to agree to

limit its bargaining agenda to health care while the unions have an unrestricted agenda and the discussions will cover the ability of members to have access to jobs of the future in the growth areas of the company.

Once again, CWA is bargaining jointly with the IBEW. The current Verizon "East" contract, covering 55,000 CWA members, expires on August 2, 2008.

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.

**Verizon FMLA forms  
are available on  
the Local's website  
[www.cwa2001.org](http://www.cwa2001.org)**

## DEDICATED MEMBERS

Pictured are Job Steward Barry Barker, members Raymond Alexander and Roy Martin and E-Board VP Mike Smith.

These guys are awesome.

Mike Smith travels from Grantsville for every monthly E-Board meeting and then again for the membership meeting. Barry and Raymond have been riding together from the Summersville area and have been attending each membership meeting for several months now. They even bring members with them on occasion. Roy Martin rode down with them for the April meeting and Alleise McClure came with them to the February meeting.

Approximately 75 miles each way = round trip 150 miles. That's impressive.

One may wonder why more

people don't make an effort to attend. It's easy to find an excuse - I'm so busy; I'm too tired; It's too far to drive; I have to work tomorrow; I forget what day the meeting is. If it's the "I don't have a babysitter" then bring the kids with you. Kids love to come to the union meetings. In reality, it takes very little effort to attend and you will be glad you did.

It's important that you be active in YOUR union. Whether it's attending union meetings or participating in mobilization activities, if you

are asked to help please make an effort to be there. The decisions we make and the struggles we confront should not be done by just a few. Many of the issues we face in the future will affect you and your family. Do you want a voice in those decisions?



## NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

National Women's Health Week was May 11-17, 2008. The nationwide initiative, coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health, encourages women to make their health a top priority and take steps for a longer, healthier and happier life.

Monday, May 12 was recognized as National Women's Check-Up Day. Though this date has passed, it is a reminder for all women to contact their health care provider to schedule check-ups and screening services. During their check-ups, women should discuss with their health care professionals which tests are right for them, when they should have them, and how often. Women can prepare themselves for their check-ups with the following checklist:

TEST	LAST TEST (MO/YEAR)	RESULTS	NEXT TEST DUE (MO/YR)	QUESTIONS for the Doctor
WEIGHT (BMI)				
CHOLESTEROL				
HDL (good)				
LDL (bad)				
BLOOD PRESSURE				
MAMMOGRAM				
PAP SMEAR				
COLORECTAL CANCER				
DIABETES				
BONE DENSITY				
OTHER				

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) has listed several links with additional information: CLUW Health Links at [www.cluw.org/links-health.html#link](http://www.cluw.org/links-health.html#link); CLUW Cervical Cancer Preven-

tion Works at [www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html](http://www.cluw.org/cervcancer.html); My Health Test Reminder at [www.myhealthtestreminder.com](http://www.myhealthtestreminder.com); and National Women's Health Information Center (HHS) at <http://4women.gov/>.

## GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Local 2001's Retiree Chapter, a.k.a. Golden Age Club, met April 8<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming meetings will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> at Wine Cellars Park and July 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month) at the Local beginning at 12 Noon.

The goal of CWA Retiree Chapters is to provide a forum for members to air their concerns and share information. The Retired Members' Council focuses on the critical issues facing retirees. Through the Council, CWA retirees have input into key retiree programs as they are shaped through contract negotiations and/or legislation. The Retired Members' Council works to safeguard and enhance its members' retirement in many ways, such as: monitoring company pension and health care policies; tracking national legislation affecting CWA retired members; monitoring federal, state and local politicians and legislation in support of members' goals and interests; and representing retired members' concerns and issues with CWA bargaining councils before and during contract negotiations. Visit [www.cwa-union.org/rmc](http://www.cwa-union.org/rmc) to learn more.

It was incorrectly printed in the March Advisor Golden Age Club news that J.C. Parker had passed away. Our sincere apologies to J.C. and his family.

### LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.

2512 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25311

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## 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.

Gregory Willis - loss of Daughter

Melanie Carpenter – loss of Mother

Frank Clower – loss of Mother

Diane Findley – loss of Father

Sharon Campbell – loss of Grandmother

Sherry Browning – loss of Grandmother

Mitzi Richmond – loss of Father-in-Law

Karen Taylor – loss of Father-in-Law

Stacy Dunlap – loss of Grandmother

Jeff Carpenter – loss of Grandmother

## AND THE WINNER IS

Ron Hahn, Rock Branch CST, was the lucky winner of the \$100.00 UFO drawing. Local 2001 principal officers, Linda Miller, Debby Prince, Robin Young and Lee Perry donated the money. During the

UFO campaign if you contributed money or food items at the monthly membership meetings you were eligible for the drawing. Congratulations Ron and thank you to all who gave.

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