

Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



Adviser

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APRIL 2009

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

CWA Local 2001 will conduct an election for the position of Executive Vice-President. Lee Perry, former EVP, assumed the position of President of the Local after Linda Miller accepted a CWA staff position.

The Local Election Committee will take nominations from the floor during the regular membership meeting on May 14, 2009.

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	May 14, 2009
Declinations	May 18, 2009
Ballots Mailed	May 19, 2009
Duplicates Mailed	May 26, 2009
Tabulation	June 9, 2009
Challenges	June 16, 2009

CWA/AT&T CONTRACT RATIFIED

CWA members at AT&T Mobility have ratified their new contract. The "Orange" contract provides gains for workers, including improvements in the retail stores compensation plan and the establishment of a new career path for customer service representatives.

The CWA bargaining committee was determined to make inroads in these critical areas and suc-

ceeded, resulting in an agreement that provides good economic gains for Mobility workers and addresses workers' priority issues. There are more than 20,000 CWA members covered by the "Orange" contract.

The settlement provides for a compounded wage increase of 8.8 percent over the four-year contract term, along with a \$500 bonus. More than 11,000 retail sales con-

sultants will now earn a minimum monthly commission of \$1000 if sales goals are met. In addition, some 500 consumer care workers will receive job upgrades and additional pay increases, as will 50-70 wireless technicians. Other important improvements addressed monitoring and quota relief.

The new contract was ratified by a margin of 73% nationwide.

CONGRATULATIONS LINDA

Linda Miller, who has served CWA Local 2001 as President since 2006, has accepted a staff position with CWA International for District 2. Linda will continue to represent us, and other CWA locals in WV, as a staff representative.

Linda has been a CWA member for over 29 years, starting with the company as an operator then moving to the BCC as a consultant. Always an active CWA member, Linda has been a job steward, vice presi-

dent, recording secretary, executive vice president, and was serving her second term as president before moving to her new position. Linda also was invaluable in the negotiation of the recent Verizon contract. She has worked tirelessly to secure the future of our members.

We will miss Linda as our local president, but feel fortunate to have her represent us in the CWA staff representative position. Good luck and congratulations, Linda!

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, May 14TH, 2009

7:00 PM

THURSDAY, June 11TH, 2009

7:00 PM

2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST

CWA LOCAL 2001

UNION OFFICE

VZ IMPLEMENTS NEW DRESS CODE

I'm not sure the below picture fits the new Verizon dress code policy or not. Perhaps as long as it isn't a red union t-shirt the gal on the right might be ok. It now takes three supervisors three hours to determine if a \$50 pair of sandals is the same as a \$3.99 pair of flip flops. Management is definitely burning too many brain cells trying to define and implement their new "attire guidelines". Even the outside techs must wear a collared shirt and no hats inside the workplace just to name a couple of the new outrageous dress code restrictions. Techs work in manholes, climb poles, work in ditches and ruin countless shirts and jeans from rips and tears while working. Most people would be upset having to purchase new polo shirts only to wear them once or twice and end up in the trash.



Let's flip the coin. For example, the last few summers, employees at 1500 MacCorkle have witnessed the unmowed grass above the ankles and overgrown weeds taking over bushes and trees. All that was needed was an old rusted car on cinder blocks in front

of Verizon's West Virginia headquarters to complete the look. The condition of the un-kempt grounds is embarrassing. Here's a suggestion Verizon, since you want to clean up appearances, practice



what you're preaching and get your own house in order first. I can assure you coming into a neat and clean workplace would improve morale much more than requiring shirts to have collars.

One would think Verizon would have bigger worries, such as the PSC inquiries now occurring in the entire Potomac region. Evidently, service quality is not as important as the type of shoes you are wearing or if your shirt is a Henley or polo.

The Union was notified at a district level late last year with the Company's intent to implement a workplace attire policy. The Union expressed concern

that the Company would implement such a policy so shortly after contract negotiations. The decision at the district level was made not to demand bargaining due to the likelihood they would bargain to impasse and the Company would then implement the dress code with no recourse for the Union.

Instead, it was decided the best action to take would be to file an executive level grievance after the new workplace attire guidelines were implemented. If no settlement is reached it could be submitted for arbitration to a neutral third party. Grievances should be filed by members who are individually impacted (ex. disciplinary action).

Pictured are employees enjoying their last day of attire freedom prior to the new guidelines being implemented.



WHY DO WE WANT THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

Joining together in a union to bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions is the best opportunity working people have to get ahead.

Today, good jobs are vanishing and health care coverage and retirement security are slipping

out of reach. Only 38 percent of the public says their families are getting ahead financially and less than a quarter believes the next generation will be better off.

But workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than non-union workers. They are 62

percent more likely to have employer provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions.

All workers should have the freedom to decide for themselves whether to form unions to bargain for a better life.

EMPLOYEE
FREE
CHOICE
ACT

It will take every one of us.

It will be worth it.

Get involved.

LILLY LEDBETTER BILL

Lilly Ledbetter, a longtime supervisor at a Goodyear tire plant in Alabama, discovered, years after it began, that she was being paid less than her male counterparts. She sued her employer under the Fair Pay Act. The Supreme Court rejected her suit on the grounds she should have filed her claim within 180 days of “the alleged unlawful employment

practice” – the initial decision to pay her less than men, even though she didn’t learn of the discrimination until years after it began. They ruled 5-4 she had no case.

President Barack Obama has signed into law, a labor supported bill to correct this injustice. This bill, which he supported as a senator, has powerful new tools to challenge pay discrimination. It

was the first significant piece of legislation signed by the new president.

Obama approved the bill saying it would “send a clear message that making our economy work means making sure it works for everybody”.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB NEWS

February, March, and April meetings had good attendance and welcomed new members to our group.

Members have been given helpful information at our meetings on various topics vital not only to retirees, but also to anyone that currently works for a living and hopes someday to retire and join us. For example, information regarding “The Employee Free Choice Act” and “What to do in case of a Lost Purse/Wallet” has been shared.

The date and location for our annual picnic has been set. It will be held at the Wine Cellar in Dunbar on June 9th at 12pm. We will be having Hot Dogs and want everyone to come out and celebrate the day!

The next Golden Age Club meeting will be held on May 12, at the Local Union Hall. We encourage everyone to come and enjoy lunch and fellowship

WANTED!!

Bright, energetic, motivated CWA union members (women and men) are wanted to join the CWA Women’s Concerns Committee. This committee’s primary goal is to assist in the education of our members on women’s issues and concerns. With your involvement,

we have the ability to make a difference.

Please email the local at CWA2001@verizon.net with your name, telephone number, and preference for which day of the week works best for you for the committee meetings. You will be contacted soon regarding our next meeting.

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

Visit your Local’s website www.cwa2001.org

Remember Your CWA Dress Code: Wear Red on Thursdays

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

Letha “Lee” Perry.....	President
Vacant	Executive Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Treasurer
Robin Young.....	Recording Secretary
Anita Atkins.....	Vice-President
Brian Breikreutz.....	Vice-President
Burma Lawson.....	Vice-President
Mike Smith.....	Vice-President
Kenny Williams.....	Vice-President
Dorothy Wilson.....	Vice-President
Delinda Johnson.....	Editor
Circulation.....	1100
Robin Young.....	Legislative Committee
Burma Lawson.....	Education Committee
Mary Aliff.....	Union Labels Committee
Vacant	Community Services Committee
Robin Young.....	Safety Committee
Kenny Williams.....	Organizing Committee
Elwood Brown.....	Golden Age Club
Norm Connard.....	Audit Committee
Anita Atkinson.....	Entertainment Committee
Michael Walker.....	Civil Rights & Equity Committee
Dorothy Wilson.....	Women’s Concern Committee
Debby Burdette.....	Election Committee
Letha “Lee” Perry.....	Mobilization Committee

You can contact us at cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net

NLRB CHARGES FILED AGAINST VERIZON WV

Did you happen to see a union bulletin board or two covered in brown paper awhile back?

Did you wonder what the heck was going on?

It was the talk of the building. Verizon's actions to cover the union bulletin boards with brown paper brought quite a bit of attention to the fiasco. It appears someone in management was offended by a poster "VERIZON WANTS TO CREATE A

NON-UNION COMPANY".

The poster had been on the bulletin boards for over a year, and, all of a sudden, the company objected to the posters and requested job stewards remove it. The job stewards refused to take immediate action and referred the company to Local 2001 President Linda Miller and staff representative Elaine Harris. Until the issue could be resolved the company covered

the bulletin boards with brown paper. A few days later and after several conversations with Verizon's Labor Relations department the poster was removed "under protest".

CWA has filed National Labor Relations Board charges against Verizon of WV for the frivolous fiasco.

Article 5 of the general agreement addresses union bulletin boards in the workplace.

UFO RESULTS

UFO has concluded for another year. Through the successful joint effort of CWA and Verizon, we managed to raise well over \$8000 and collect more than 16,500 food items!

This is UFO's 27th year of stocking food pantries in Putnam and Kanawha counties. Food pantries from Putnam and Kanawha county come to the warehouse, located at the Bayer plant in Institute, on Saturday mornings during the UFO campaign to load up on supplies for the many people that need their services.

CWA members, and some

of their children, worked at the Bayer warehouse on Saturday, April 4. There was an appreciation breakfast for our members working at the warehouse that morning.

Once again, our members have shown they care about their community and about those less fortunate. Our work group coordinators did an outstanding job keeping everyone motivated and coming up with creative ways to raise money and collect food items.

Thanks to everyone for your efforts, generosity, and kindness!

PROXIES

Verizon Communications Annual Report has been mailed and is probably laying unopened on your dining room table. Although most of us would not find it interesting reading, it is educational reading. If you are on blood pressure medicine, we recommend taking it before reviewing the compensation content, and don't forget to add a few zeroes behind those numbers, it has an eye opening, jaw dropping effect. CWA will not be making voting recommendations for this year's proxy.

\$100 UFO WINNER

Any CWA member that brought food items to the membership meetings during the UFO campaign was entered into a drawing for \$100. Our principle officers, Linda Miller, Lee Perry, Delinda Johnson and Robin Young provided the \$100 prize. The April membership meeting marked the last night of the competition. Leslie Pepper's name was drawn at the meeting and was the lucky winner! Congratulations Leslie and thanks to everyone that participated.

UNION Security Assistance Financial Education

Another program of Union Plus is Union SAFE. The Union SAFE program includes unique new benefits that meet the urgent needs of members facing economic hardship. By building on the foundation of Union Plus benefits already in place, the new Union SAFE plan expands the safety net for working families. To learn more, go to:

UnionPlus.org/UnionSAFE

****REMINDER****

Learn more about other Union Plus programs and discounts available to your union, visit:

www.UnionPlus.org

FRONTIER REQUESTS EMPLOYEES TAKE UNPAID TIME

Frontier has proposed a furlough program to their employees in an effort to generate Company cost savings and avoid significant layoffs due to current economic conditions. Frontier is proposing to the Union and Frontier employees twelve (12) days unpaid "furlough" between April 1

and December 31, 2009. These furlough days would be treated the same as excused days without pay with no negative impact on seniority accrual. The Union expressed concern with the company's continued use of contractors on bargaining unit work as well as possible layoffs during

the furlough period. The Union will not blindly accept claims of revenue shortfall projections and agree with cost cutting measures without reviewing requested documentation.

Extensive discussions between the Union and the Company are currently underway.

CWA MOURNS THE LOSS OF PETE CATUCCI

Retired District 2 Vice President, Pete Catucci, passed away Friday, April 3rd, 2009.

CWA District 2 was honored to have such a dedicated, passionate labor activist as our Vice President. We will benefit for a lifetime the victories he achieved on our behalf. Throughout his career he fought tirelessly for our mem-

bers. Pete served as District 2 Vice President for 23 years and was the longest serving Vice President on CWA's Executive Board having served with Presidents Glenn Watts, Morton Bahr and Larry Cohen.

On several occasions, Local 2001 had the privilege of welcoming Pete to Charleston WV as guest speaker at our mem-

bership meetings. We will be forever thankful for his hard work, dedication and love for his union.

Pete was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2007. At the April membership meeting a motion was passed to donate \$100 to "4 Pete's Sake ALS Foundation" in memory of Pete.

HEY VERIZON WHERE ARE OUR NEW CONTRACT BOOKS?

The question has been asked of the company and we are waiting on the answer. As soon as we have

a response, the information will be posted on the union bulletin boards and on our website!

STAY INFORMED! CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES:

www.cwa-union.org
www.cwa-union.org/verizon/subscribe.html
www.EmployeeFreeChoiceAct.org
www.stop-the-sale.org

YOU ARE INVITED RETIREWISE

CWA Local 2001 is sponsoring a series of four retirement seminars to be held at the local union office. If you want to retire next month, next year, 5 years or 25 years from now, this series will benefit you!

Bill Thomas of MetLife will be conducting the seminars over a four-week period in two-hour modules.

Please register online at www.metliferetirewise.com.

The seminars will be 6pm-8pm on:

Tuesday 5/5/09
 Tuesday 5/12/09
 Tuesday 5/19/09
 Tuesday 6/2/09

**SAVE THE DATE!
AUGUST 16, 2009**

**CWA Local 2001 ANNUAL PICNIC
Shawnee Park, Institute
Additional details will follow at a later date**

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.

Nancy Duffer – Loss of Mother

Dorothy Wilson – Loss of Father

Carmella Smith – Loss of Father-in-Law

Jeanette McComas – Loss of Father

Judy Lundy – Loss of Husband

Robin Mundell – Loss of Father

Janet L. Anderson – Loss of Mother

Michael Kennedy – Loss of Mother

Michelle King – Loss of Brother

Judy Harris – Member

Bruce Clark – Loss of Father

Jerry Clark – Loss of Father

LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.

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Charleston, WV 25311

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