

Local 2001

AFL-CIO AFFILIATE



Adviser

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FEBRUARY 2009

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

AT&T MOBILITY BARGAINING

As the newsletter goes to print, CWA members at AT&T Mobility are working without a contract.

The 2005 Labor Agreement expired February 7, 2009 at 11:59 PM. A settlement was not reached by that time so both sides agreed to "stop the clock" for at least 24 hours. With the clock stopped and negotiations progressing slowly, the UNION requested AT&T extend the provisions under the previous contract by thirty days to allow additional time to reach a fair and equitable contract settlement. AT&T refused and, as of 11:59 PM on February 8, the contract expired.

CWA members at AT&T Mobility remain on the job without a contract. There are a number of reasons this decision was made. The company has been preparing for a strike. By remaining on the job, we are showing the public that our unionized workers care about service quality even if the company does not.

The leadership of our UNION believes that working without a contract is the best and strongest tactic at this time. Our members continue to earn a paycheck. The company cannot change wages or

working conditions. All benefits, including health care, remain in effect.

Members may see a degraded attitude from the company. Notify the union immediately of any mistreatment or intimidation from the company. You have the legal right to mobilize on the job; wear UNION buttons, bracelets or stickers; and to leaflet and informational picket.



Even in these challenging economic times, AT&T Mobility remains an industry leader, is a profitable company, and should be a leader in maintaining quality jobs. AT&T would not enjoy this success without the hard work and dedication of CWA members.

Just as the company's success depends on our members, so does the bargaining committee's. The bargaining committee can only succeed in securing a contract that reflects our members' contributions to the company's success with the involvement of each and every member. Good contracts are achieved by a UNITED membership, standing together and letting their voices be heard.

Your bargaining team will continue to work on proposals on your behalf and remain ready and willing to discuss them with the company. Key issues include the sales compensation plan, sales quota relief, union proposals on wages and pensions for current employees, and an abusive management rights clause.

Stay informed. Go to www.cwa-att-mobility.com for reliable bargaining updates.

Stay mobilized. Continue to wear your CWA button and/or bracelet.

Stay strong. Trust the leadership of CWA and your bargaining committee to continue to work in your best interest.

Stay united. We are only as strong as our weakest member. United we bargain; divided we beg.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES

CWA Local 2001 will conduct an election for the 71st CWA National Convention to be held in Washington, DC, June 22-23, 2009. The Local Election Committee will take nominations from the floor during the regular membership meeting on Thursday, March 12, 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	March 12, 2009
Declinations.....	March 19, 2009
Ballots Mailed.....	April 3, 2009
Duplicates Mailed.....	April 13, 2009
Tabulation.....	May 1, 2009
Challenges	May 8, 2009

UFO 2009

The 2009 CWA/Verizon United Food Operation, (UFO) food drive will run from February 23 through March 20, 2009. Lee Perry, CWA Local 2001's Executive Vice-President, will be working with Joe Long at Verizon to coordinate this joint venture.

Employee donations (a minimum of \$25) are matched by Verizon. The \$25 total does not have to be donated in one lump sum, but can be donated over the 4 week campaign. All monetary contributions must be in check form.

UFO is an independent, non-profit organization that relies entirely on donations and volunteers. Their purpose is to supply food pantries in Kanawha and Putnam counties with non-perishable food items. While the CWA/Verizon UFO campaign lasts only 4 weeks, the overall

campaign runs from January 16 through April 4, 2009.

Bayer CropScience donates warehouse space for UFO. The warehouse is located right off the main entrance at their Institute Site. Volunteers are needed for Fridays and Saturdays to work at the warehouse, more so on Fridays. Please call the local, 344-2001, if you or your group can volunteer any time during the overall campaign.

Our participation is critical to the success of UFO helping families in need. Please watch for information in your work

group as to how you can make this year's campaign a success.

This year our CWA/Verizon campaign will be dedicated in memory of CWA member Matt Phillips and former Bell Atlantic manager and community activist Harold Neal. The overall campaign will be dedicated to Bayer Crop Science employees, James William Oxley and Barry Withrow who died as a result of the August 2008 explosion at the plant.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB NEWS

President Elwood Brown called the January meeting of the Golden Age Club to order with 24 members present.

Information was discussed regarding notification of the increase in the Aetna Prescription Plan.

Retirees are encouraged to visit the CWA website at www.cwaretirees.com and those of other organizations that are working to protect and defend American's retirement security.

Everyone enjoyed the pizza and dessert provided by the union at the February 10 meeting. The menu for March will be soup and sandwiches. We hope to see everyone there.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to our members, and their families, in the loss of their loved ones.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, March 12TH, 2009
7:00 PM
2512 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CWA LOCAL 2001
UNION OFFICE

Visit your Local's
website www.cwa2001.org

Remember: Wear
Red on Thursdays

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

Linda Miller	President
Letha "Lee" Perry.....	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
Jean Arthur.....	Women's Concern Committee
Debby Burdette.....	Election Committee
Letha "Lee" Perry.....	Mobilization Committee

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

You can contact us at
cwa2001newsletter@verizon.net

LOCAL 2001 COMMITTEES - GET INVOLVED

Have you ever thought about getting more involved in your union? Attending membership meetings held the second Thursday of each month is a great start. We would also like to encourage participation by inviting you to become an active member in one or more of CWA Local 2001 committees.

Audit Committee: the audit committee audits the Union's bookkeeping records quarterly.

Chaired by Norm Connard.

Civil Rights and Equity Committee: develops and promotes the CWA Civil Rights program where members of all cultures, religions, sexual orientations, gender, disabilities, ages and nationalities are respected and heard. Chaired by Mike Walker.

Community Services Committee: carries out all programs of the union as mandated by the convention; is involved in activities that pro-

mote the union's presence in the community; volunteering for the betterment of the union and the community.

Chair position currently vacant.

Education Committee: assists in developing the Local's educational programs.

Chaired by Burma Lawson.

Election Committee: conducts all Local nominations and elections.

Chaired by Debbie Burdette.

Entertainment Committee: orchestrates entertainment activity such as the annual picnic and Christmas Kiddie Party. Chaired by Anita Atkinson.

Legislative Committee: assists in developing and pursuing programs of the union and the Local in the Legislative field. Chaired by Robin Young.

Mobilization Committee: coordinates mobilization and education efforts throughout the membership.

Chaired by Lee Perry.

Organizing Committee: assists the Executive Board and stewards in organizing all non-union employees within the Local's jurisdiction. Chaired by Ken Williams.

Safety Committee: oversees workplace safety concerns and solutions.

Chaired by Robin Young.

Union Labels Committee: keeps a current list of all unions in dispute with their employers and reports at membership meetings. The "Do Buy" and "Don't Buy" information we provide sometimes is part of the Union Labels Committee. Chaired by Mary Aliff.

Women's Concerns Committee: assist in educating members on women's issues and concerns.

Chaired by Jean Arthur.

Get involved. The strength of your union depends on YOU, its members.

AMERICA NEEDS THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT (EFCA)

More than half of the people who don't have a union say they would join one tomorrow if given the chance. After all, people who have unions earn 30 percent more than people without unions and are much more likely to have health care and pensions. With a free choice to join unions, working people can bargain for better wages, health care, and pensions to build a better life for their families.

The Employee Free Choice Act is critical in giving employees a voice. It would help America's working families improve their standard of living. It would restore fairness and the promise of the American Dream. We have to actively support the Employment Free Choice Act. To do nothing and idly sit by while a few fight for our union rights is detrimental to our cause. We all need to take action and be involved in supporting and soliciting support for the Employee Free

Choice Act.

From e-activist mail "We all know the Employee Free Choice Act is critical to our economic recovery. Good union jobs helped build America's middle class, and this legislation will rekindle the American Dream by leveling the playing field and empowering workers to form unions and bargain for a better life". That's why greedy CEOs are terrified of this bill, and they're fighting it with every dirty tactic in the book, including misleading ads and shady front groups—all the more powerful due to their big budgets.

But we can win if enough of us get involved. In the coming months, we will join together and make calls to Congress, write letters, and even participate in meetings at the home offices of members of Congress. If millions of people collectively declare their support for the Employee Free

Choice Act, no amount of corporate money can silence us.

Even people not in unions benefit from unions. In a campaign speech prior to the 2008 Presidential elections, President Obama said "I BELIEVE IN UNIONS" stating that if you look at the history of this country, things taken for granted, the forty hour work week, minimum wage, paid over time, health care benefits, paid leave, child labor laws, all were union fights.

CEOs today would not work without a contract. Why do they expect middle class working Americans to be any different?

Join the millions who actively support the Employee Free Choice Act. Become involved, learn more about what this means to you and working people in America. There are several links on our local web site www.cwa2001.org.

YOUR UNION OFFICERS FOR 2009 – 2011 TERM

Officers of CWA Local 2001 took the Oath of Office at the February 12, 2009 membership meeting. Your union leaders bring together a diverse background of experience and knowledge to serve our members and further the union cause.



President – Linda Miller, serving her second term as Local 2001 President. She has been an active CWA member for 28 years and a job steward for 26 years. Linda was on the CWA bargaining committee during negotiations for the Verizon contract last summer. She is a CWA delegate on the Kanawha Valley Labor Council.

Executive Vice President – Letha “Lee” Perry, previously Local 2001 Treasurer and Vice-President at large. Lee has been a CWA member for 19 years, job steward for 9 years. She is also our mobilization chair person.

Treasurer – Delinda Johnson, previously Vice President at large.

Delinda has been a CWA member for 29 years, job steward for 7 years. She is a CWA delegate on the Kanawha Valley Labor Council and is editor of the Local 2001 Advisor newsletter.

Secretary – Robin Young, serving her second term as Local 2001 Secretary. Robin has been a CWA member for 29 years, a job steward for 25 years. She is also Secretary for the Kanawha Valley Labor Council. Robin is the Local 2001 Legislative Committee Chair and our Health and Safety Committee Chair.

VICE PRESIDENTS serving on the E-Board are;

Anita Atkinson, CWA member for 8 years, job steward for 3 years. Anita is our Entertainment Committee Chair.

Brian Breitreutz, CWA member

for 8 years, job steward for 2 years.

Burma Lawson, CWA member for 28 years, job steward for 23 years. This is Burma’s second term as Vice-President at large. She is also our Education Committee Chair.

Dorothy Wilson, CWA member for 29 years, job steward for 22 years. Dorothy also serves as a CWA delegate on the Kanawha Valley Labor Council.

Ken Williams, CWA member for 9 years, job steward for 4 years. Ken is serving his second term as Vice-President at large and also Chairs the Organizing Committee.

Mike Smith, CWA member for 28 years, job steward for 5 years. Mike is serving his second term as Vice-President at large. Mike is our Frontier voice.

ANOTHER UNION BENEFIT – NO COST INSURANCE FOR MEMBERS

American Income Life – www.aillife.com

Is a 100% Union Insurance Company and provides at no cost to our members an Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit. You should have received information recently from American Income Life regarding these benefits. 304-767-8161

Union Secure – www.UnionSecure.com

Provides at no cost an Accidental Death Insurance Coverage of up to \$5000.00. Check the provided web address for additional information or call 1-800-393-0864

BENEFICIARIES AND BENEFITS

PENSIONS – If you are married, your spouse is your automatic beneficiary for your pension. If you are single, widowed, or divorced, you must declare a survivor beneficiary or there will be NO PAYOUT upon your death. Your pension will be forfeited, kept by the company. Many members believe their pension will be paid to their estate, but that is not the case. In order to declare a survivor beneficiary to your pension you simply call the Verizon Benefits

Center at (877) 489-2367. While you’re at it, verify your Group Life Insurance, Supplemental Life Insurance, and 401K beneficiaries are current also.

DEATH BENEFIT – If you were employed by Bell Atlantic as of August 1986, you need to contact the Verizon Benefits Center at (877) 489-2367 and ask if you qualify for the “Death Benefit”. If you qualify, ask them to send you a certificate acknowledging this benefit for your records.

The benefit is over and above the life insurance members receive from the Company and costs you nothing. The insurance is one years salary at the time of death or what the salary was when you retired. The benefit begins reducing at age 65 and goes to ½ or your salary at age 70. It does not reduce any more than 50% of the year’s salary at the time you retired. A family member has one year from the time of your passing to collect this benefit.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Here are two scholarships currently offered to union members:

The Joe Beirne Foundation will award 15 partial college scholarships up to \$3000 each. Eligible for the awards are CWA members and their spouses, children, and grandchildren, including those of retired or deceased members. Deadline is

March 31, 2009. Visit the website, www.cwa-union.org/members/beirne for additional information.

CWA Local 2001 also offers a \$500 scholarship through our Community Services Committee. All members in good standing, their children, or legal wards are eligible. An essay of no less than 500 words must be submit-

ted along with the application. Deadline for this scholarship is April 30. Please call the local at 344-2001 for information on applications.

Please check in upcoming CWA Advisor issues for information regarding another scholarship sponsored by the CWA Local 2001 Women's Concerns Committee.

BELL RINGERS REPORT

Saturday, December 20, CWA Local 2001 and other unions in the Kanawha Valley raised a total of \$16,775 for the Salvation Army.

Participating local members and their families were: Laura Beard, Becky Combs, Mike and Phyl-

lis Smith, Kenny Williams, Robin Young and niece Christiana, Dennis Miller, Delinda Johnson, Lee Perry, Burma Lawson, Dorothy Wilson, Linda Miller, Elaine Evans, Norm Connard, and Mike Brown.

CWA Local 2001 manned the

bell ringing station at the Chili's end of the Town Center Mall. Pedestrian traffic was good and everyone had an enjoyable time collecting money for this great cause. We hope to have everyone back next year and see some new member participation as well!

POT-O-GOLD

The POT-O-GOLD membership attendance contest is to be discontinued. For over a year now members have had an opportunity to win extra cash at membership meetings. Missing out on the \$100 Pot-O-Gold payout at the December membership

meeting was Garrison Moore and Aaron Hayes. What a shame, would have made for some nice Christmas cash. Christina Morris and Sherry Redman's names were drawn at the January membership meeting. Neither was present to take home \$120. Finally

at the February membership meeting Linda Blankenship and Mike Vandergriff missed their opportunity to leave \$140 richer.

Any future contest for membership meetings will be announced in the CWA ADVISOR.

NEW JOB STEWARDS

Welcome new job stewards Chris Cummings, Becky Parkins and Jeremy Sweeney.

Chris is a Cable Splicing Technician working at 1500 MacCorkle Av, Charleston in the Dispatch Resource Center. Becky is a Consultant in the Enterprise Solutions Group also at 1500 MacCorkle Av, Charleston and Jeremy is a Cable Splicing

Technician working out of the Montgomery crew.

We always encourage members to take an active role in their union. These members have taken the next step by committing to help protect the jobs and welfare of their fellow union members and use their leadership skills to build the union.

UNION NEGOTIATED \$\$\$

As negotiated by your union, Verizon Corporate Profit Sharing (CPS) checks will be distributed no later than March 15, 2009 to all eligible Verizon employees. The amount this year will be a minimum of \$700 and will be paid by separate payroll remittance. **Another union benefit!**

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.

Bradley Wheeler - Loss of Father
 John Whitehair - Loss of Mother
 Rick Harding - Loss of Grandmother
 James Quinn - Loss of Wife
 Michelle Miller - Loss of Husband
 Tiffany Champe - Loss of Father-in-law
 Wilma Layne - Loss of Brother
 Golda Sowards - Loss of Mother-in-law
 Vickey Casto - Loss of Father
 Robert L Wagner - Loss of Mother
 Elizabeth Carney – Loss of Father

Robin Evans – Loss of Grandfather
 Pam Carpenter – Loss of Grandmother
 Rick Mosier – Loss of Mother-in-law
 Annette O’Dell – Loss of Mother
 Drema White – Loss of Brother-in-law
 D. Brent White – Loss of Brother
 Frank Thomas – Loss of Father
 Valerie Cobb – Loss of Husband
 Karen Hodges – Loss of Father
 Jeffrey Hodges – Grandfather

2009 Holiday Calendar

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

New Year’s Day	January 1
President’s Day	February 16
Memorial Day	May 25
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 7
Veteran’s Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 26
Day after Thanksgiving	November 27
Christmas Day	December 25
Floating Holiday	Your Choice

Enjoy your Union negotiated Holidays!

LOCAL 2001, C.W.A.
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 Charleston, WV 25311

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