



# HOTLINE

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL 2201

VOLUME 28, ISSUE NO. 2

February 2007

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## A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH

The life of A. Philip Randolph mirrors the progress of the American labor movement during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He began his crusades at a time when the nation was seeking to reverse the laissez-faire doctrines that the large corporations had been allowed to follow. The increasing industrialization of the country showed the need for organized labor groups. The United States would have to go through a World War, an economic boom and a financial depression before real progress could be made for working men (and women during a Second World War.) Along with the creation of a unified national labor organization the modern day Civil Rights movement began.

unrepresented working masses he was ask by the railroad employees of the Pullman Sleeping Car Company to help them organize. These black men were the overworked, underpaid workers on the nation's trains. On

Porters". This was the first contract negotiated with a major American company and an all black union.

The successes on the labor front did not hide the slow progress in civil rights. After the start of World War II many government-funded industries began the hiring of workers long since idle during the Great Depression. Mr. Randolph had lobbied for fair and equal employment in the war effort. He had threatened to call for a march on Washington, D.C. to demand fair treatment. In response to his call for action President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order for "fair employment practices" in the war industry factories. Mr. Randolph had asked, along with others, President Harry S. Truman to end discrimination in the armed forces. This was also done, by executive order, in 1948. The end of the war had seen a great surge in labor unrest and desires for forward advancement. This lead in 1955 to the formation of a unified national



Mr. Randolph was born in 1889 in Crescent City, Florida. He moved to Harlem in 1911 and by 1917 had founded a newspaper, the "Messenger". The paper was a tool to spread the word about the injustices in the work place. Because of his championing the clauses of the

August 25, 1925 the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was founded. Randolph would travel the country helping these men to build membership in their union. Their efforts were rewarded in 1937 when the Pullman Company signed a union agreement with the "Pullman

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organization with the merger of the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to become the present day AFL-CIO. That year Mr. Randolph was named a vice-president to the new group's executive council.

His support of civil rights efforts continued. He was one of the main supporters of the 1963 March on Washington. To be the main organizer of the March he chose Bayard Rustin. The fruits of their work were the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It was in 1965 that

**"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right to work.' It provides no rights and no work. It's purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining. We demand this fraud be stopped."**

- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr

Randolph (1889-1979) and Rustin (1912-1987) founded the A. Philip Randolph Institute to help with voter registration, voter education and voter participation. Our local

Richmond Chapter was founded, in large part, due to efforts of members of CWA Local 2201.

So as we recognize the contributions of African-Americans this year during Black History Month, we also salute the work of A. Philip Randolph in making life better for the working men and women in the American labor movement.

Kirk Jones,

Equity Committee Chair

(sources: APRI national web site and pamphlets)

## CIVIL RIGHTS AND LABOR

The Labor movement fights for the rights of working men and women in America. This has also included fighting for the rights of minorities. Many Civil Rights leaders have also been Union leaders such as A. Phillip Randolph, profiled in this issue. In honor of Black History and the impact that African-Americans have had on the labor movement we have included selected quotes and pictures, scattered throughout this issue, that highlight this relationship. A relationship that continues to this day.

Being a Union member has taught us that if we want something in life we must fight for it. That fight was never greater than the civil rights movement. Yet as that fight still continues so does the fight for working men and women. We have learned that if we stop fighting then all that we have won we will steadily lose. The battle never ends.



Source - <http://www.laborphotos.cornell.edu>

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Brothers and Sisters,

February has been a busy month to say the least. I would first like to thank everyone who recently helped fight our on going battle against Verizon and their self gain legislation. I would also like to recognize Richard Hatch, John Gregory, and Kirk Jones for all they did above and beyond the call of duty at the General Assembly. With complete support from District 2 and Headquarters it made it a lot easier for our Executive Board and all Stewards involved to strategically work to eliminate the push from Verizon that has had steam since November. There is still a lot of work to be done, if we continue to work as hard as we have I am confident we can give Governor Kaine eve-

rything he will need to veto House Bill 1755.

February 13<sup>th</sup> our local had 23 activists go through the first round of Stewards Army training. Chris Flock and Dana Trainum will work with our state trainer to meet our local goal of 250 to be trained by June. Just imagine the power we would have had against the legislation if our Stewards Army had already been in place. With this said we will continue to train our members and prepare ourselves to go on the offensive, leading up to the expiration of our contract in 2008. With all unions coming together to build The Stewards Army we will not only protect contracts and bargaining rights we will change the direction of the Labor Movement and secure the rights for all working families.

It is very exciting to see the solidarity of our members all focused on the same goals. With all the knowledge, talent and dedication

of our members it gives me a strong sense of pride to be part of such a wonderful organization. We will continue to strengthen our local and build a solid communication network so we can mobilize together when needed to protect the rights and benefits of all our members. Thank you once again for all your hard work and loyalty to CWA.

In Solidarity,

Chris Lane

President 2201



Source - <http://www.lib.memphis.edu/mcrrc/photofil.html>

## HB1755 - THE FIGHT CONTINUES

First, we need to thank all of you for the wonderful job that you have done in fighting the change to the Utility Transfers Act (HB1755). Since we became aware of this legislation, Local 2201 and all of CWA has rallied and done amazing things to try and turn this around. Verizon, however, is still up to their dirty tricks.

Through political games, the bill that was sent to the Governor, HB1755, appears to have overwhelming support for its passage. We all know that this is not the truth. Verizon had Senator Wagner, patron of SB1143, delay and then pull that bill before the House of Delegates could vote again on the issue. They are attempting to undo all the work that you have all done in convincing your legislators that this is a bad bill. Since we have shed light on what this bill could really do to Virginia, many members of the House of Delegates have decided to no longer support it.

Many of you may wonder how the legislators would support this anyway. It seems clear to us that it would hurt the citizens of Virginia and us as employees. The fact of the matter is most legislation is not debated over or even talked about. The General Assembly relies on committees to review bills and unless someone argues against it they are rarely read. An inefficient system, but the sheer number of bills that are sent through each year make it an impossibility to be an expert on each one.

This is why lobbying is so important. It is why we must be involved in politics and it is why corporations are heavily involved in politics. We cannot compete on money. We must rely on all of us members to get in-

involved and take action when needed.

That action has gotten us to where we are today with HB1755. The only hope that we have now is if we can get the community to rally with us and show the Governor that he needs to veto this bill for the good of Virginia.



The way that we show him is to continue to get the word out. We must take this on a larger scale. Many of you have asked what more can we do to fight.

First, we must involve our neighbors. The local has the petitions that were being passed around and we must collect as many signatures as possible to prove the support that we know is out there. Those petitions have to be turned in, at the local, by March 7th. If you need a petition, call the local at (804) 266-2201.

Second, We have to send the message to the media. Local media has not wanted to publish our side of this due to the large amounts of advertising dollars that corporations, including Verizon, pay. Freedom of the Press is not always that free. We can, however, send in letters to the editor, call our radio stations and con-

tinue to send the message to them until it is a big enough issue that they must report on it. This should be done to the large papers, like the Times-Dispatch, and also smaller local papers that might be more interested.

Third, We need to maintain the momentum. So often in our workplace an issue arises and our co-workers become complacent about fighting something that should be fought. The company knows that it can outlast the hoopla and then act like we agreed to it. We must ensure that this does not happen here. Talk to your co-workers and make sure that they are getting involved and taking the message to their neighborhoods. Offer them help if they need it and contact the local for any support.

Finally to continue to fight these issues we must have everyone involved. The way that we can fight for our rights and against bad politics is through COPE (Council on Political Education) For as little as a \$1 a week we can all make a difference. As an example of how important COPE is, our lobbyist, Kirk Jones, was trying to compete with four of Verizon's Lobbyists. We need to rely on each other and sometimes it takes a little bit of money. Please call the local to find out how to contribute today.

In this issue of the Hotline, there is a focus on the struggle for civil rights. This fight was not only in the streets but ultimately in the halls of Congress. Congress had to change the laws to ensure that the rights of citizenship applied equally to all. America is quickly becoming a land of the haves and have-nots. As Union members, with a fought-for contract, we have pay and benefits that help us maintain ourselves and give back to the community. That comes at a cost of remaining constantly vigilant and struggling

*(Continued on page 5)*



Important Telephone Numbers**Verizon Benefits Center-**

877.275-8947

**CWA Retiree Health Care Benefit-**

888-324-4969

**Aetna US Healthcare-**

800-247-5482

**Medco Health Prescription-**

877-877-1878

**MetLife Dental Plans-**

800-988-8331

**Aetna DMO-**

800-843-3661

**Davis Vision LASIK Network-**

877-999-7006

**MetLife Insurance-**

800-638-4228

**Marsh@Work Solutions-**

800-336-9427

**Mutual of Omaha Long-term-**

800-877-1052

**ADP COBRA (Does Billing)-**

800-891-0535

**Fidelity Investments-**

888-457-9333

**United Healthcare (pre 12/31/89)-**

800-334-4515

**Principal Financial Group****John Bennett-**

804-323-7847

**NOTICE FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Election Committee would like to thank those of you who return your ballots when an election takes place. There are some, however, who are not participating in these elections and some members have expressed concern over people not understanding the process. In an effort to increase the amount of votes we get back, we are issuing this brief explanation.

When there is cause for an election of any type, we must get ballots to those eligible to vote. Each member eligible to vote will be sent one notice of election with instructions, one secret ballot, one ballot envelope and one return addressed, postage-paid, mailing envelope. Each voter must:

- Mark the ballot as provided in the instructions.
- Fold and place the ballot in the ballot envelope.
- Seal it.
- Place the sealed ballot in the return addressed envelope.
- Seal it.
- Mail it.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

We would like to wish everyone a good 2007, and thank you all for a successful 2006, for the work we do gives us joy to see everyone happy.

There is a song that says: "If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vane.", and that's all the Social and all the other Committees want to do. Help by feeding the mind with education, the heart by giving, the soul with caring and passing the good to someone else. We all need to work but sometimes we need to stop and live a little by having some fun.

The counting of ballots is the next step. The ballots are kept in a post office box until the election committee retrieves them. The election committee picks up the ballots and takes them back to the Local to be counted.

First, we pull all ballots that are received after the deadline and put them in a "void" pile. Next we arrange the returns in alphabetical order and check the names off our most current membership list. We count the ballots as well as the number of names checked off. If the count is off in any way we re-do both counts. After we verify this information is correct, we open all the ballots and put the white envelopes in a separate pile. We save the return envelopes as well as the ballots for one year. The white envelopes are then opened and ballots put together. After all have been opened, we proceed to count the ballots. We check, double check and re-check our final numbers.

The winner/winners of any elections are called and advised of the final outcome. Other candidates are notified of the outcome as well. An official form of the election results is given to all executive officers and kept on file for one year.

- Fran Nevel, Election Committee Chairperson

This coming year the Social Committee Team plans to bring different and exciting events so look for the dates and make a note hope to see you this year.

The Committee is looking for members who are willing & interested in being apart of any of our Committees, if interested please call the local # 266-2201.

May your New Year be great.

**NEW MEMBERS**

CWA Local 2201 would like to welcome the following people who have joined our union.

Izell Allen  
 LaToya Beard  
 Andrew Boyd Jr.  
 Robert Bristow  
 April Brown  
 Ralph Brown  
 Faith Burke  
 Keith Camphuysen  
 Jerry Crenshaw

James Ellis  
 Nancelia Gambrell  
 Arthur Gathers Jr.  
 Paul Goff  
 Shala Gray  
 DeAnne Harvey  
 Natasha Heckstall  
 Kaila Mapels  
 Brant Markow  
 Justin Morgan

Norman Theron  
 Candace Sledga  
 Robert Snellings  
 Steven Soto Rios  
 Darryl Stewart  
 Larry Sylvester  
 Sherrell Thompson  
 Jodie Wilkins  
 Sheryl Winston  
 George Woodson

"...So they are trying to do something about it. They are not doing it by seeking charity. They are not begging at the welfare office. They are not, like many of their employers, lobbying the halls of Congress with their gold plated tin cups asking to be paid for not growing crops. They are trying to do it in the way that millions of other Americans have shown is the right way-organization, unionism, collective bargaining."

- Cesar Chavez



Source - <http://www.laborphotos.cornell.edu>

**CAREER NIGHT AT THE LOCAL**

On January 23rd, Local 2201 put on a career night providing many of you the opportunity to meet with representatives from local schools.

As I scanned the sign-in sheet it became apparent there are union members who want to use education to enhance their futures. Many of you currently attend school, yet many of our peers remain on the fence and Career Night allowed those to step up and take control of their life. While attending Career Night members were given the opportunity to speak with representatives from Mary Baldwin, ODU, VCU, University of Phoenix and many others. For those unable to attend, we have course catalogs available.

As the Education Chair, I will continue to stress to you that educating yourself will prepare you for the future you want.

- Amanda Todd, Education Chairperson

**SUBMISSIONS FOR HOTLINE**

Remember to send in your submissions for the HOTLINE to Suzanne @ the Local. She can be reached at 804 266-2201 or [editor@cwa2201.org](mailto:editor@cwa2201.org). Any fax submissions should be sent to 804 266-8572. This would include any articles, ideas for articles, condolences, congratulations, corrections and any questions or complaints that you might have. The HOTLINE goes out to the entire membership and is the best way to get your message out.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March 6, 2007 Idearc Job Steward Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.
- March 8, 2007 Idearc Membership Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.
- March 10, 2007 Group Job Steward Meeting, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Local Office.
- March 15, 2007 Women’s Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.
- March 15, 2007 Community Services Committee Meeting, 6:00p.m., Local Office.
- March 22, 2007 Organizing Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.
- March 27, 2007 Community Services Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Local Office.
- March 27, 2007 Health & Safety Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.
- March 27, 2007 Outside Plant North (OPN) Job Steward Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Local Office.
- March 28, 2007 Education Committee Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Local Office.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Next Membership Meeting:**  
Thursday April 12th, 6pm at the Local Office

**Retiree’s Membership Meeting:**

Wednesday March 14th, 12pm @ the Local Office

**RICHMOND CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL**

Thursday, March 8th  
231 East Belt Blvd  
Richmond, VA

Communications Workers of America  
Local 2201  
5809 Lakeside Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23228

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