

Communications Workers of America Local 2201

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President —Chris Lane
Executive Vice-President —
Richard Hatch
Secretary Treasurer —
Robbie Johnson

VICE - PRESIDENTS

OS/RS—Rodney Story
(Operator Services/Repair
Services)
OPS East/Fredericksburg—Jim
Morris
OPS—Tommy Crowder
(Outside Plant North)
OPN—Cameron Hunt
(Outside Plant North)
IPO — Kim Johnson
(Inside Plant Operations)
FAS—Bre Armbrust
(Financial Administrative
Services)
CDS & Idearc — David Vincent
(Commercial Directory Services)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS- VERIZON

Benefits Center—877 275-8947
CWA Retiree Health Care Bene-
fits—888 324-4969
Aetna US Healthcare—800 247-
5482
Medco Health Prescriptions—
877 877-1878
MetLife Dental Plans—800 988-
8331
Aetna DMO—800 843-3661
Davis Vision Network—
877 999-7006

HEALTHCARE COORDINATORS

FMLA—Disability—Paula Treever
888 571-7218
Benefits (Active) - John Petrini
800 627-0200

BENEFITS RETIREE

Sue Anderson—888 324-4969

AT&T BENEFITS CENTER— 877
421 5225

AT&T DISABILITY/FMLA

Gates MacDonald Call 866 4-
LEAVES

Communications Workers of America
Local 2201
5809 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23228
Phone 804-266-2201

Time Valued



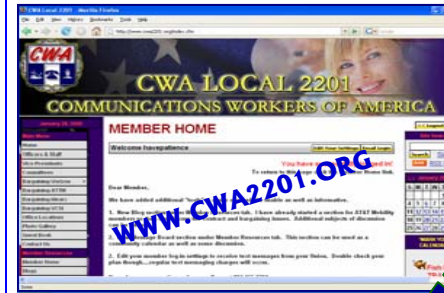
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA HOTLINE LOCAL 2201

VOLUME 30, Issue 1

NEW HOTLINE NEWSLETTER

We are changing the way in which we send out newsletters to make it more timely, save money and hopefully involve more of you in the process.

The goal is to send out, through handouts and email, a condensed version on a monthly basis and a more comprehensive version every quarter mailed to every member. The email version will be the same, in a PDF, and was a suggestion from a member. (Thanks Greer).



In addition to the newsletter our website is updated with all the latest info and should be a primary source of information. The address is WWW.CWA2201.ORG.



Meet Suzanne Terry, the CWA 2201 Secretary and wearer of many hats. Many of you have spoken to Suzanne when calling the Local and it is nice to put a face to a voice. She is a proud union member of OPEIU 334 and not only makes sure that we are taken care of but works as an activist for her own Union. Next time you're at the Local tell Suzanne you saw her in print.

AT&T MOBILITY BARGAINING

Bargaining on January 21st. AT&T Mobility started bargaining with CWA over the **"Orange"** contract. The contract covers most of the 43,000 AT&T Mobility workers that CWA represents. 2201 represents Mobility technicians and retail employees from Fredericksburg to Charlottesville to Colonial Heights.

Since Healthcare was determined by Arbitration ruling for AT&T, this bargaining focuses on life issues. Surveys were sent out nationwide and CWA held a special meeting in

off. These issues and others are being put before AT&T to force changes that the company has refused to give. We can make change by working together. No change happens without work. This work includes mobilization and letting the company know that we are united.

Many of our AT&T members have not been through bargaining before. This is new to them. If you are a mobility member, understand that you are not alone. CWA represents over 170,000 union members at AT&T, both core and mobility. It is the largest represented group for a single employer. The purpose of a union is for us all to stick together no matter who our employer is. That will happen here. **If you do not work for AT&T, please visit one of the stores and let them know that you are with them in this fight.**

Bargaining for the National contract is being done right here in our backyard in Richmond. The pressure is on us to show AT&T our strength. Bargaining reports are coming out daily. The local is sending them out through email and on our website at www.cwa2201.org. If you are not receiving these emails then please call the local at (804) 266-2201 to update your information. Additional information can be found at www.cwa-attmobility.com. Stay Strong and United.

New Year! New Look!
UNION PROUD!



Dallas, Texas to discuss what issues to bring to the table. The meeting brought together retail sales, call centers and technicians. Each job has its own unique issue but they share a common goal, in bargaining, of fair and safe work conditions. Main issues that have risen to the top deal with quota relief, schedules, job security, safety, wages and "real" time"

Americans want legislation that makes it easier for workers to bargain with their employers for better wages, benefits and working conditions. Sixty-nine percent of Americans agree that it is important to have strong laws that give employees the freedom to make their own choice about whether to form a union in their workplace. The current law in place, the

Employee Free Choice Act

National Labor Relations Act was originally designed to protect workers and their right to form a union but along the way it has become distorted and broken. A new law is needed to place the power to organize back into the hands of the workers. The Employee Free Choice Act, a proposed legislation that will be introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, contains three main provisions designed to re-establish the balance between employers and employees. These three main provisions are:

Allow employees to have a union once a majority of employees in a workplace sign authorization cards indicating they want to form a union.

Establish binding arbitration in cases where a company and a newly certified union cannot agree on a contract after three months of negotiating.

Strengthen penalties for companies that illegally intimidate or fire employees who try to form a union.

Opponents of the Employee Free Choice Act have based their opposition on the misconception that the act would take away the

employees right to have a secret ballot election. This is simply not true. Under the current law, employees show a majority of support for the union through petitions or union authorization cards or petitions and then petition their employer to recognize their union and begin bargaining a contract. At this time under the National Labor Relations Act, the employer can choose to recognize the majority sign-up or ignore this and call for a secret ballot election through the National Labor Relations Board. The process of election is long and is often used by employers to intimidate and coerce their employees into voting down the union.

The Employee Free Choice Act would remove the power to demand a vote from the employer's hands and place it in the employee's hands where it belongs. If 30% of employees desire a secret ballot election then the election is held, with shorter time-frames and stiffer penalties when the employer violates the law. If the employees achieve their majority sign up and do not desire a secret ballot election then the company would be required by law to recognize their union and begin negotiating their first contract. The employer would no longer drag out negotiations for years or

until the employees become so afraid, frustrated, and disgusted that their efforts fail.

Many Americans don't realize that employers generally oppose unions. Our legislators may not realize how hard it is to gain a voice at work. Please take a few minutes to contact Senator Mark Warner and Senator Jim Webb and ask them to support and cosponsor this incredibly important bill.

When calling you can read this statement or make up one of your own.

"Hello, my name is (your name here) and I am one of the Senator's constituents. I'm calling to ask the Senator to stand with working Americans by supporting the Employee Free Choice Act. This bill will help protect workers' rights and strengthen the middle class.

Will the Senator support and cosponsor this legislation?"

If you prefer to write a letter, their

mailing addresses are shown below. Please be part of this mobilization effort. Contact our Senators, and let us know you called, emailed or wrote a letter!



JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Senator Mark Warner
B40C Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2023
or on the web at <http://warner.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

Senator Jim Webb
144 Russell Senate Office Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-4024 or on the web at <http://webb.senate.gov/contact/>
* other websites to visit:

www.cwa2201.org
www.FreeChoiceAct.org

Congratulations Graduates!

I am very thankful to have the opportunity that Verizon and the CWA have provided for me with our contract. We have a great job which is union protected in a very tough economy. We must make ourselves marketable by getting degrees and expanding our minds.
Lakeshia J. Tinsley

The 2201 Local would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in the Breakfast with Santa during the Christmas season. We all hope to see you next year!!!



The CWA local 2201 has been there with me from the beginning. Without this "bargained for" benefit during these tough economic times, I don't know how I could have afforded to pay for school. So today, I say thanks CWA, and thanks Amanda Todd, CWA 2201 Education Chair person, for sharing in my success. Levia D. Moore

From the desk of the Education Chair