



COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA HOTLINE

WHY UNION?

any
a member, but the union helped you and others get your jobs back after an improper termination. Perhaps you enjoy contract negotiated pay increases provided for you by **hard earned union dues**, but you choose not to contribute. Approximately 80,000 workers are on the job at AT&T Core without a contract, while the CWA continues working behind the scenes on their behalf. Imagine what it would be like if there were no union right now. Would we have a job to go to each day?

If union members of old could see how people so easily discard and fail to appreciate the organizations that are the glue holding their jobs together today, **they would roll over in their graves**. Back in the early 1900s, unions were formed by people whose backs were broken from working in sweat shops, while tolerating unsafe working conditions or ruthless mistreatment by employers. It was not uncommon to have loss of life which rendered families of workers destitute and helpless. Thanks to their perseverance, determination and sometimes bloodshed, laws were enacted to protect a citizen's right to organize. Over the past few years these laws have been watered down by corporate America and their well paid lobbyists. The Employee Free Choice Act's purpose is to restore those laws and impose serious penalties for breaking them.

Will it take losing everything before people wake up and realize our rights are gone? Nothing is perfect, and nothing is guaranteed, but it is easier to hold on to and fight to keep what you have, than trying to start over from scratch. **What happens in the next years with unions is up to you**. You can be instrumental in helping people hold on to their rights, or you can sit on the sidelines and watch corporate America do whatever they want with our livelihoods. According to the latest news releases and published transcripts, there may be up to 8,000 more Verizon jobs on the chopping block this year. It is possible that many of the jobs will be outside the Potomac Region, but no one knows for sure.

In the Quarterly webcast with Ivan Seidenburg and Dennis Strigl, Mr. Strigl responded to a question asked by the audience about work force reduction. He said **"The only way to serve our customers with fewer employees is by automating our systems and streamlining our processes. We've made progress in 18 months, but there's work to be done."** Please tune in to the Verizon E-Web under Quarterly Update. Mr. Strigl's goal is to **serve our customers with fewer employees** and automation appears to be the **"weapon of choice"**. Please read the following pages and learn how you can help.



Dennis Strigl

- Freedom to Organize (Employee Free Choice Act)
- Health Care Reform
- Unity and Mobilization
- On the Job



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—It has been a while since our last newsletter due to some unsuccessful distribution trials. We are back on schedule with a talented new editor, Janice Bly, who will be a great addition to the team. Thanks Janice.

Back to business, It has been a stressful year regardless of the company you work for. At Verizon there have been more management and policy changes than in the last decade. It is obvious to most everyone that we are being managed from the **'highest level'**. This is causing stress inside and out. Whether it is jobs per day, total job performance, average handle time, Skycreek (call ahead/back tracking system for Technicians), or any other issue that is their **"flavor of the week"**, there is undue stress put on us. Most of us also know about the possible sale to Frontier Communications and the 8,000 surplus jobs at Verizon Communications.

Our District Vice President Ron Collins, has put together a district wide Mobilization Committee Team and re-implemented the Stress Committee to attack these issues. At the local level we have met with Vice Presidents and senior leadership at Verizon to address issues. We will work hard together to continue removing road blocks and excuses. The main focus is **keeping our jobs here**.

Our area has been bypassed for most declared surpluses with a few exceptions being addressed by our district. We must keep doing our part to take care of customers, ensure the highest quality of service, and put our **union stamp** on all work.

Let us continue to move forward and work together taking ownership of this fight to protect our quality of life. I would like to thank our all-star team for their continued hard work and dedication to the members of 2201. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next membership meeting.

In Solidarity, Chris Lane, President, 2201



SECRETARY—TREASURER'S MESSAGE—I have been around this company for almost 36 years. It has provided me with a good living for myself and my family. What I want people to understand is, **without this union**, that living would not be the same. You might not always agree with all views of the union, but always look at the big picture. We must stand

together and **fight the fight** to secure our future.

The company is changing drastically and we must do the same to survive. Most have seen or heard of the discipline Verizon hands out everyday. We must not allow ourselves to be a target. **Come to work! Come to work on time! Do your job to the best of your ability and then go home to your families!** It's a good living that we make and it's because of the fight that has been fought for a lot of years. If you know of co-workers who are not union members, please explain the advantages the union has secured for all of us. I want to thank our Executive Board, Committee Chairs, Job Stewards and everyone who participates in our union events and activities.

In Solidarity,

Robbie Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer



On July 2, 2009, CWA members participated in more than 200 visits with their senators, representatives and staff during CWA's Lobby Day and the combined Convention/Legislative-Political conference. Members also had the opportunity to discuss other pressing issues while they were there. * *Excerpt from National CWA website.*



Freedom to Organize

Fact

Bly

Janice

Fact

Fact



Health Care Reform



**No Joke,
There really
is a crisis!**

Janice Bly





Selling of Wireline Services in 14 States

During the month of May, Verizon announced that it would get rid of its wire line facilities in 14 states, including West Virginia. Although disturbing, this should come as no surprise. **For years we have been saying that Verizon is trying to divide us.** We have warned that they are trying to split our bargaining unit and default on the commitments that they have made to both the customers and their employees.

The fact is that Verizon has used the money from wire line in the monopoly they held for decades to fund their growth of wireless, FIOS and business. Now that they have sucked dry the wire line side they want to get rid of it and turn their back on the customers who helped build this company and the employees that service them. This should not be allowed.

You should remember that New Hampshire and Vermont went to Fairpoint. That move was done in a financial deal that allowed Verizon to shift responsibility and overburden a debt-laden company without paying their fair share of taxes. In that case, CWA was able to intervene and make the deal more palatable to the employees who were affected but it has been a raw deal for consumers.

Two years ago we fought a bill that Verizon introduced that was designed to make it

easier to take this type of action here in Virginia. This would have allowed Verizon to go through this process without any say from a Virginia Regulatory agency. So now if Verizon tried to pull this here they would have to get approval. This is the same type of approval process that Verizon is going to have to go through in the states that are affected by this announcement.

Many of us have co-workers we work with on a daily basis in some of these states or we support the employees that work there. **We know this will have an impact but what that might be is unclear.** This local has been assured that CWA is committed to fighting this deal. In this battle your help will probably be needed, even though Virginia is not mentioned.

As we receive more information this will be communicated. As the strength in a Union has always been all of us joining together, we must join with our brothers and sisters in these states and fight to ensure their security and the best possible outcome for us and the customers we serve.

Richard Hatch
Executive
Vice-President

CWA Expresses Concerns for West Virginia Landline Customers—

CWA President Larry Cohen, District 2 Vice President Ron Collins, West Virginia AFL-CIO President Kenny Perdue and CWA staff met with Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV.) and key staff about the serious issues raised by Verizon's plan to sell landlines in the state to Frontier Communications.

CWA is raising concerns that the sale will affect quality service for consumers and will mean more roadblocks for the build out of high speed broadband networks in West Virginia. Without high speed Internet, West Virginia residents won't have access to applications like tele-medicine and distance learning and businesses will be restricted in growing new jobs.

* *Excerpt from National CWA website.*

Broadband Expansion Program

CWA SPEED MATTERS CAMPAIGN—

Vice President Biden announces broadband expansion program, 7/13/09. As part of a "rural America tour" Vice President Joe Biden alongside Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski announced a plan to create a \$4.7 billion loan and grant program to build the necessary infrastructure to expand broadband access to underserved areas. Earlier this month, Biden spoke at the CWA National Convention and cited the success of CWA's Speed Matters campaign. Read the Whole Story at www.speedmatters.org

Unity and Mobilization



Meet Chris Flock, the 2201 Organizer. She works with each local in the state to make sure mobilization activities are organized and facilitated on time, every time. She also works with Kerri Ross and Ryan Couch at our local. Please congratulate Chris on her new position. She puts in many hours of hard work to make sure mobilization activities run smoothly. Thanks Chris for all of your hard work.



Bill Evitt — Bill Evitt is currently our Staff Representative for District 2. Bill also served as a President for local 2201 for thirteen years. Thanks Bill for the work you do for 2201 and District 2.

ANNUAL 2201 PICNIC



Idearc
VCSI

Did You Know?

Progress Index

AT&T Mobility

Did you know that CWA 2201 represents employees at different companies? We would like to recognize union members from the following companies who are dedicated to help 2201 succeed.

Thank you!

Verizon Communications

Ben Franklin

Idearc seeks Bankruptcy Protection

Idearc filed for bankruptcy protection on March 31, 2009. The bankruptcy announcement is a traditional Chapter 11. As of March the stock was down 99% and has been delisted by the NYSE. Since the company was spun off by Verizon, the biggest issue has been debt of over \$9 billion in secured and unsecured obligations. CWA is seeking a seat on the oversight committee and is ready to work with the company to develop and implement a new business model. Most of all, the CWA is doing everything possible to protect members' interests.

* Excerpt from the March 2009 issue of the *2108 News*.

Avaya Tentative Agreement Reached

Highlights of Agreement reached in June 2009:

Continuation of Alliance funding, certification program reduction to offset health care costs, 401k (1 yr suspension to match to offset health care costs), job security for all titles and no layoffs for 9 months, active medical health care benefits and no premiums, no deductible, retiree medical health care benefits, improved safety language, improved funeral leave, improved travel allowances, GPS language letter, voluntary unpaid excused work week, wage increase for 3 years, pension increase for active, continuation of Avaya Award, term pay retention, coordinator retention.

Please visit www.cwa2201.org for detailed information.

AT & T Mobility Agreement Reached

Regional Agreement was reached and runs from February 8, 2009—February 9, 2013. Please visit www.cwa2201.org to read the entire 2009 Regional Labor Agreement. Congratulations to all!



Verizon has been covering members on the new Attire Guideline over the past months. Verizon alleges to have the CWA's blessing on the policy. ***No agreement to this policy exists.***

The Executive Officers and Board are currently working on this. There has been a meeting with the Director of Labor Relations at Verizon and CWA legal counsel. This is an ongoing situation and updates will be posted at WWW.CWA2201.ORG. If you are spoken to or reprimanded about your wardrobe, please see a steward immediately.



Please wear

RED

on Thurs-

The red shirt with collar is available to purchase at the 2201 local office or online at

Get one today!

TNG-CWA Member among Nine Victims of Subway

Doolittle, 59, had worked for the past decade at the American Nurses Association. "She was highly committed to nursing around the globe. She was not a nurse, but she was the face of this organization internationally," ANA Executive Director Jeanne Floyd told reporters. "She was a joyful, joyful individual." Doolittle's death was announced at the end of the CWA convention in July. She was one of nine people killed and many others injured when a Metro train slammed into the rear of a second train.



** From National CWA website*

An Executive Level grievance has been filed against the Company for not providing the contracts in a timely manner. At this time, we have been informed that they are being printed.



GET EDUCATED

Amanda

Amanda Todd, Education Chairperson

**Congratulations Graduates
Testimonials**



EQUITY

Kirk



WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

On the morning of February 26, 2009, Brian Stanley, a Coin Collector for Verizon, was doing what most of us do, working on his job. On this particular morning Brian was at a pay phone finishing his collection and overheard a customer at the gas pump talking. A ten year old boy was helping his mom return the gas nozzle to the pump when

flames that engulfed the upper part of his body. Brian was about 50 feet away. Within 3-4 seconds he and

another gentleman ran to the boy, put him on the ground and extinguished the flames with their jackets. The entire situation lasted no more than 30-45 seconds.



Brian, CWA Local 2201 would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for stepping up and doing whatever was necessary to help someone in a crisis situation when life and safety were at risk. We can all learn from your experience.

COMMITTEES OF CWA 2201

The committees of 2201 provide many vital services that keep our local running. Future issues of the Hotline will spotlight each committee and their chairperson.

If you have a question and would like to contact any of them, please call 804-266-2201 and leave a message or email them. Here is a list of each committee, chairperson's name and email address.

Community Services—Missy Duff (Community@cwa2201.org)

Editor—Janice Bly (editor@cwa2201.org)

Education—Amanda Todd (education@cwa2201.org)

Election—Fran Nevel (election@cwa2201.org)

Equity—Kirk Jones (equity@cwa2201.org)

Legislative—Richard Hatch (legislative@cwa2201.org)

Mobilization—Stewards Army—Ryan Couch, Kerri Ross (mobilization@cwa2201.org)

Organizing—Chris Flock (organizing@cwa2201.org)

Retiree's Club—Claude Reeson, President, phone #757-866-8479

Social—Merle Gorum (social@cwa2201.org)

Women's—Kerri Ross (women's@cwa2201.org)

CWA Member speaks at Virginia Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Kirk Jones, Equity Chairperson at 2201, spoke at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on May 15, 2009. The organization was co-founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the A. Philip Randolph Institute, named after Mr. A. Philip Randolph, also a leader in the civil rights and labor movement. The SCLC works to make sure civil rights and labor rights are protected. During the 1940's Mr. Randolph worked to end the discrimination of hiring practices for workers and on June 25, 1941, President Roosevelt signed executive order #8802 that established a war-time Fair Employment Practices Committee. Reverend Harris, of the SCLC invited Kirk to speak.

CAREER NIGHT AT 2201

Please mark your calendar for
Wednesday, August 26th from 4:00—8:00 P.M.

Representatives from colleges and technical schools will be available to answer questions. If you are unsure of education opportunities, this is the perfect time to look around. Most of the schools also provide handouts which are very informative.

editor's corner

My name is Janice Bly and I am the new Editor of the Hotline Newsletter. Moving forward 2201 plans to publish the newsletter on a monthly basis. We hope that by working closer with each committee and all officers, we can give you up to date information affecting each of us.

Information in Future issues will include;

- Legislation updates
 - Community Service
 - Volunteerism
 - Messages from the Officers
 - Member Recognition
 - Work Stories about Members
 - Special dates, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc.
 - Q and A with members
 - Human interest stories
- Please contact me at 804-241-3600 or the local at 804-266-2201

Editor@cwa2201.org
Janice Bly

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CDS & Idearc
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Commercial Directory
Services

**CWA has joined the FACEBOOK family.
Please request Communications Workers of
America, Local 2201 to be YOUR friend!**