



LOCAL 2107 NEWS

VOLUME XV- NO 9

October/November 2004 Edition

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

If you live in Maryland you have until October 12 to register in time for the 2004 November elections.

You may complete a voter registration application in person at your local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections. Voter registration applications are also available throughout Maryland at State agencies, such as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Social Services, the Motor Vehicle Administration, Offices on Aging, the MTA Paratransit Certification Office, and all public institutions of higher education.

You may contact any local Board of Elections to request an application. You may also print an application from the State Board of Elections website or use the State Board's 24-hour toll-free telephone number, 1-800-222-8683, and select Option #3 from the main menu (leave your name, mailing address, and telephone number). The completed voter registration application may be mailed or delivered in person to your local Board of Elections or the State Board of Elections.

There are a number of places to register online as well including the candidates' web sites and afl-cio.org, or you can go to <http://www.fec.gov/> to download the national form.

Verizon Drops Move to Sell Upstate NY Lines

from the National

Crediting the efforts of CWA's Verizon locals in New York, District 1 Vice President Larry Mancino reported that the company has suspended its efforts to sell off access lines in upstate New York.

Mancino called it "a great victory" and stated in a letter to locals: "All of your hard work has paid off, once again. All the letter-writing, the lobbying, the rallying and the mobilizing helped to create an environment in which the sale of upstate simply was not viable."

He voiced CWA's thanks to state Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, who he said, "brilliantly focused legislative and public attention on the possible negative impacts of the sale on consumers and workers."

Network Services Outside Technicians To Do CO Work

by Ray Pomeroy

Here we go again, Network Services (formerly Consumer/National) is training outside technicians to do someone else's job. They are training these people to do the Frame Attendant and Central office Technician job. We've been writing about this issue (working out of title) since 1998 and Mike Bello (former Local 2107 President) even went so far as to write a letter to outside forces in 1994.

We don't know why a supposed financially strapped organization would use their budget to do someone else's work. We are certain however that CO management will be very pleased to have someone taking up their slack free of charge. Apparently not realizing that when the outside forces take over all the work they manage, they won't be needed to manage the work.

Anyone who works outside knows we don't have enough people in the Central Offices to do the work in a timely manner (and never will as long as outside forces are getting the work done for them).

Our COT's are busy running from CO to CO and wiring in DSL orders as fast as they can. High bandwidth and Broadband services are the future of the company. Verizon is hoping to close as many as four out of five Central Offices as Broadband becomes more available and consumers migrate to VoIP technologies such as Verizon's new "Voice Wing" service. This will probably mean a "downsizing" of the COT and Frame Attendant titles at some point in the future but

does that mean we should hasten that process?

No, not at the expense of our co-workers and certainly not in violation of our contract. The company's position is that you can "work down" to any job that pays less than yours. Our position is you can "work down" to a job in *your* job family, i.e. COT down to Frame Attendant. As for a contract violation, Service Techs and Systems Techs jobs are laid out in the contract. The descriptions certainly need updated to reflect new technologies but the basics are there and they don't include CO/frame work. Cable Splicer is not spelled out in the contract but we still maintain that you shouldn't be doing frame work.

There are times when, due to some emergency, you may have to do something on the frame, we know they aren't going to call someone out in the middle of the night to do a rewire for you or you may have a genuine emergency where something has to be done right now and the frame can't get there for a while. Our advice has always been to "slop" in the cross connect and leave a note for the CO personnel so that they can do it properly.

If you are specifically instructed to do the work and you refuse you could be insubordinate and we don't want that. We would like you to file a grievance if you are told to do CO work. **Every time.** If you are instructed to do this work, complete *your* work first, don't just run to the CO to do their work. Then give them the time allotted in the plan.

Educated and Involved

by Denise Burns

What's at stake in the November 2nd election? You can ask several different people and get many different answers.

The most important thing for you to do is to get out and vote. There are many websites you can go to that gives you comparisons on the issues between Bush and Kerry. It is impossible to pick up any periodical, newspaper or to watch or listen to any news without hearing about the differences between the candidates.

What we need to do is educate ourselves on

the issues that truly affect us and our families and then make an intelligent decision. Once that is done we need to get to the polls. This is not the time to leave the decision to someone else.

This is America and we have the right to decide. We need that to be a priority. Why have a democracy if we don't use it. We could just let the few tell us what to do. Union families can make the difference. Make this November 2nd a priority in your life. Choose to be involved in not only our futures but the futures of generations to come.

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President's Point of View.....

Denise Burns

ARE YOU WEARING RED?????????

Unity is something that we must show the company year round. It is not something that is only used during bargaining. If we are unified in our work groups, departments and locations we stand a better chance of getting the company's attention.

What reasons do we have for showing unity and solidarity in our workplaces year round? Let's start with the amount of contractors both Verizon and Cingular use. How about the fact that the companies want to send our jobs overseas? Any call center environment can be easily moved. Downsizing! How about being told to do someone else's job, added to your own, but not being compensated for it? What about management doing our work? What about just plain old unfair treatment?

Those are just a few things I can think of but there are many others. We all have something at risk. Verizon has more contracted EA's working on FTTP than they do employees. Verizon also has some EA's in In-

dia. These issues are being worked on at the Union District level. The technicians outside have been told to do central office work and still meet their numbers. What will be next? In our MA's centers we have management doing our work. We are treated unfairly. The rules change daily to suit some of the managements' whims. The Central Offices have been downsized so badly that others are being told to do their work and they aren't authorized overtime. Where will it end?

Maybe wearing red on Thursdays is not such a bad thing to do. It certainly is easy. It makes a statement. If we can accomplish a small task such as this then we can move on to bigger things. Perhaps life would be a little less stressful with all of us banding together!

"...a solid bloc of people united to one another by unbreakable bonds which give them power and status to deal with their employers' terms."

Fannie Coralie , pioneer of social security and Secretary of Labor Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)

**Open Enrollment
 Cingular and Verizon**

Cingular Wireless' Open Enrollment period for Benefits is October 7-21.

Verizon's Open Enrollment period is October 13-27

We are advising all of our members to verify their selections. If you work for Cingular you must make a selection for certain insurances or you will have no coverage for 2005.

Always verify what your selections are, it's next to impossible to fix a mistake until the next open enrollment period.

Cingular

The Cingular contract expires in February and bargaining is scheduled to start in January.

The Local will be sending bargaining surveys out to all of our Cingular members in the next few days. If you don't have yours by October 15, please call the Local for a replacement.

The survey is your best opportunity to point out deficiency's in your current contract or just to suggest improvements you think are needed.

Verizon

from Labor Relations

Beginning September 27, 2004, the Company will implement one telephone number for employees to call for HR-related issues - 877 ASK Vz HR (1-877-275-8947). One of the options being added to the main menu is "Career Tools". Employees may select this option for their associate staffing needs. When they select "Career Tools" from the main menu they will have 3 choices:

1. VZJOBS
2. STAR
3. NY/NE Associates

All employees can access VZJOBS to hear management vacancies. Only Verizon West vacancies are listed under VZJOBS; therefore only West employees can hear associate vacancies in VZJOBS.

For STAR, only Verizon East associates will have access. (We are not removing the direct number to STAR, only adding this to ASK Vz HR.)

Email Change

The Local is dropping our starpower email address at the end of October. All general email should be directed to:
 cwa2107@cwa-2107.org

Your Candidates for Alternate Delegate as Nominated at the October Membership Meetings

Dutchin Webster - Damon Gaither - Jeffrey Savin - Chris Barriger

Dutchin Webster

Hello! My name is Dutchin Webster and I have been with Verizon for a little over four years now as a Maintenance Administrator for National Services Potomac. I have been a Steward for Local 2107 for almost a year and enjoy it very much. I am on the Community Service Committee and Election Committee (when not running). Also, I am a Mobilizer. I plan on being involved in CWA for a very long time. I would love the opportunity to be an Alternate/Delegate at next years CWA Convention. This would definitely be a learning experience for me, and I am a firm believer in learning something new everyday. So please consider voting for me and also don't forget to vote on November 2nd EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

What is an Alternate Delegate?

Every Local in CWA gets a number of Delegates, elected by their membership, to represent them at District meetings and the highest authority in the Union, the National Convention.

The number of delegates depends on the Locals size. Local 2107 gets 3 delegates and like most Locals our top officers, President, Executive Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer, are elected delegates in Officer elections.

We elect the alternate(s) in case a delegate can't attend a District meeting or Convention for some reason.

The business of the national is conducted at Convention, approving the finances, hearing Local's and members' issues that have been appealed to convention, charting our future course and many other issues.

Your future is in the hands of the people you send to represent you. You will get your ballot soon, they will be mailed out on October 15. Please make your selection and mail it back in the postage paid envelope.

Follow the instructions on the ballot or your vote will not be counted.

Cingular Vice President Position Filled

Dutchin Webster, a Maintenance Administrator with Verizon and Steward with CWA Local 2107 has been appointed to Vice President - Cingular Wireless until someone from

Jeffrey Savin

I am running for *Alternate Delegate for Convention*.

Have been a member of 2107 for 14 years in good standing.

I Currently hold the position of steward on the 6th floor in Engineering where I have been an EA for the past 7 years prior to that I was a Splicer. I have been a steward for 4 of those years handling all types of grievances on all floors and departments at Riva Rd. I am on the Legislative committee for the union and have been involved in voter registration drives throughout the local. I have attended the "Legislative conference" in Washington on three different occasions. The local sent me to Leadership training at WVU in Aug-04 to enhance my steward skills to better defend our Members in need of representation. If the Need may arise for the Local to send an Alternate Delegate I feel I can Represent the Local in a Fair and consistent manner.

Please Vote for Me.

Thanks Jeff

Verizon Benefits Problems

Have you had problems getting benefits to authorize tests or pay bills? Are doctors requesting payment for forms to be filled out? Is Metlife giving you problems? Do you have FMLA issues? Are you doing your paper work correctly?

Any issue that arises with your benefits needs to be relayed to our bargained for benefit coordinators so that they can determine the extent of the problem. They evaluate all the issues and attempt to resolve problems at a higher level so that they don't continue.

For medical, prescriptions, dental and vision call John Petrini 800 627-0200.

For FMLA and Metlife call Bill Sonnik 888 571-7218.

For Reitrees Medical call Sue Anderson 888 324-4969.

Cingular is found to fill the job. She will be assisting Executive Vice President Ray Pomeroy who is currently dealing with Cingular issues.

Chris Barriger

Hi, my name is Chris Barriger and I am running for Alternate Delegate to the National Convention in 2005. Many of you got to know me during our difficult contract negotiations as our Local's head mobilizer. I have been with Verizon/Bell Atlantic for 7 1/2 years and an active steward for four years. In the last year I have been very involved with many aspects of our local, like the budget committee (4 yrs) and I have recently been appointed to chair the election committee. I am asking for your vote for alternate because I feel it is important for our newer members to get the experience they will need to lead our local in the future. I have never been to our National Convention, and it would be my honor to represent you as alternate and feel the power of our union at work for our members.

Duplicate Ballot Request for alternate to convention

Any request for duplicate ballots must be received by Denise Burns at 410 224-0166 by November 5, 2004. You will need to give your name, address and social security number at the time of the request. If there is no answer at the office please press one (1) and leave the information in Denise's mailbox. Duplicate ballots will be mailed on November 8 only.

Ballots will be counted on the evening of November 18, 2004. Ballots must be returned by mail.

Follow the instructions on the ballot or your vote will not be counted.

Retirees Corner

RMC meetings will be held on the second Monday in January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December. Unless otherwise noted all meetings are held at the Local 2107 office at 2441 Holly Ave, Annapolis and begin at 10AM

On November 8 there will be a Meeting-luncheon hosted by CWA Local 2107. A representative from the MD/DC Chapter of Alliance for Retired Americans will be the guest speaker. You must RSVP to the Local Office on 410 224-0166 or 800 968-0868. The meeting will start at 10AM with the luncheon to follow.

Sympathies to:

Terry Jones on the death of her mother.
James Mckenzie on the death of his father
James Richardson on the death of his brother
Paul Roesle on the death of his father.
Howard Simon on the death of his brother.

Get Well to:

Minnie Liles

Discounts

Six Flags tickets for Fright Fest are available.

We have discount tickets for Six Flags and Hershey Park
Our Local has signed up for Shamu Club and Club Busch Gardens. They are the complimentary corporate membership programs of Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks, offering special savings and vacation deals to Sea World San Diego, Sea World Orlando, Sea World San Antonio, Busch gardens Williamsburg, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Adventure Island, Waster Country USA and Sesame Place. Admission discounts, exclusive offers and special events for Club members are all available online. The Club gives you up-to-the-minute park news and the most current offers quickly and efficiently. To take advantage of these special offers go to http://www.adventureclubonline.com/_login/member_sign_up.aspx. You will be asked to provide your Company Code during the sign up process. Call the Local for the Company Code.

Dates to Remember

Membership meetings

11-08 Northern Meeting at the Local office 6:30
11-09 Southern Meeting location TBA 6:30

Other Meetings

10-11 Retiree Meeting
10-19 Stewards Meeting
10-28 Executive Board Meeting
11-30 Executive Board Meeting

Other

10-15 Ballot Mailout
10-21/22 Initial Stewards Training
10-26-28 Advanced Stewards Training
11-3 Blood Drive, Riva Rd
11-18 Ballot Count

Scholarships

Scholarship- The annual Poinsettia and Craft Sale will be held on Dec. 9th. Please donate an item for the sale. Any questions call Donna at the hall.

Community Services

The blood drive will be held on Nov 3rd at 2510 Riva Rd 3rd Floor. Please contact Donna at the hall for more details.

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«StreetAddress»
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