



Election Results

by Ray Pomeroy

Mike Parker from Southern Maryland won the delegate/alternate election with 48% of the vote.

The Official results are:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Eligible voters - 836, Voted ballots - 188, Spoiled ballots - 41

Twenty two percent of the voted ballots were spoiled because directions weren't followed.

Seventy seven percent of eligible voters did not vote.

Less than one quarter of the membership are making the decision for the rest of you. That's not to say that they made a bad choice, I don't think they did. Mike is the kind of person we need involved in the union.

It is depressing to think that with all that is going on around us in the workplace that 77% of our members can't even take the time to open an envelope, mark a candidate and mail the thing back when the postage is paid for them.

We wasted \$505.44 in postage on this election.

What will Mike be doing that is important enough to get me this depressed? He will be voting on issues that will affect you and me and a lot of other people. He will be voting on any proposals brought to convention on the "Ready For the Future" initiatives. He may get to vote on issues appealed to the convention such as whether or not someone's termination grievance will be taken to arbitration. Mike will get a chance to vote on the Union's budget and he may get to vote on proposals that could range from raising dues to reallocating what the defense fund is used for.

Political Involvement

by Al Schuitema

The 2006 election year is well under way and it is often asked why our local is involved with politics and political issues. The answer is quite simple. We have to be. Unions represent less than 10 percent of American workers but fight for all workers. Corporations, Chambers of Commerce and all their allies lobby tirelessly to weaken any advantage that employees might gain.

Department of Labor statistics show that wages are stagnant or slipping when compared to the inflation rate. This is not the rosy economy that we keep hearing about on the evening news as they report what our "elected officials" are saying.

Companies are stripping away health-care, pensions and employees where possible. (Does this sound like where you work?) At the local, state and federal levels we are seeing a barrage of bills that weaken labor laws in favor of big business.

This is where our political involvement comes into play as we, along with many other associations, come together to repel these attacks on the well being of our members. We also work to submit, through our political allies, bills that enhance workers rights and freedoms.

In our Local, most of the officers are involved politically in some form or another. Our President, Denise Burns is on the board

of the Baltimore Central Labor Council, Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO and is a mobilizer for the CWA Maryland State Council.

I [Al Schuitema] am a Delegate to both the Baltimore and Washington D.C. Central Labor Councils and am also the Secretary Treasurer to the CWA Maryland State Council.

Jeff Savin is Delegate to the Baltimore Central Labor Council and a member of the Legislative Committee for the local.

The vast majority of the time spent working on legislative matters is done on our own time, late in the evenings while many of you are working overtime or watching reruns at home. We work with many other Labor groups and associations to promote better working conditions for all.

Many times over the years we have found that politicians and others are amazed that organized labor is testifying for bills that protect or better working conditions of the less fortunate even though we already have most of these things.

These protections do not come easily. We fight for our contracts. We fight for laws that protect us. There are those that do not believe Unions should be involved. When it comes to the working man or woman, if we don't, who will?? I just thought you ought to know.

Organizing Drive Affects ALL of Our Members

by Ray Pomeroy

We are still trying to get Verizon Wireless (VZW) organized. If you have been reading the newsletter you have seen the coverage. Hopefully you all know how important it is to all of our current members as well as the workers at VZW to get these people organized.

The benefits to the VZW workers are obvious, a voice in the workplace, decent pay and benefits or opportunities to move into the land line side of the company while maintaining their seniority. The company would have them believe that we want them organized so that our current members can have access to their jobs but that can be a two way street. There are a lot of jobs on the land line

side of the house that those folks could be interested in.

What may not be obvious to our Verizon (core) and Cingular members is what their stake in this is.

To our Verizon members it means a stronger voice at Verizon, a company that thinks nothing of eliminating pensions and benefits for their workers without a union. It means all those thousands of employees working for the same company you do supporting your causes. It could also mean opportunities to work in the growing wireless field while retaining your benefits and seniority.

(VZW on page 3)



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President's Point of View.....

Denise Burns

In the next several months we will be preparing to get out and register people to vote. It is a your constitutional right, and personal duty to vote. If you are not registered or you have moved or changed any of your information you may need to update your registration. If you live in Maryland and would like to register you may go to <http://www.elections.state.md.us/citizens/registration/>, in DC go to http://www.dcboe.org/serv/voter_registration.shtm, in Virginia go to <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/>, and in Pennsylvania it's, http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bcel/lib/bcel/voter_registration/01_staticpage/voterregistrationapp.html.

Voting should not be treated with indifference. You should be voting for the candidates that best represent your basic needs. Not only are we voting for what is happening in our lifetime we are voting for things that affect our children and grandchildren.

I want to break this down to the simplest form. The Union looks out for working family issues. We steer away from hot button issues such as gun control and pro-choice or pro-life. Those are personal issues that all individuals must place in priority with their essential needs of living, wages, benefits, etc. The Union gets involved in issues dealing with workers compensation, living wage, pensions, health care for all, collective bargaining and many other issues that affect union members and the unorganized as well.

Let's look at priorities for a moment. If you

didn't earn a living wage, have benefits or any pension, would the other issues be as much of an issue to you as an individual? What I am trying to convey is that before you take pro-life, pro-choice or gun control as your main issue wouldn't your basic needs have to be taken care of.

If you went out and talked with the less fortunate their priorities would be to live a decent life. Because of the Union we are lucky in that we make a decent living, have pensions and health care. But remember anything we have can be taken by the stroke of a pen, in the form of bad legislation. Make your livelihood a priority. With the open declarations out there to rid this country of Unions we need to understand and thoroughly research each candidate that we vote for.

It is the Union's responsibility to educate you on the candidates and their position on the issues but the ultimate choice is yours. Don't be complacent and depend on others to have the say for you. Most people don't believe one vote can make a difference but it can.

We have some very important elections in Maryland in 2006. Keep informed, look at you and your family's essential needs and who will represent those needs the best.

"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators or congressman and government officials but the voters of this country." Franklin D Roosevelt July 8, 1938

Cingular Information

CWA has launched a new website at www.CingularSwitch.com. This new website encourages people to switch their wireless plans to Cingular, the only unionized wireless carrier, and also provides information for Union Members on how to get a discount from Cingular. Look for this link on the Local website soon.

Working Solutions

Working Solutions saves time and reduces stress by finding the services, referrals and support you need to improve life at home and at work. One toll-free phone call is all it takes to reach a Life Resource Counselor, an experienced professional who connects you with the services you want and whom you

can call on as often as you like. Your Life Resource Counselor does the legwork to keep life running smoothly so you have more time to focus on the things that matter most to you.

You can find Adult/Elder Support Services, Child/Parenting Support Services, Legal Assistance, Financial Services, Life Learning, Chronic Condition Support, Expert Assessment and Counseling and more.

1-800-538-8101,
1-800-842-9489 TDD
Or on the web at
www.liveandworkwell.com
Access code: cingular

The CWA Triangle

by Denise Burns



In Local 2107, we are active in all sides of the CWA triangle. All sides of the triangle are equally important. The Political/ Community Action side is one that is taking a forefront right now because of the elections in 2006.

Al Schuitema and I attended the CWA National Legislative-Political Conference March 12 through the 15 in Washington, DC. Our theme for this conference was "Rebuilding the Road to Opportunity".

We had some very passionate speakers and I learned a great deal from them. One speaker that was of particular interest to me was US Representative John Spratt from the 5th district in South Carolina. He is the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee. He gave us a slide presentation on the growing deficit. As of March 22, 2006 the deficit is \$8,349,494,413,613.75. To read more on the deficit go to http://www.house.gov/budget_democrats/ and click on the overview of the President's 2007 Budget.

Other speakers were MD Assembly Speaker Michael Busch, MD Representative Elijah Cummings, MI Governor Jennifer Granholm, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA) and the charismatic House Representa-

tive Neil Ambercrombie from Hawaii. There were also workshops that we could attend but the major reason to be in Washington was to go visit our elected officials on Capitol Hill. Issues we talked about include: Pensions, the Employee Free Choice Act, Consumer Right to Know, Health Care, Telecommunications Reform, United States Trade Policy, Peace Officers Bill of Rights, The Federal Budget, 109th Congress Reauthorizes Temporary Assistance Program, Increased Foreign Control of US Airlines, and A National Shield Law Protecting Journalists and Their Confidential Sources. For more information on these issues you can go to <http://www.cwa-union.org/issues/>.

On the Organizing side of the Triangle we, in Local 2107, have a full time Organizer, Lynette Snell. She is currently focused on Verizon Wireless but when we get other leads she follows up on them. CWA is also interested in organizing T-Mobile. The European arm of T-Mobile is unionized and we want to give the workers here a chance to organize. We will be getting a flyer out to everyone to pass on to anyone you know at T-Mobile. If you know someone that is interested in organizing their workplace, call the local office with their information and we will pass it on to Lynette.

Bargaining and representation are ongoing. We are always asking for more of you to become involved. The more stewards we have the better the representation will be.

Organizing, Political/ Community Action and Bargaining and Representation fit together. The more organizing we do, the more power we have in the community and in the political arena which gives us more leverage at the bargaining table.

(VZW from page 1)

What stake could our Cingular members have in all this? A level playing field for starters. A stronger voice at work! All those VZW employees supporting them when they need some support. Thousands of people in the same business to compare notes with and to share ideas about problems at work.

The two companies that own Cingular Wireless have proposed a merger (ATT, formerly SBC, and BellSouth) and those companies are union. Unlike Verizon they have kept their neutrality/card check agreement with the union. The Cingular and former ATT Wireless workers are in a better position because those agreements were kept.

Our organizer Lynette Snell does regular leafleting at the VZW locations in Laurel and Hanover and is regularly accompanied by Pam Wilt a CWA District Two organizer and Clyde Rucker a former VZW employee who was fired for Union activity.



Back row l-r: Clyde Rucker, Ray Pomeroy, Donna Blanchard, Al Schuitema, Denise Burns and Jimmy Padgett. Front row: Pam Wilt and Dutchin Webster.

We like to get as many people out at these events as possible and would like to have some member participation. Sometimes they call the police and security is always watching but no one has gone to jail yet. VZW has gone as far as to claim that Lynette Snell a public sidewalk belonged to them and had the police run our folks off until we showed up with a plat showing the property to be public.



This company is anti union and we all have something at stake here, if you'd like to volunteer to spend a couple of hours pounding the pavement for a good cause call the Local office and put your name in the hat.

Retirees Corner

The next meeting is April 10 at 1 PM. We welcome all new members and hope to see more of you at the meetings.

RMC meetings are held on the second Monday of every month. Unless otherwise noted all meetings are held at the Local 2107 office at 2441 Holly Ave, Annapolis and begin at 10AM.

Cavalier Bargaining line
866 900-2107

Northern Area Membership Meeting

Lawyers Mall – Annapolis
April 3, 2006 at 6:00 PM

This night is for members to show their presence in Annapolis. Wear your CWA apparel and visit with the legislators.

(Please find your officers on the Mall)

Southern Area
United Way Bldg-LaPlata
April 4, 2006, 6:30 PM

Sympathies to:

Mike Adamitis on the death of his Uncle
 Robin Coiro on the death of her mother
 Sympathy to Marty Jordan on the death of his father
 Melissa Lester on the death of her mother-in-law
 Lisa McGee on the death of her grandmother

Congratulations to:

Todd Gilkerson on the birth of his son.

Get Well to:

Morty Bahr
 Lisa McGee
 Penny Johns

Union Plus Legal Service

1-888-993-8886 or www.unionplus.org/legal.

Scholarship Fund

We will be planning fund raising events for the 2006 year. We need assistance with these events, if you can help please call the local office.

Dates to Remember

Membership meetings

04-03 Northern area meeting will be at 6 pm at
 Lawyers Mall, call the office for directions, 1
 04-04 Southern MD meeting 6:30 pm

Other Meetings

03-27 MD State & DC AFL-CIO
 legislative meeting 5 pm
 04-10 Retiree Meeting ***1PM****
 04-12 ACFC meeting
 04-17 MD St Council meeting 10:30 am
 04-20 Baltimore metro council
 Board & Membership meeting 5 & 7 pm
 04-25 Executive Board Meeting tba

Other

3-29 to 3-31 D2 Conference
 04-03 Lawyers Mall Metropolitan Baltimore
 AFL-CIO Night 6PM
 04-17 Newsletter deadline
 04-19 to 04-22 Customer Service Conference

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