



Buy Union This Holiday Season

by Ray Pomeroy

The Holiday Season almost upon us and we would like to remind everyone that they can make the Union Choice for a great number of gifts and holiday needs.

A lot of great gifts are available Union made or supplied. Some of them might cost a little more, just like the products and services you make your Union wage from, but the point is to support your Union brothers and sisters this holiday season and always.

Books (new, used and rare), leather goods, Broadway shows, travel, hotels (think holiday vacation), hammocks, clothing. New cell phone? Cingular is the only Union carrier. You can find these products and more by checking out www.unionlabel.org, you can find the link on the local website on the labor links page.

It's not all about Christmas or shopping on line either. Patronize a Union grocery store like Giant or Safeway for your thanksgiving feast or party needs, the Waltons (of Wal-Mart fame) don't need any of your money, they have plenty.

Maybe you're buying a new car. We have a link to the United Auto Workers site to show you what's made by Union workers and how to identify what's not if you're looking at a model that could be either/or.

Encourage your friends and family to make the Union Choice too. Our Verizon employees for the most part wouldn't think twice about recommending Union supplied DSL or FiOS and our Cingular members are certainly going to recommend Cingular products to their friends and family looking for cellular service. It's just a short step further to show them where to find other Union goods and services.

Verizon Open Enrollment is October 18th through the 31st.

You should already have your benefits enrollment package and be making your decisions. If you do not, call the benefits line right away for a package.

While you're at it be sure that your beneficiaries are up to date. Once something happens to you it's already too late.

complain, complain, complain or VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

by Ray Pomeroy

Election day is November 7th and we have to get out the vote.

According to the *International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance* the United States ranks **114th** in voter turnout in the world - (country by country performance 1945-98).

Why don't we vote? The number one reason, at 20.9%, according to a Census Bureau poll was that they were too busy, illness or emergency was second at 14.8 percent and not interested was third at 12.2 percent.

How can you be too busy to vote or not interested in choosing the people that make decisions that affect almost every facet of your life? I'd bet a lot of you would vote if the company let you elect your supervisor, or maybe you wouldn't. If you didn't... would you still complain about the one you got? Don't kid yourself, you would. For most of you the boss directly affects you every day. Anyone who directly affects your life, attitude, outlook etc. everyday is having a huge impact in your life.

The people that we elect (those of us that vote) on election day also will have a direct impact on **every one of our lives every day!**

The only difference is that they are not up close and personal like your boss. They are at the Statehouse or down in Washington where you can't see them and they aren't leaving you voice mails or stopping by your desk but, they are having a tremendous affect on the way you live your life!

The single biggest thing that politicians do

that affects you every day is decide how to spend your tax dollars. They also make decisions on a host of issues including education, healthcare, PENSIONS, worker safety and workers compensation. They craft telecomm legislation that affects every single person reading this, whether you are a user or are employed in the industry. They affect your right to be a part of a union. That's a big deal. How would the company treat you if you didn't have a Union? Ask someone in management. They're easy to find, they're the ones without a pension. That's not a dig it's a fact. Big benevolent Verizon took theirs.

Are you in the "my vote won't make a difference" camp? If so you're wrong. What might the election results look like if everyone that thinks that way voted?

In 1960 when President Kennedy was elected the difference was a little over 100,000 popular votes. That's the one office that EVERY REGISTERED VOTER can vote for. A nationwide election separated by 100,000 votes! To narrow that down a little further Nixon conceded when Kennedy was declared the winner in Illinois, which he won by only 8,000 votes. State by state what we are voting on is how the Electoral College votes are assigned. Maryland has 10 electoral votes: 1 for each of Maryland's 8 congressional seats in Congress and 2 for Maryland's 2 U.S. Senate seats in Congress. There are currently 3.1 million registered voters.

Close elections are not rare in this country, offices at the local level have been decided by as few as 3 votes.

Open Enrollment Correction

Your 2006 dental plan election - Option 710 (CIGNA Dental - DHMO) - will not be available to you for 2007. Please disregard the Dental Plan Comparison Chart for Option 710 that was included in the Benefits Renewal information recently mailed to your home. Due to a system error, you were able to elect this option for 2006 when it was not one of your eligible dental plan options. Although you will retain this coverage for the remainder of 2006, you will need to elect a new dental option for coverage effective

January 1, 2007.

Please review the dental plan comparison charts on Your Benefits Resources Web site at <http://resources.hewitt.com/verizon> for information about the dental options available to you for 2007. You also may call the Verizon Benefits Center at 1-877-Ask-VzHR (1-877-275-8947) and speak with a representative.

If you do not make a dental option election, you will automatically default to your sponsored dental plan option effective January 1.

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President's Point of View.....

Denise Burns

We are heading into the end of the year and I can justly say that this has been an extremely busy year. There are only a few more days until the election is over and hopefully all of you will get out to vote. It is extremely important for us to elect the politicians that will help us in bargaining and in growing our union power.

Looking toward next year I can assure you we will be busier than ever. We will be looking to recruit many of you as stewards/mobilizers. This is from the action taken at last year's convention with regard to the Strategic Industry Fund (SIF) and our mission on Ready for the Future.

Our work forces are ever changing and we must be able to compete with the corporate mammoths in every way. We need to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to fighting for our rights as working people as well as union members. We have already

begun having conference calls to make sure that all the officers are on top of what needs to take place.

I look for this to be a very challenging and exciting year. To be able to reach our goal and truly be "Ready for the Future" we will need to communicate effectively. That is why we will need so many of you to become active participants. You will also receive training from the locals.

As we enter into a New Year be thinking about how you want to be involved. How can you help us be successful in our fight for the future?

"Employers and employees alike have learned that in union there is strength, that a coordination of individual effort means an elimination of waste, a better of living conditions, and is, in fact, the father of prosperity." Governor Franklin D Roosevelt 1929

HELP OUR LOCAL



HELP YOU!

Would you like to be a steward? Fill out the application on the stewards page at: www.cwa-2107.org

Help Wanted

Union minded members needed.
Position Available:
Newsletter Editor.
Must like to write, know how to spell and have a reasonably good grasp of grammar. Must be able to take constructive criticism and also deal with and print viewpoints you don't necessarily agree with. Must have a good grasp of how to use a windows based PC.

Will train. Call Denise or Ray for an interview. This is a very serious responsibility and an opportunity to get involved with the local.

Ray Pomeroy has taken a job out of the local and will be turning the newsletter over to a replacement in the near future.

Website Refutes Big Business's Lies About Unions

from the National

Using truth as a weapon, a new website gives union members a way to fight back against corporate America's campaign to destroy the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively.

The Anti-Union Network, launched by American Rights at Work, profiles various union-hating groups and refutes their claims. Featured prominently is the egregiously misnamed "Center for Union Facts," with a diagram of corporate money trail funding the

project.
The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Right to Work Foundation are among the other groups profiled. The site also looks at links between the U.S. Department of Labor and the anti-union groups.

The site also includes a news feed and an e-mail sign up for breaking news about unions and unions-busters. Check it out at www.antiunionnetwork.org.

Demand Change November 7

from the National

Jobs. Health Care. Retirement Security. Workers' rights. As workers and union members, these are vital issues as we head toward Election 2006. Every one of them has taken a hit over the past six years and working families across our country are hurting.

We're lucky as CWA members to have strong contracts that help protect our pay, benefits and rights. But we're not immune from the troubled economy. These are some of the realities today:

- * Adjusting for inflation, median hourly wages for American workers have fallen 2 percent since 2003.
- * More than 3 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000.
- * Gas prices – dipping now, as the election approaches --more than doubled, topping \$3 a gallon.
- * Nearly 47 million Americans don't have health insurance, 5 million more than in 2000 and our employers try to pass soaring health care costs along to our members and retirees.
- * College tuition is rising at more than twice the rate of inflation.
- * Household debt has skyrocketed since 2001. The level of mortgage and consumer debt is the highest ever measured in our history –120 percent of after-tax income.

Yet all we hear from our leaders is, "The economy is strong" while they pat themselves on the back for their tax cuts. Those, by the way, will give households worth \$1 million and up an average of \$111,000 back this year while middle-income families will

average \$748.

But corporate America still wants more. Even our fundamental right to a 40-hour workweek has been under attack in recent years, with changes in who's eligible for overtime and pending "comp time" legislation that would further erode our rights. And the White House and GOP-led Congress are determined to privatize Social Security, making Wall Street billions while putting our retirement at risk.

As for our voice at work, the extreme anti-worker majority on the National Labor Relations Board, combined with many anti-labor appointees in the so-called Labor Department, as well as federal judges appointed by the president and approved by Congress, have made it easier than ever in modern history for employers to thwart union organizing and strip workers' rights. So ruthless is their agenda that just days after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Labor Department revoked the Davis-Bacon law so contractors wouldn't have to pay prevailing wages to impoverished workers.

We urgently need to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, to level the playing field with management when it comes to organizing and bargaining. But that can only happen with a change in political leadership. From Congress to our statehouses, governors' offices and local councils and boards, we've got to elect people who genuinely care about working families.

Our American middle class, built by earlier generations of unions, used to be the envy of the world. Now it's disappearing. On Nov. 7, we can start to turn things around.

Is Verizon Trying to Drive a Wedge Between Us?

by Ray Pomeroy

Two of our Local Officers, who work on the 5th floor at Riva Rd, were placed in the same group some time ago, ostensibly because the company knew they would not be at their regular jobs much of the time and it would make things easier on management.

Recently, according to a new manager on the floor, the Officers' being away so much is causing a problem in the group.

First off I think our members are savvy enough to realize that the company created this situation on purpose and secondly I think that if the arrangement were causing undue hardship the members' involved would come

to the Union first. He also tells our representatives that "the workload is too heavy" to let them go on union business, when in reality they just don't have enough people.

Our members know that our officers, or anyone else we take off the job, are taking care of our members and the Unions business, regardless of what management may want them to think.

This is yet another example of what some people will do to divide us, they know that we are much stronger when we are united. Look for more of this to come as bargaining approaches.

Star Pitcher is Part of

CWA Family

from the National

Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander is already a star in his first season, and with the media spotlight on him he's making his union dad – **CWA District 2** Organizing Coordinator Richard Verlander – especially proud.

"He talks like a kid raised on the principles of Local 2201, and maybe that's because Justin Verlander spent countless hours in a stroller on picket lines," begins a recent Yahoo Sports feature.

The story notes that Justin talks about the Major League Baseball Players Association "in reverential terms instead of asking why his paycheck gets docked \$40 a day for dues." Justin tells writer Jeff Passan, "The people before me worked hard to get what we have now in the system. If you don't take advantage of that and learn and realize what the previous guys went through to get where we are now, you can't appreciate it."

Justin says someday he might like to have a role in the union. His dad tells Passan, "That would be the ultimate. We've never really talked about it. But I can say he would be great at it."


Retirees Corner

The next meeting is November 13. Hope to see you there.

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.

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Congratulations to:

Denise Burns on the birth of her grandson.

Get Well to:

Bill Cullember recovering from surgery.

Verizon

Call MetLife for the Preferred Dental Program (PDP) to receive a list of dentists in your zip code area on 800 988-8331 or access MetLife at www.metlife.com/dental.

Call Davis Vision for participating providers on 800 999-5431 or www.davisvision.com. For Laser Vision Correction visit the web or call 877 999-7006.

We now have a Single Point Of Contact for benefits excluding the 401k. (To view beneficiary info for basic life and pension you must use the toll free number.) Using the internet you can log on to : <http://resources.hewitt.com/verizon>, use the eweb at: <http://eweb.verizon.com>, select "get hr benefit info" or call toll free 877 275-8947.

For your 401k go to www.401k.com or call 1-888-457-9333.

Don't Forget Open Enrollment

Dates to Remember

Membership meetings

No Membership meetings in November

Other Meetings

11-01	Executive Board	TBA
11-16	BMET Council E-Board	5:00 pm
	BMET Membership	7:00 pm
11-20	Washington Metro Council	6:30 pm
11-28	MD State & DC AFL-CIO	10:00 am

Other

11-07	General Election Day
11-13	Safety Conference Call
11-23	Thanksgiving
12-01	Poinsettia & Craft Sale

Community Services

Crafts are needed for the CWA Local 2107 Christmas Craft and Poinsettia Sale to be held on December 1, 2006. Contact Robin Coiro on 443 436-5340 or Dutchin Webster on 410 224-0166 to make donations or for more information

«FirstName» «LastName» «Suffix»
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