



LOCAL 2107 NEWS

VOLUME XVIII- NO 3

April 2007 Edition

Say Cheese!

by Ray Pomeroy

Anne Arundel County has contracted an engineering firm to ride around and check on Verizon's job site safety. So far two members have reported having an employee of Century Engineering stop by a job and assess their site safety.

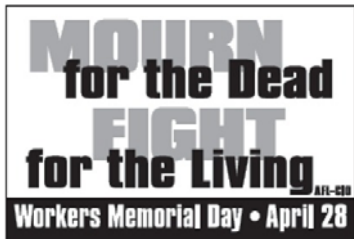
They are taking between 20 and 30 pictures of the sites and seem friendly enough so once you've identified them let them do their job.

We were told that the county hired them to inspect FiOS/FTTP jobs but since they have no way of knowing who's doing what, there's no telling who they may check on. So far our reports are from guys doing copper work.

The company didn't hire them but if you're doing something wrong they may bring it to managements attention. You know the rules so if you aren't following them shame on you. Smile:-)

Workers Memorial Day

Decades of struggle by workers and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more are injured or diseased because of their jobs. The unions of the AFL-CIO remember these workers on April 28, Workers Memorial Day.



The first Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, people in hundreds of communities and at worksites recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job. Trade unionists around the world now mark April 28 as an International Day of Mourning.

New Schedules for Cingular (at&t) Techs

by Ray Pomeroy

New schedules were recently introduced for our Cingular Techs in the field and it became apparent very quickly, judging by the phone calls, that they weren't popular for a couple of reasons.

The new schedules moved the night shift to an earlier time and while we've been used to the night shift coinciding with "on call" the times were pretty much concurrent. With the new shift when you are off at midnight you will still have on call the difference being, according to Len King, you will only have to respond to calls from the NOC. You don't have to stay up all night monitoring tickets etc.

You will still get the \$28 a day for on call and it's not very convenient but it's within

the company's rights to do it this way. The second and more contentious issue was the fact that the company left the "lead techs" out of the on call schedule.

We called Len to discuss the matter and he agrees that the lead techs are technically 'tech II's' and will be put back on the on call schedule. We tentatively agreed to doing it by June 1st but it appears that the current schedules barely go into April so at this writing we have a call into Len requesting that the leads go back on rotation at the end of the schedules we now have.

We appreciate the calls, after all if we're not hearing from you we don't know what your issues are.

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What's a FiOS Technician?

by Ray Pomeroy

Why are we referring to each other as "FiOS techs" and "Copper techs"? This is just another way the company is dividing us and it goes hand in hand with referring to "young guys", "new guys" and "terms" as opposed to "old guys", "senior guys" and "perms". What else are we going to let them get away with? Black guys and white guys, men and women, smart people and not-so-smart people, good looking and ugly?

We can't stop the company from referring to us this way but we damn sure ought to stop doing it ourselves. They've got the foot in the door and we need to stomp on it. After all, that's not a competitor in the next office it's a co-worker and more importantly it's a Union Brother or Sister. You may not be able to stand that person off the job but on the job they should be one of your best friends.

On August 2, 2008 our contract with Verizon expires and their tactics are already clear, Divide and Conquer. We can't fall into that

trap, we have our own strategy to focus on and the foundation for it, no matter how the details form, is solidarity.

Solidarity is based on the premise that an injury to one is an injury to all. The way you make it work is by working with and supporting each other, no matter what. If you are getting all the overtime you can handle and guys that are perfectly capable of doing the work can't get a scrap you should be working together to remedy the problem. You can't just take the selfish position that you're getting yours. If the tables turn (they will) and you need that guys support can you rightfully expect it when you've been looking down your nose at him? Hopefully he's bigger than that and will lead by example. If he does will you learn from that lesson?

Don't sit back waiting on "the union" to fix what's ailing you because I've got news for you, YOU are "THE UNION". The people a lot of folks think of as "the union" are your

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LOCAL 2107 NEWS
 Published Monthly By
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(ISSN 0890-8532) Periodical Postage
 Paid at Annapolis, MD. 21401
 Office Located at:
 2441 Holly Ave
 Annapolis MD 21401-3116
 Phone: 410-224-0166
 Fax: 410-224-0165

Postmaster, send changes to:
 Local 2107 NEWS
 2441 Holly Ave.
 Annapolis, MD. 21401-3116



President's Point of View.....

Denise Burns

Rumors - there are plenty of them flying around. We know overall –and this is not a rumor-Verizon wants to eliminate our union jobs. Not only is Verizon trying to de-unionize, they are also selling off their properties. In Maryland, we know Pratt Street was sold and Calverton's sale should be finalized any day now. What we don't know is how many other locations they have sold or are trying to sell. Rumor has it that they are selling off a package deal of 25 buildings and Riva Road is one of them. They are trying to sell off the New England land lines and have put some mid-west land lines up for sale.

What's up? Mega centers, perhaps. Liquidating for capital - definitely. Trying to keep us out of the loop - oh yeah! Holding back our country when it comes to equality in a national high-speed broadband -sadly. But to what end?

What is Verizon doing to us on a local scale? Locally they are keeping us on the move, literally. Since FTTP and now FiOS they have moved techs, hired term employees, work completed some terms, made some fulltime, changed crews – forced people to go where they didn't want to go when there are volunteers who did,- changed management, created another "management empire", pitted worker against worker, cut overtime for copper work and gave almost unlimited overtime for FiOS work while giving FiOS copper jobs and I am sure much more that I can't think of as I write this.

I wish I had a crystal ball to tell the future. What I can see for EA's is that they will be spending more time driving to their respective offices/areas. I see Verizon leap frog-

ging the workers from location to location. I see them giving away more and more of our work to contractors or subsidiaries, or not even bothering to do maintenance on copper cable. I see an increase in the tension building among work groups and workers.

Now what do we do? First of all we should never let Verizon or any other company divide us. We are certainly stronger when we stand together and believe me, brothers and sisters, now is the time. Not only should we stand together in CWA but with all Unions because this isn't just an attack against us. It is an attack against America and its citizens. Corporate America has been building up to a war over the years and now the time has come. We, either, sit back and let them take from us or we fight to keep what is rightly ours and be rewarded on the fruits of our labors. Corporate America would be nowhere without us. Verizon wouldn't have Verizon Wireless or Verizon Business if our brothers and sisters hadn't labored for them in the past giving them the capital to do so.

I know that many of our brothers and sisters are hesitant to step up because they are afraid for their jobs. That is only natural. We must educate them on the power of solidarity. We must start now.

"The problem with American competitiveness has nothing to do with the work ethic of American workers. The problem has to do with chief executives who earn 100 to 150 times as much as their workers, multinationals that export jobs somewhere else, and a government that encourages it." Jeff Crosby

Note: In 2006 Ivan Seidenberg made 351 times a 'b' scale cable splicer's base wage.

Proxies

You should be getting your Verizon Proxies this week or next and we will be collecting them. We will get the specific information out as soon as it is forwarded to us. Please hold your proxy until then. This includes retirees. Where are we taking them?

To the Verizon's stockholder's meeting, being held in Pittsburg, PA on May 3rd. It's on a Thursday and buses will be available if anyone is interested. Are you interested in going? If so call the office and ask to be put on the list.

Schedule the day now! It's a trip worth making. Plan on wearing RED.

Retirees Corner

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.
 See you on April 9.

Join in the Day Of Action Rally
 Hosted by International Association Of Machinists & Aerospace Workers
 Thursday, May 17, 2007 on The Mall in Washington
 Rally at 12:00, Pre-rally entertainment 10:00

(Solidarity from page 1)

elected representatives and don't have one iota of power without support from the rank and file. If the members get together and decide on some job action then you need to stick with it and when it gets the company's attention we'll be there to explain our members' position and offer solutions. We're not always going to get what we want but we can do a lot better if we all stick together and show them we've got what it takes to hold out one day longer than they can.

Remember, we can fight 'em like this,



Or we can fight 'em like this!



Oh yeah!

There is no such thing as a FiOS technician. There are Systems Technicians, Service Technicians and Cable Splicing Technicians that have been trained to work on Verizon's FiOS offerings and those that haven't... yet.

Election Results

Ballots were counted on March 20th and Local 2107's Delegate Election results are as follows.

Eligible Voters	975
Ballots Printed	1000
Voted Ballots	160
Spoiled Ballots	39
Challenged Ballots	0
Unused Ballots	25

Your Delegate is Jeff Savin with 93 votes.
Your Alternate is Eddie Miller with 67 votes.

Ready for The Future The Steward Army

from the National and Denise Burns

One of the key initiatives in CWA's Ready for the Future program is the creation of a volunteer "Stewards Army" 50,000 strong of rank-and-file activists to mobilize for positive change, both within our industries and in American society.

Those of you who join won't all be shop stewards in the traditional sense of handling grievances and enforcing contracts at the job site. The Stewards Army is really about "stewardship" in a broader sense: stewardship to strengthen workers' bargaining and organizing rights and advocate for our other major goals – jobs, health care, and retirement security.

CWA has developed a special education and training program for members who sign up. We have had the train the trainer sessions. Local 2107's trainers are Eddie Miller and Shannon Opfer, both CST's from Forest Drive in Annapolis.

Local 2107's goal is to have 75 "stewards" trained between now and the month of June. We distributed flyers to explain and ask for your participation. Please return them to your steward or mobilizer as soon as possible because we are in the process of setting up the training classes.

Amy Turner, an MA, from Riva Road is the local's Mobilizing Coordinator and she will be calling around so that she can schedule members for the classes. We are planning on doing five training sessions with 15 to a session.

The goal is to join CWA's 50,000 with another 500,000 or more activists from other major unions to create a powerful force to change the priorities of the country and refocus on an agenda for working families.

The Stewards Army will include both active union members and retirees. Its action program will sometimes be directed at a CWA employer or workplace, and other times will be more broadly focused on a CWA industry goal or even a national issue such as health care. Actions can range from sending an e-mail message to participating in rallies, meeting with elected officials and mobilizing thousands for mass action.

We need to reorient America's priorities – and to do that we need to ignite a movement. Join us!

Scholarships

Joseph Anthony Beirne Memorial Foundation, Inc.-deadline to apply **March 31, 2007**. Eligibility-CWA members, their spouses and/or the sons or daughters of CWA members (active, retired, laid-off or deceased). High school graduates or who will graduate high school during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to school are also eligible. Prior winners may not reapply. <http://www.cwa-union.org/members/beirne/>

Roberta B. Mervine Scholarship Fund-deadline to apply **May 30**. Eligibility-dependent children (defined in contract) of Local 2107 members, (active, retired or deceased), age 25 or under. Must attend a properly accredited school. You can call the office or get the form at www.cwa-2107.org, hit the link for the forms page.

Is It Worth It

by Denise Burns

With everything that is going on in Verizon, I am quite dismayed at the members that are jumping to take "A-time" or "cold time".

Verizon is trying everything to rid itself of the union and the very members that make it a successful company. Verizon has cut the workforce to the bone. There is plenty of work and not enough employees to do it. They are requiring more and more jobs from the workers left while adding additional restraints, roadblocks and objectives. Ask your neighbor who is waiting for their phone service to be restored what kind of commitment they have been given, if you have the nerve.

When you take the time off without pay, no matter what they call it, you are giving the company another reason to downsize. It puts more stress on the members that are working, it doesn't help our customers and it doesn't help us at bargaining time. If you don't need your pay then why should Verizon bargain raises? If you will take time off without pay whenever the company wants you to or you carry over vacation then why bargain for more vacation?

Think people! What may seem good for you at the time, is really hurting us all in the long run. Don't give the company more reason to eliminate jobs and diminish our bargaining power! We already know they are out to get rid of us! Don't give them any help! Work for your money. Help out your coworkers and think of the future, not just today.

Get Well to:

Sybil Lewis recovering from surgery.

Sympathies to:

Ines Millard on the death of her father .

Retirees

Optical Discounts for CWA Local 2107 Retiree Club members
 Thanks to the efforts of Mike Vivirito, District 2 Retired Council President, the retirees can go to United Optical and receive the following discounts;

Exam (including glaucoma test)	\$30
Covered Frame	\$30
Non-covered Frame	20% discount
Single Vision Lenses	\$25
Bifocal Lenses	\$39
Trifocal Lenses	\$54
Contacts-Daily Wear	\$75
Contacts-Extended Wear	\$130
All Options	20% discount

United has contracted to provide optical services to CWA Retirees. The patient is responsible for all fees. The retirees will be issued identification cards. Patients should bring this card with them at the time of service but it is not mandatory. The computer code is: CWAR

Dates to Remember

Membership meetings

04-02	Northern Area	6:30 pm
04-03	Southern Area	6:30 pm

Other Meetings

03-29	Executive Board	1:00 pm
04-09	Retiree Members Club	10:00 am
04-10	Stewards	6:30 pm

Other

03-19	Safety & Health Conference thru	3-25
03-19	Women's Conference thru	3-25
03-25	CWA Legislative Conference thru	3-28
04-04	Steward Training (Verizon SIF)	
04-11	Steward Training (Verizon SIF)	
04-17	Newsletter Deadline	
04-18	ACFC meeting	
04-18	Steward Training (Verizon SIF)	
04-19	Metro Baltimore Council Meeting	5 & 7
04-23	CWA MD State Council Meeting	10:30 am
04-24	Executive Board Meeting	tba
04-25	Steward Training (Verizon SIF)	

Congratulations to:

Ramona Diggs on the birth of her granddaughter.
 Sue Kolbe on the birth of her grandson.
 Sharon Godfrey on the birth of her granddaughter.

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 ISSN 0890-8532

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