



Bargaining Hotline

Our bargaining team is currently bargaining a contract with Verizon.

You can see the text of each update at the local website: www.cwa-2107.org, just use the link on the home page.

The updates are posted as soon as possible after we receive them and they will also be on the bargaining hotline although hotline updates are a little behind the web updates.

Stewards and Stewards Army, listen for the code.

Hotline # 866 900-2107

at&t Mobility Bargaining

As you may know, the first phase of our negotiations with AT&T Mobility about our health benefits ended without an agreement.

The bargaining moved into the next phase which involves meeting with a Federal Mediator on Monday July 14th.

We don't know how or how often updates will come but they will be put out in the same way as above.

Rally in NYC

On Saturday July 26 at 1PM there will be a Mass Unity Rally in New York City.

There will be buses to get us there and box lunches will be provided.

We need to get a count of those who want to go so call the Local office right away to get on the list.

The 2107 buses will leave from out front of the Trade Zone garage at 375 Prince Georges Blvd at 7 AM and the Odenton MARC Station at 7:30 AM. Any changes will be on the bargaining hotline 866 900-2107.

We should be back at those locations by 8 PM.

Open House

There will be an open house at the CWA Local 2107 office on Saturday August 2 at 6 PM.

We will have hot dogs, water and sodas. You can bring a beverage and feel free to bring a side dish.

It's Time for Sell No More

by Ray Pomeroy

CWA members have always been the backbone of Verizon and its predecessors Bell Atlantic and C&P Telephone. It was only through their labor, expertise and dedication that Verizon had the capital to expand into the largest telecommunications company in the nation.

What has CWA labor paid for at Verizon?

Since divestiture in 1984 the company has:

- Invested in overseas phone companies in New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Mexico and other parts of the world.
- It has put millions into purchasing all or part of leasing and computer services companies and other such deals too numerous to mention here.
- Started Bell Atlantic Mobile in 1984 which is now Verizon Wireless, the second largest wireless carrier in the country.
- Bought Nynex, which became part of Bell Atlantic.
- Bought GTE and renamed the combined company Verizon.

In addition to all that, the company invested billions of dollars in upgrades to their land-line network in the form of switches, SS7 and ISDN equipment, interoffice fiber and SONET technologies among other things.

The latest massive investment is of course the FiOS network and the company's transformation to an "entertainment" company.

Verizon would not have had one red cent to do any of this if it weren't for the aforementioned dedicated workforce.

FiOS is also the driving force in the company's Sell One More program. Verizon employees are directly responsible for tens of millions of dollars in revenue through their Sell One More efforts.

While you're out there selling one more, the company's bargaining team is down in Washington, D.C. trying to take your health-care, pension cash-out option, profit sharing and even the cost of living allowance.

While participating in the program provides a short term gain for the people who are good at making referrals it won't last forever. It's easy right now to make FiOS referrals but as we saturate the market that easy money dries up. If you were with Bell Atlantic when the "Networkers" program was in effect you'll remember that as we got better at selling, the company continually reduced what you got out of it. At one time they attempted to make it mandatory! How would you like to have to make referrals to get a decent evaluation?

I think it's better to forego the short term money now in order to get a good contract that we can continue to build on.

Tell the company it's time to get serious about giving us a contract we can live with.

Until we get a contract that we can live with we should Sell NO More! Not one FiOS referral, not a DVR, nothing!

SELL NO MORE!

Strike Authorization Vote is A Success

by Ray Pomeroy

We don't have a percentage yet but the strike authorization vote was overwhelmingly YES, in Local 2107 the vote was 93% in favor of authorizing a strike.

If there is a work stoppage (strike) you will have to do at least 8 hours of "strike duty" in order to qualify for Members Relief Fund (MRF) money, at \$200 a week after the 15th day. For most of us that will mean walking picket lines. You also have to fill out the yellow Defense Fund Certification Form that

many of you have already seen.

A lot of folks are asking why the payout is still only \$200 a week. The MRF oversight committee brought that up at convention this year and recommended against raising the payout at this time for a number of reasons, foremost is the fact that we have not one but two big contracts coming up at the same time, Verizon and Qwest. If the payout were raised and both units strike we would not be able to sustain a strike for any length of time.

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President's Point of View.....

Denise Burns

As this newsletter goes to print we are gearing up for what could be the fight of our lives. Verizon has buckled down and refused to budge on any issue. Since early bargaining is gone, we are now in the full blown bargaining. Our bargaining committee has been called to stay in Washington for the duration.

My gut feeling, this time, is it could get very ugly. We, the Union side of the company, have shrunk from 70% Union in 2002 to 33% Union in 2007. That is why it is imperative that we all dig our heels in and do what it takes to bring the contract home.

Our bargaining committee is counting on us in the field, to mobilize until the company realizes that we are serious. It is clear that Verizon is not going to move until they feel the power of our members' mobilization. We must be heard in the workplace. They must understand that it's our members that make Verizon successful. We are not accepting less, we will not agree to concessions. We are united, committed and Union.

Please take a moment to think about all of the people before us that fought to get us where we are today! We don't want to be the first losers in a long line of winners. Everyone has fought to get and keep what we have!

I know that some of you have concerns on how you can afford to go out on strike if it is

called. There is no doubt most of us don't want to have to strike. The issue we have to concentrate on is do we want to sacrifice our job security, wages, benefits and more by rolling over for what the company is offering.

If we do go on strike our Community Service Committee will have information to help find temporary jobs and/or other help as needed. We are in this together, WE SUPPORT each other, and we will win together. United We Bargain, Divided We Beg!

If things do get bad remember that we are brothers and sisters and Verizon is the one to be mad at. Ivan Seidenberg and Denny Strigl are most certainly hanging around to see us fail so they can increase their compensation packages.

If you haven't signed a Defense Fund Certification Form we will be getting them out to the work locations. If you don't see it before a strike, if one is called, you will be able to sign up at a picket location. Picket duties will be out in the next week. If you find you are scheduled and you are on vacation call the office right away so we can rectify it.

"Alone we are nothing, together we're everything-it's the whole philosophy of Labor."
 Leon Davis, Local 1199, founder of a small union of drugstore workers in 1932, becoming America's largest organization of health care workers

What Makes a Non Member a SCAB

Scab Definition:

Employee who (1) continues to work during strike action at the place of work, (2) accepts work where strike action is going on, (3) takes work in a non-union shop or (4) under non-union conditions where a union is trying to organize a unit. Also called black leg.

We have some (very few) non-members in the local and not all of them are scabs. If you know one ask them about signing up. Wait until you know someone's crossed a picket line before you decide they are a scab.

Some of the people we may see crossing our picket line **if** there is a strike may not have a choice. We hear Verizon Wireless (VZW) Sales reps and Verizon Business (VZB) techs are being trained to do our job. VZW and VZB are units we want to organize and the company has told them plenty of bad things about unions already.

The way we understand it so far is these people are being forced to do this. We hope that they choose not to cross a line but it may come to them crossing or being fired.

Treat a scab with the respect they obviously deserve but try to identify what you've got first.

Scabs have been called many things by many people during the course of labor history but Jack London's description of the scab, "written with barbed wire on sandpaper," easily dwarfs all others.

"After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, the vampire, He had some awful substance left with which He made a scab.

A scab is a two-legged animal with a cork-screw soul, a water-logged brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where oth-

(Scab on page 3)

Disney World ticket discounts now available

Union members can now save up to \$26 per ticket to Disney World with the Union Plus Entertainment discount. Discounted park hopper tickets that include admission to the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, water parks, and more are available.

With the Union Plus Entertainment Discount, union members also save on movie tickets, gift certificates, Major League baseball games, museum admissions, Broadway tickets, and more.

To receive the Union Plus discount, union members must reference Company Member ID: 744387769 when calling or ordering tickets online.

Visit the Magic Kingdom for less at Union-Plus.org/Disney | 1-800-565-3712

(Scab from page 2)

ers have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the Devil shuts the gates of Hell to keep him out.

No man has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with. Judas Iscariot was a gentleman compared with a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Judas Iscariot sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British Army. The modern strikebreaker sells his birthright, his country, his wife, his children and his fellow men for an unfulfilled promise from his employer, trust or corporation.

Esau was a traitor to himself: Judas Iscariot was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country; a strikebreaker is a traitor to his God, his country, his wife, his family and his class."

Retirees Corner

The next regular meeting is August 11.

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.

CWA Election Results

from the National

CWA President Larry Cohen was re-elected for a second three-year term by acclamation of delegates at the 70th convention. Delegates also elected Jeff Rechenbach as secretary-treasurer and Annie Hill as executive vice president, both by acclamation.

Rechenbach, CWA's past executive vice president, succeeds Barbara J. Easterling as secretary-treasurer; she had served in that post for 13 years until her retirement this year. Hill, vice president for the 14-state District 7, succeeds Rechenbach as executive vice president.

Also unopposed and elected by acclamation were Ralph Maly, communications and technologies; Jimmy Gurganus, telecommunications; Brooks Sunkett, public, healthcare and education workers, and Bill Boarman, printing, publishing and media workers.

Convention delegates also elected four at-large board members to the CWA Executive Board. Elected were Carolyn Wade, president, CWA Local 1040, Northeast region; Nestor Soto, president, CWA Local 33225, Southeast region; Claude Cummings, president, CWA Local 6222, Central region and

(Contract from page 1)

We've all known for five years when the contract expires and should be ready for it, \$200 isn't a lot but it'll help defray our expenses.

To put things in perspective; over the last five years a "B" scale cable splicer at top pay has put a little under \$450 in the members relief fund. A quarter hour per member per month goes in the fund which is \$7.46 a month at the 2007 scale for said splicer.

Our volunteers are working out the picket schedules and we're working out locations and picket captains now.

We'll do our best to get folks to a good spot but we may not picket full time everywhere and everybody's not going to get the closest location to home. You must walk your picket duty in the local. We won't put anyone outside of the local or accept inter-local trades.

If there is a work stoppage (strike) we always ask that you show up at your work location the first day in a show of unity, if it's not a one person spot. That's **not** part of your 8 hours unless that's what you were scheduled but it's a great way to kick things off.

Madelyn Elder, president, CWA Local 7901, Western region.

In contested elections for district vice president, Chris Shelton was re-elected vice president of District 1, defeating Carla Katz; Noah Savant was re-elected vice president of District 3, defeating Stephen Sarnoff; Louise Cadell was elected District 7 vice president, defeating Brenda Roberts in a run off election; and Tony Bixler was re-elected vice president of District 9, defeating T Santora.

In uncontested elections, delegates for District 2 members elected Ron Collins as vice president, succeeding Pete Catucci, who retired, Seth Rosen was re-elected vice president of District 4, Andy Milburn was re-elected vice president for District 6, and Edward Mooney, president of CWA Local 13000, was elected vice president of District 13, succeeding James Short, who retired.

In other sector results: Jim Clark was re-elected president of IUE-CWA, John Clark was re-elected president of NABET-CWA, Bernie Lunzer was elected president of TNG-CWA by a sector referendum tallied in May and Pat Friend earlier had been re-elected president of AFA-CWA under that sector's bylaws.

Picket line behavior:

There will be picket rules on your picket signs and a media statement that you can read if asked. You can refer anything further the media asks to a media contact that will also be furnished to you on the line.

No one should ever walk picket duty alone, if you are the only one that shows up somewhere contact your picket captain and wait in your car for instructions or another person to show up.

All this information does not mean we will strike but we must be prepared and we want you to know what to expect.

Rumor control:

If a rumor starts get it to a steward immediately so that it can be checked out. We don't need a bunch of unsubstantiated rumors floating around. Misinformation is worse than none.

Lets put one to bed right now. Your local officers will be getting the same paltry \$200 a week that you will if there is a strike and working a lot more hours. Local officers here only get paid for lost time and if we're on strike they're not losing any time.

Wear RED On the Picket Line

Congratulations to:

Mike Parker on the birth of his son.

VERIZON MEMBERS

- WEAR RED ON THURSDAY!
- Participate in work place activities.
- Watch out for your union brothers and sisters.

Make sure when you get mad get mad at the right ones!

Sympathies to:

Shannon Opfer on the death of her father in-law.

at&t

Payroll:	800-345-6211
Disability: Gates McDonald –	866-453-2837
Benefits, FMLA or 401K: Fidelity –	877-421-5225
Tuition Reimbursement: Acclaris –	866-203-9358
Employee Assistance Program:	800-287-9009
Prescription Service Caremark	800-388-2085
VSP Vision Care	800-524-0910
Tuition Assistance	866-242-6587

Dates to Remember

Membership meetings

TBA

Other Meetings

07/24	Executive Board meeting	2 PM
07/30	Executive Board meeting	tba
07/30	Stewards/Stewards Army	6:30 PM
08/11	Retiree Meeting	

Other

07/23	SIF Training
08/02	Open House at Local Office

Bargained for Holidays

09/01/2008	Labor Day
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08/02/08	Verizon Contract Expires
02/07/09	at&t Orange Contract Expires

Discounts:

We have discounts for Six Flags available to members at the Local Office. Call Dutchin at 410 224-0166

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