

NEWSLETTER

Communication Workers of America
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This is an official Publication
of Local 4671 and is intended for
Union use only.

It's that time again, we need to keep our mailing list up-to-date.

If you are an active member you need not do anything, you will continue to receive the Newsletter. If you are retired and receive this by email you will not need to do anything, we will continue to send you the Newsletter. If you are retired and receiving this by postal mail, please drop us a line at the address below and tell us you want to continue to receive the Newsletter. Thank you

Keep us informed. If you move please let us know your new contact information, please send that information to:

Secretary: Timothy D. Gile N2856 U.S. Hwy. 12 Humbird, WI. 54746 Home: 715-964-7011

Email: tg-gg@centurytel.net

VERIZON NON RESPONSE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNS AT MID WEST BARGAINING TABLE

As the talks at the Mid West Bargaining Table (Marion, Ohio) continue the union has placed several positive proposals on the table with regards to the overall problems and stress Verizon workers have about the sell out to Frontier. While Maggie, the Frontier CEO, flies around the country glad handing and happy talking to people about going back to the “good old GTE days”, she is quick to issue the warning that Verizon’s retirement package is considerably more generous than the traditional Frontier package. What are we supposed to take from that? Does she have cards she’s not showing? Your Bargaining Committee thinks so. And in view of that we are educating the company committee at negotiations on what needs to happen to slow the tide of talent that’s walking out the door as we speak!

So far the company has rejected anything we’ve told them that might help to stem the mass exodus. So perhaps they don’t care if we all leave? Maybe that’s what they want? Their actions make it difficult to believe otherwise!

The new Frontier company, if there ever comes to be one, will, in the best case scenario struggle mightily under mountains of debt. While at the same time trying to operate on a questionable network in bad need of repair. If you add to that mix huge numbers of experienced workers leaving, the result isn’t pretty. We’re trying to get the company to see that, to soak in that realization and for them to act on it in a meaningful manner. So far, no go. On the 3 biggies, pensions, retiree health care and job security, the company seems to be alright with sliding down the slippery slope to disaster.



On other fronts, we are continuing to bargain with the City of Edgerton (contract expired 12/31/2009). Our membership at Sun Printing (Wausau) is voting on a new 1 year agreement this month.

Your support, as always, is much appreciated.

Mike Oliver

CWA Local 4671

CWA Leads Fight for Fair Health Care Reform

CWA President Larry Cohen and other union presidents have been in marathon discussions at the White House this week to find a fair way to finance health care reform.

Cohen and leaders from about 10 unions plus the AFL-CIO and Change to Win met with President Obama and White House staff several times this week, with sessions lasting for many hours and past midnight.

Cohen and CWA have been leading the fight for fair health care reform, working with members of Congress, some employers and organizations and coalitions that understand that the proposed tax would increase costs and cut benefits for working and middle income Americans.

More than any other union, CWA's leadership has really pushed this issue in the mainstream and online media, on Capitol Hill, and in building coalitions. CWAers made tens of thousands of phone calls, wrote personal letters and met with their members of Congress and staff in both Washington, D.C. and district offices. This work was made possible through the Health Care Strategic Industry Fund, which enabled CWA to train field activists who carried out our critical mobilization program.

This week alone, more than 2,000 calls were made to members of Congress by CWAers, urging them to stand strong for fair health care reform.

Grievance Report - CWA Local 4671

Status as of January 6, 2010

Century Link

Century Link's purposed changes to the health insurance which take effect January 2010. (North)

Century Link's purposed changes to the health insurance which take effect January 2010. (South)

Century Link's purposed changes to the health insurance which take effect January 2010. (East)

Century Link's purposed changes to the health insurance which take effect January 2010. (West)

Frontier Telephone C.O.

Management employee transferring to craft wanting time bridged for seniority recognition. (Appealed to arbitration.)

Verizon Unit

Employee was terminated for attendance issues. (Appealed to top step.) Call Center.

Salaried non union employees are writing work orders and de-loading cable pairs. Which should be done by union employees. (Has been approved for arbitration.) South area.

Employee was wrongly denied the option to bump (displace) a junior employee in the most recent force reduction. (Received answer, will be appealed to arbitration.) North area.

Employees not receiving there overtime meals as outlined in the contract. (Has been accepted and approved for arbitration.) Call Center.

Company has failed to maintain Central Office work force, And allow CZT I employees the freedom of movement from job to job. Therefore utilizing contractors. (Received answer, appealed to arbitration.) North Area

Employee was denied access to the hourly staffing process. (Received answer at top step, unsatisfactorily, appealed to arbitration.) North area.

Employee was denied access to the transfer process. (Received answer at top step, unsatisfactorily, appealed to arbitration.) South area.

Employee was denied access to the transfer process. (Received answer at top step, unsatisfactorily, appealed to arbitration.) North area.

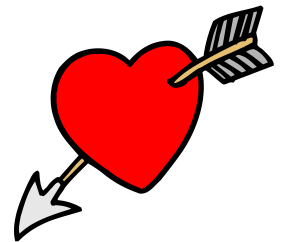
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Employee was denied access to the transfer process. (Received answer at top step, unsatisfactorily, appealed to arbitration.) North area.

Evrc Technician was placed on a action plan for attendance issues. Call center.

Members in the Evrc were coded unexcused not paid when they could not get to work due to the snow storm.

Compiled/submitted by Timothy D. Gile, Secretary CWA Local 4671.



Battleground Bulletin

CWA Dist. 4, AFL-CIO

Update #15

Jan. 8, 2010



***Please Post this
Notice on Union
Bulletin Boards!***

Fighting Verizon's Dirty Deal with Frontier

CWA has been fighting to block the sale of 4.8 million Verizon landlines in 14 states to Frontier. The sale would mean a \$600 million tax savings for Verizon and \$3.3 billion in new debt for Frontier, making it very unlikely that Frontier could build out high speed broadband or provide other advanced telecommunications services.

Similar deals have been a disaster for workers. Less than three years after Verizon's sale of its New England landlines to FairPoint Communications, that company filed for bankruptcy. Now, workers face cutbacks and job losses, customers face deteriorating service and the lack of high speed broadband and other new technologies. Hawaiian Telecom also filed for bankruptcy after Verizon used the same tax loophole to dump its landlines in Hawaii.

A solution to prevent these deals in the future is on the horizon. Rep. Paul Hodes (D-N.H.) and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.) are introducing a Bill to close the "Reverse Morris Trust" tax loophole that permits it. In the meanwhile, the fight to protect jobs for CWA members at Verizon goes on.

Health Reform or Attack on Our Benefits?

You Decide...

What the difference between good health care reform and disaster? Well, you could answer in many different ways. Here's two: 1) The House Bill and the Senate Bill, or 2) Us!

The House and Senate each passed a health reform Bill that do some good things. However, cut through the political clutter and it all comes down to at least two enormous differences: The House Bill provides a public option and makes companies that don't provide insurance and the super rich pay for reform. The Senate Bill, protects insurance companies from competition and worse still, makes *US* pay for it!!

Again, to cut through the political clutter, who will ultimately determine what the final bill looks like after the House and Senate negotiate? We do. We can choose to sit on our hands and let the lobbyists and big corporations make us pay, or we can get on the phone—NOW, and every day--to our members of Congress!

Call your member of Congress and demand that they reject the excise tax on our health benefits and make the corporations who don't provide insurance for their employees and the super rich pay the cost of health care reform! It's really that simple. Stop reading grab your phone, punch in the number below and your zip code and repeat after me:

"Don't tax *my* health benefits to pay for health care reform!! Make the companies that *don't* provide insurance and the super rich pay."

1-888-580-0792
CWA's Congressional Switchboard

