

CWA LOCAL 2107

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What's going on

We now have tee shirts for sale at the union hall. They are \$12. We didn't order many, but you have the opportunity to vote on the next style we order. Once we sell the ones we have, we will order new ones. Right now on the web site, you can vote for your choice of the four options we have. Just send an email saying which one you like best, and the winner will be our new shirt. We don't want to hear anyone complaining they don't have a red shirt! We will be selling them here at the hall, but we will also be bringing some down to the meeting in Waldorf next week. If you are coming to the meeting and want to make sure you get a shirt, call us and we'll make sure to save you one.

Also, we now have tickets for the AFL-CIO Night at Camden Yards. The Orioles will be playing the Washington Nationals on June 22, 2012. Game starts at 7:05 pm. Tickets are \$6.00 each. Come on out and support the labor movement at the ball park. Its always a good time and the price makes it easy to bring the whole family. Tickets are first come first serve, so call the hall as soon as possible for purchase.

The Waldorf Meeting will be at the Waldorf Elks on April 11, at 4:30. Come on by after work and see what's new with your union! Lets see if we can't double our attendance from last time!

Mobilization

By Shannon Opfer

First of all, thank you to everyone who came out on March 22, 2012 for our Day of Action. Rallies took place all over the country and it was wonderful to add our voices in with them. We had great participation here in Annapolis and in La Plata. If anyone from La Plata has pictures, please send them to us so we can get them on Facebook and the web page. The pictures from Annapolis are up on facebook. Check them out.

That being said, we still need to make more of an effort to get out there and be seen. The general public seems to think that we've settled everything and everything is peachy keen. We all know this is not the case. We have been bargaining for a new contract for over 9 months now. Every time we can make someone realize we are still working toward a contract, it's a good day. We will be having more mobilization events in the coming days. I will be out at the Verizon Wireless store one day every week, waving and leafleting .

April 28, 2012 is Workers Memorial Day. It's a day to think about all the people who have gotten killed or hurt at the workplace. Some of these people have lead to legislation that keeps us safe in our daily routines. We will be putting together something for that day.

Also, May 3, 2012 is the day of the Shareholders Meeting for Verizon. By now you should have all received your proxy votes. Please fill them out and get them back to the hall as soon as possible. We will be sending them to the meeting with our best wishes. That day we will be planning some actions so please, try to attend. The more of us out there, the more impact we make. For months the bargaining team has been complaining that there has been little to no movement at the tables. The day after our Day of Action, Verizon eased off some of their demands. They still weren't acceptable, but they gave a little for the first time. If we can get out there on a regular basis and let people know that we are *still* fighting for a new contract, maybe the reports from the bargaining team would be a little better.

President's point of view

First and Only Choice

Really folks, what choice do we have? Most of us depend on this job for our lifestyles. Without it we couldn't take care of our families in the way we would like too. Because of that, we can't roll over and take whatever BS our companies think we will accept. I'm beginning to lose faith that Verizon wants to share any part of their success with the unionized workforce that was instrumental in forging the success. There are other companies, including AT&T mobility that still bargain fairly with unions. We were able to negotiate a new four year deal with them. But our past 10 months of negotiation with Verizon haven't brought us any closer to a solution.

So what can we do? We need to get involved. We are starting to see a lot of new faces at our information pickets and meetings. Special thanks go out to all those involved in the 3/22/12 National Day of Solidarity. The whole board was out here in Annapolis, as well as many members and one well wisher. Down south we had a great turn out, thanks to Jeff for setting that up at the La Plata garage. Great job!

Folks, this back to work agreement can't last. Not when we see

the reports coming in from bargaining. "Verizon doesn't want you to have it this good.", and I'm sure they are working on something. Our union has put out the message of "Stand Up and Fight Back". That means when we ask you to do a small part in our fight for good jobs against the greed of corporations, you rearrange your schedule, or go out of your way to make the effort even if its not the perfect day or time.

Our companies plan to keep making profits and they see the unionized work force standing in their way. I disagree. I feel we are the best work force, the most trained, the most productive. I feel they have made huge profits with us and will continue to do so. We as the workers just need direction from the companies-a business plan we can get behind. CWA and our companies have had a good working relationship for a long time. Let's hope someone at the top wakes up and realizes it.

When we all do good, we all do good.

In Solidarity,
Your President

Daryl Winter

Wake Up Call

By Shannon Opfer

Every day at work, I hear people complaining about the amount of work being given to them. And I agree. When you are given 12 hours of work to do in 8 hours, its bs. So what are you going to do about it?

Why are we all behaving like its business as usual? The work load is being met, and more work is being added all the time. I hear so many complaints, but everything still mysteriously is getting done. Are there little elves coming in at night doing our work? We all know that they cannot force you to stay more than eight hours unless they are forcing everyone. And last time I checked this is not a forcing situation. So if you have to get off on time, do so. Follow the policies, make sure you call your supervisor before the designated time to do so, but after that, it is the company's responsibility to get you some help or get someone out there to finish the job.

I'm not telling anyone anything they don't know, and I'm not trying to get anyone in trouble. But we need to hold them to the policies and standards that they hold us to. We can't let them hold us to something while they break their own agreements day after day.

But while we're at it, I have a question for you. What the hell is going on? Normally Annapolis is a pretty quiet garage. Not much happens here. A couple of issues here and there, but nothing major. And then suddenly, BAM. Everyone has lost their damn minds!

So here we go again. Folks, I can't help you if you are determined to get into trouble. Yes, some of the policies around here are ridiculous, but they exist. I can't just wave a magic wand and

make them disappear. So what does this mean? Simple.

DO YOUR FREAKING SKYCREEK CALLS. BE WHERE YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE WHEN YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE.

I don't know why this is suddenly such an issue. Maybe management had gotten a little lax and we started taking advantage of it. Whatever the reason is, it needs to stop now! If you are a home garager, the agreement states that you must be at your first job at 8 am. This does not mean on your way, or at the SAI box, it means at the house. If there is a reason you won't be at the house on time, you are to call your supervisor and let them know. That way, if the second level has decided to stop by and visit and you're not there, someone has at least heard from you and can say, oh there was an accident, they're stuck in traffic, or whatever! If you can't meet these agreements, I suggest you bring your truck back to the garage.

Skycreek. Please. This isn't hard. Every job you do, you are responsible for making 2 phone calls. One pre, one post. If you are not doing this, you will be sent home. If you are doing it on your personal phone, stop. If you are, god forbid, doing it from home, stop. The company has provided you with a cell phone. Use it to make the calls they require you to make. If you can show them you were making the calls on your company cell and the system is not registering them, perhaps you will not be sent home.

Total job performance is here. They may not be able to fire anyone for numbers yet, but if you aren't doing the stupid things they are telling you to do, they'll fire you for that instead. Don't give them a reason to pull the trigger.

AT&T	Don't Bug Me
<p>We are trying to find ways to get more at&t employees involved. You are welcome to come by the hall whenever we are there and we would love to see you at meetings. The meetings here in Annapolis will be the odd months, second Wednesday of the month. In Waldorf, we will be meeting at the Elks Lodge, the second Wednesday of the even months. Stop by and get to know us. We will be trying to get out to more stores to update our information and meet some people. Anyone interested in getting involved please let us know.</p>	<p>Its getting to be that time of year again. Shorts, sunburn, and bugs. Lots and Lots of bugs. Experts have said the mild winter we had failed to kill off many of the bugs that usually die. This means this spring and summer will be especially bad.</p> <p>Please be on the lookout for trouble. Ticks and mosquitoes will be abundant this year and they carry several awful diseases. Wear repellent. Make sure you have some long pants to wear if you are in a heavily wooded area. The company provides repellent and sun screen so take advantage. Don't let yourself get sick if it can be avoided.</p>

Management Doing Our Work

<p>There is supposed to be a new effort teaching management to do our work. Its long been thought that management can do up to 10%. Well I have never been able to find that in our contract or letters of understanding. So if you are being told to teach your manager to do your work, we need to hear about it. This is an ongoing issue and we believe it is to make sure management knows how to do the job they are given if we go out again. There</p>	<p>is no way you should accept this. Please call the hall or one of the officers immediately if you are told to take a management person out with you to teach them anything. This is not referring to supervisors coming out to do their jobs by checking on you. This is only in reference to them doing bargained for work. If you have any questions please call the hall.</p>
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T Mobile's Fight

<p>From the national</p> <p>CWA activists and T-Mobile USA workers are spotlighting the company's bad decision to close seven call centers, affecting the jobs of 3,300 workers.</p> <p>From Pennsylvania to Texas to Oregon, workers are meeting with community leaders, local elected officials and others to fight for their jobs.</p> <p>The seven centers slated to close are: Allentown, Pa.; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Frisco, Texas; Brownsville, Texas; Thornton, Colo.; Redmond, Ore.; and Lenexa, Kansas. CWA has been working with T-Mobile USA workers who want a union voice. The German union ver.di, which represents T-Mobile and Deutsche Telekom workers in Germany, has played a major role in this effort, standing up for the rights of workers to choose union representation without the atmosphere of fear and intimidation that T-Mobile USA has created.</p> <p>This week, a full-page ad in the <i>New York Times</i> featured a call by 11 prominent German political leaders and scholars who told Deutsche Telekom and T-Mobile that U.S. employees "should not be influenced, pressured or intimidated by employers if they exercise their basic right for freedom of association."</p> <p>More than 400 Allentown workers will lose their jobs in three months.</p> <p>"There's no other job here that pays even remotely that well for the trade we're involved in," said Jim Brillhart, a technical support specialist in Allentown. "It's difficult for a lot of us locally." Brillhart added, "This is a serious blow to the local economy." Across the Atlantic, ver.di members will hold a picket line on Friday, bringing attention to the ongoing violations of workers' rights at T-Mobile USA as well as their own negotiations with</p>	<p>Deutsche Telekom and T-Mobile.</p> <p>Starting next week, be on the lookout for ads on Facebook, Google and other prominent websites, spreading awareness about T-Mobile's actions and an online petition. The message: T-Mobile should bring back work it has offshored to Asia and Central America, and keep our call centers open.</p> <p>CWAers also will be working with call center workers in Frisco and Brownsville, Texas, two more locations that T-Mobile management has put on the chopping block. Blake Poindexter, a technical support specialist in Frisco, said he's unsure about his future job prospects. But he continues to work with CWA to gather support from U.S. representatives in Texas to co-sponsor an anti-offshoring bill that penalizes American companies that ship jobs overseas.</p> <p>"I want to save anyone else from having to go through this," he said. "I wouldn't want to put anyone through what I'm having to go through, ever." T-Mobile promised employees that it would hire back many of 1,400 dismissed workers and help others transition into new jobs. But, a week later, many employees aren't too hopeful. Poindexter said he and his colleagues were simply instructed to go to the company's website to start applying for one of the 1,400 open positions "as if we were random people on the street looking for a job. I don't know how much is true, how much they're going to help me," he said.</p> <p>Jon Brookshire, a fellow Frisco-based technical support specialist, looked at the openings and discovered that to keep his current position and not take a drastic pay cut, he would have to move to either Albuquerque or Colorado Springs. "Both those economies over there are a lot worse than Dallas, so that's kind of a gamble," he said.</p>
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We're on the web at
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Check out our Facebook Page

Calendar

4/16/12	Retiree Club Meeting	9:30 am
4/16/12	Retiree Shrimp Fest	11:30 am
4/11/12	Membership Meeting, south	4:30 pm
4/28/12	Workers Memorial Day	
5/3/12	Verizon Shareholders Meeting	
5/9/12	Membership Meeting, north	4:30 pm

Sympathies to:

Ryan Blackiston
Pat Branning

Get Well to:

Eddie Miller
Ralph Marsh