

CWA LOCAL 2107

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Tis the Season

By Shannon Opfer

So I, like many of my co-workers, spent most of November in New Jersey, trying to bring some help to a state ravished by Hurricane Sandy. For all the pomp and circumstance the company put us through, I thought it was a good experience.

I did like the focus on safety, although I thought the reasons were suspicious. We were told to be safe because Lowell McAdam, Bill Foshay, and Bob Mudge were all in the area. I was more concerned with actually being safe, not looking safe. But I guess as long as people were safe, it's the same end result. Of course if you read the next article, you'll see safety hasn't really been the priority to Verizon lately.

I do wish there was that much attention on safety everyday. Even among ourselves, safety isn't as important as it should be. We get so focused on getting our numbers or just being in one spot for a minute that we let things slide. But the only ones we're hurting with that is ourselves.

Its not going to hurt Lowell if you don't come home tonight. Believe me he won't loose a se-

conds of sleep. But your family will. Can they manage if you don't come home tonight? Not just financially, but in every aspect? There is nothing more important than going home safely at the end of the day.

During this holiday season as much as we may disagree on certain things, we have to remember that we are as much a family as the one we were born into. We fight, we disagree, we complain about each other, but in the end we always manage to stand together when it matters. Someone has a problem, we open our wallets, and our hearts. Someone needs help, we get in line and say what can we do. I am truly thankful to be a part of this dysfunctional family. I can't explain how it works, but it does. And that's really all that matters.

So now that the contract is settled and things at work may settle down for a bit, lets look at what we can do to make our family stronger. It doesn't have to be money or time even. It can be as simple as letting someone know you are there for them if they need you. If we were to focus

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OSHA's Severe Violation Enforcement Program List

From the National

OSHA just confirmed what workers have been saying for years: Verizon ignores worker safety. Verizon is among 332 of the nation's employers that landed last week on OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program list. Created in 2010 to get tough on employers, the list calls out companies with willful, repeated and egregious workplace violations.

Verizon earned this ghastly distinction after federal officials discovered "repeat and serious" violations connected to the tragic death of Verizon technician Douglas Lalima, a member of CWA Local 1109. OSHA cited the company for 10 violations totaling \$14,700 — the maximum penalty under the law.

Lalima, a 37-year-old father of four, was in a cherry picker installing steel suspension strands in Brooklyn last September when he was electrocuted and burst into flames. The inspection found that Verizon failed to provide Lalima and his fellow technicians with life-saving equipment, such as insulated gloves. The steel suspension strands had not been grounded during installation, employees were not wearing hard hats, and protective equipment had not been inspected. The technicians — including Lalima, a 15-year veteran of the company — had not been adequately trained in safety procedures. Furthermore, Verizon neglected to list Lalima's death as a fatality in its mandatory records.

President's point of view

The Holidays are here! Let's talk about what we are thankful for and reflect back on our first year after the changes to the Executive Board. Year one is almost behind us and I'm happy to report after starting with very little in our accounts our local now runs a balance in the black and not the red for a change. I feel you have the right people going forward for the future of this local.

Mike runs the shows and keeps the local afloat. Scott is the contract man. He keeps Verizon on the straight and narrow. Shannon keeps my grammar as correct as possible and does your newsletter and facebook. Phil is just a good salt of the earth man who cares deeply about his AT&T folks and has their best interests at heart. I have two years left and I promise you that I will keep trying and working toward being the best president I can be.

Now let's talk about thankful! I'm thankful for my father who was a veteran. In his honor I put flags out in my adopted hometown of Romney West Virginia. I'm thankful we live in a country where I am allowed to do that without the fear of retaliation for showing pride in my country. I'm thankful to have my mother and family in good health. I'm very thankful to spend another holiday with my friend Pat who is fighting stage four brain cancer. He is dealing with this like the awesome man I know him to be. Let's all pray for my best friend and your union brother.

The holidays always seem to be more personal but I can't let this article go without saying I'm thankful for our new contract at Verizon and let's hope AT&T Mobility in February follows suit

and we have labor peace going forward.

There are some folks I need to recognize for helping me make this first year a success. The down south crew: Rodney we love you. Thanks a million to Donna and Robyn. Thanks for everything Dianna and Cathy, great bus trip. Jeff thanks for keeping La Plata going. Up north: Rich— top tee shirt sales, John and Brenholtz, thanks for supporting me even with the union political stand. Mitchell, thanks for everything, I know your hearts with the union. Doug thanks for the support and making the meetings. Ken thanks for making all the meetings. Annapolis construction- what a great group, you guys rock! If I missed anybody, it was not intentional. I have had great support.

A special thanks to our members who have stepped up to be stewards. Paul, Gary and Jon. We are thankful you are getting ready to start working as cogs in this machine we are in. I wish I could say you're going to have some time to get comfortable in your new positions, but that just not the environment we are in. Good luck men! Hopefully we'll find some more people willing to step up and take some more of the pressure off.

Thanks again for a great first year and I hope all members are filled with Peace and Love!

In Solidarity,
Your President

Daryl Winter

Disaster Relief

From the District

Obviously, this year has had some real challenges. Our brothers and sisters in the North East were hit particularly hard by Hurricane Sandy. Thousands of CWA members are still without homes, electricity or suffering other hardships in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. But help is on the way.

CWA's Disaster Relief fund is one resource to assist members who experience a financial hardship due to a natural disaster as declared by FEMA. The Fund may provide the member with a subsidy based on their essential associated with their primary home, and applications can be requested through your CWA Staff Representative.

CWA is also setting up another fund that would assist our sisters and brothers who have suffered losses or hardships in ways other than to their primary home. Donations can be made and mailed to:

CWA Disaster Relief—Hurricane Sandy Fund
Secretary-Treasurer's Office
501 3rd St, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Union Made

From the aff-cio

During this Holiday season, we need to concentrate on finding products made in America. Union made is even better! You can go to www.unionplus.org for a list of stores or items and where you can find them. They even list which turkey and cranberry sauce is made by union employees! Have you ever been browsing the aisles of the grocery store hoping to remember all those union-made products the AFL-CIO Now blog wrote about? Or maybe you're at the toy store trying to find that perfect gift that's made in America? Union Plus has a simple solution if you left your shopping list at home.

On your mobile device:

Text CARS to 22555 for union-made vehicles.
Text BEER to 22555 for union-made beer.
Text PETS to 22555 for union-made pet products.
Text CANDY to 22555 for union-made candy.
Text TOYS to 22555 for union-made toys.

*Message and data rates may apply depending on your cell plan. You can opt out of our text service at any time by replying STOP to any message that you receive.

This year, we can make our families happy and make things better by supporting our Union Brothers and Sisters.

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on each other instead of *fighting* each other, we really could make this a better place to work. If we live the adage that, "An injury to one is an injury to all, we could take this place back. Just a thought. You'll just have to deal with my bright eyed opti-

mism for a little while longer. Sorry, Christmas always makes me want to see the best in people. By January, it'll be over I promise.

It's the holidays! Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, whatever you believe, be happy. And of course, be safe.

Lowell and Me: Trading Places

Reprinted with permission by Johnny Brown, Local 2108

In the 15 months since bargaining with Verizon began, I have put off making any major purchases. I really would like to get a new car and I was hoping to buy this sweet older boat that I had my eye on so I could cruise the Chesapeake Bay this summer. But like everyone else, the threat of what might happen with our contract, another possible strike or even a lockout, I have postponed any major investments.

I guess if I was making over 23 million dollars like Verizon CEP Lowell McAdam, I wouldn't give those insignificant purchases a second thought. He doesn't have to worry about the same things you and I deal with o a month to month basis. He doesn't live paycheck to paycheck.

So I got to thinking about a way to possibly give ol' Lowell some perspective on life from our vantage point, and at the same time, save Verizon some major dough on salary.

I am officially offering to swap jobs with Mr. McAdam. Let's say we run the trial in concurrence with the next contract...(if we ever get one). I think the terms of the said adventure are extremely fair and hope that Lowell sees it the same way and accepts my offer.

Under the proposed job-swap, I will officially take over as Verizon CEO. You can still call me Johnny and drink beers with me just like before. I still plan on playing softball and furthering my music career down in southern Md. I will be the HMFIC. I kinda like the ring of that, but at a lower rate of pay. I propose that my salary remains the same as what I make as a Systems Tech. I have raised my three kids working on that for over 35 years and don't see the need to get greedy now, (although the boat I wanted is now gone...and it might cost more for something equivalent...perhaps I will get a bonus for all my efforts!) I will have to resign my post as CWA Local 2108 Secretary-Treasurer but will still retain my membership in the Local since I want to make sure I am covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

Lowell McAdam, Local 2108's newest member, will make exactly what we make in each phase of this trial. The purpose of the experiment is to try and make ends meet in our salary structure while dealing with the stress levels associated with our jobs. I'm sure in the sense of fair play, he will not dip into the hundreds of millions he has stockpiled to offset pay discrepancies.

Lowell will start off as an Operator. This is one of the toughest jobs in the company and I think he should get that out of the way so the next 2 1/2 years are a breeze. I think he needs to get a good appreciation of a gamut of jobs at the company he is currently trying to sabotage. After life as an Operator, he will be assigned to the EVRC and take trouble calls. He can assign in-

coming troubles 2-3 week commitments and explain to our customers how we really appreciate their business even though they don't have service.

Year two, its on to the Business office. I'm sure he will be more than qualified to follow scripted guidelines and will excel in his new title of Consultant. Selling folks stuff they don't need because they are already behind on their bills should come easy. That's how Wall St. works. Perhaps part of this stint could be done in the Collections Center...he might be interested in why our customers are jumping ship and not paying bills.

Although he has probably never seen the inside of a Central Office, I am going to assign him as a frame Attendant anyway. We may as well have someone in a Central Office to answer a phone call even though I'm sure all those wires would just confuse him. But at least the techs would have someone to talk to while they're were hanging off a pole, waiting for someone else to come and run a jumper.

"If" he passes pole school, Lowell will be our newest FIOS installer in the his last year of the trial. Two triple plays a day will keep him off the "Total Job Performance" plan as long as he makes his SkyCreek calls. Chris Childs is a stickler for this and he might get moved to a further garage location and be denied overtime for non-adherence.

Finally, if Lowell makes it this far and hasn't been advanced off the payroll die to attendance issues, there is a dire need for his expertise as a Copper Maintenance Splicer. I'm sure he will have all the answers on how to repair the outside plant that had been neglected for the past ten years. Perhaps he'll decide to withdraw some of the Verizon profits he currently has squandered away in offshore banks to reinvest in the network.

During my incredible three year adventure as CEO of Verizon and Verizon Wireless, I pledge to utilize the 70 million I save this company in salary to expand the FiOS plant. It's a great product and I would like everyone to experience our state of the art network. I will work hard to bring our counterparts in the wireless world a fair contract as well. Jobs currently being performed overseas will be brought back home to help lower unemployment here. I will attend all those important luncheons and shake hands with other CEO's. I might even give up wearing sleeveless shirts, shorts, and flip-flops for this trial!

In the end, I will gladly hand the reins back over to Lowell with a better understanding of his role as CEO. Hopefully, he will have a better understanding of what life is like in the trenches and be more appreciative to the folks who made this a Fortune 15 company. Conceivably, contract negotiations will go a bit smoother next go-round.

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We're on the web at
cwa-2107.org

Check out our Facebook Page

Calendar

12/10/12	Retiree Christmas Party	12:00 p.m.
12/12/12	Membership Meeting south	4:30 p.m.
12/25/12	Union Bargained for Holiday-Christmas	
1/1/13	Union Bargained for Holiday- New Year's Day	
1/9/13	Membership Meeting north	4:30 p.m.

Get Well to:

Lynette Snell

Sympathies to:

Michael Breen on the death of his father