

CWA LOCAL 2107

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President's point of view

Hello. Here are just a few words to let you get introduced to your new board members. I started with the phone company on March 3, 1984 in the business office. After 3 years, I moved outside to be an installer in the Odenton garage, back before it was a training center. After they closed that garage, I worked in Laurel as a Splicer. Six months in construction was the norm for a new splicer back then. They gave me every buried job they could find. Then I was moved to a repair crew. From there I was moved to a PPM crew. For those of you who don't know what PPM is, we used to fix the plant when something went bad. Back then we were fixing pairs for 2nd line dial up computers in every house. My favorite job started with a list of defective pairs and your job was to clear them and make them usable again.

From there, I was moved to Annapolis and back into maintenance. When you are here long enough to see co-workers promoted to managers, it tends to open up a few doors, so I was able to get into the new world of DLC and I hope to finish my career there.

Daryl Winter

Hope Springs Eternal

By Daryl Winter

We all need hope! These are a few things I hope for as the New Year starts.

Personal

Hope for health, love and peace.

Hope to see my youngest graduate college in May

Hope Congress will get their act together

Hope to spend more time at my West Virginia cabin

Hope to see my grandson start school in the fall

Hope that I can be the best local president you have seen in 2107

Work

Hope for a new contract that we can all live with

Hope for members to give the new board of your local a 2nd chance

Hope to get more members involved

Hope every member who wishes to leave the company leaves on their own terms

Hope we have no firings in this local this year

Hope the companies we work for realize we are a valuable asset and not a burden.

What are some of the things you hope for and how can we help you achieve them?

What's Going to BE Different?

By Daryl Winter

I ran for local president for one main reason. I believe if you are not in this local or if you are retired, you should not hold a board membership. If you transfer or retire you should stay until your term is finished and then pass the torch. I didn't attend all the meetings but I know what I didn't like, and we're going to do our best to change them.

Meetings should feel like we are there for common goals. We are all in this together trying to preserve good union jobs. It shouldn't be the board versus the members.

We intend to hold meetings every month. Our first meeting in the northern area will be March 14 at the Local Hall. From there on out, meetings will be every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Even months the meetings will be in the south and odd months will be at the local hall.

Our website has been updated as you can see, so bear with us until we have it all set. Once we do, make sure you check it often because we will be putting the most current information up

there first. Mark it as your favorites on your computer. Newsletters will be online only unless specifically requested. If you want one sent to your home, please call and leave a message and let us know. Our local has a facebook page now. Check it out. Right now we have 14 friends. Let's work to bump that up a bit. With all of these changes, we welcome your input. Like something? Don't like it? Let us know.

Recent retirees can start by joining the retiree club. You might be surprised at some of the people who show up. Come on out and see.

As for the members and retirees, we need to start doing the things our national has asked us to do, like leaflet at the Verizon Wireless stores. Walk in together on Thursdays with your red on. I know red on Thursday doesn't sound like a big deal but walking in together at your start times does get noticed. I also think a camo day for "Hunting for a new contract" might not be a bad idea. Let's talk about it at the next meeting. See ya there.

A Brave New World

By Shannon Opfer

So obviously, it has been quite some time since we had a newsletter and quite a bit has changed. Not just here with our local, but with Verizon and the world in general. How we deal with these changes can potentially make a huge difference.

Verizon said good bye to a director that I'm sure we will all miss "sorely". But perhaps the less said about that, the better. We have under gone reorganization. Whether it's coming from the top brass or just someone local, they have taken directors from the worlds they have always been in and flip flopped them. This leads to some uncertainty. It leads to questions about what they know or don't know. So instead of understanding this is the way things work, they only know what they've been told.

Ordering supplies hasn't changed; we still can't get anything in. Supervisors are being told orders are being held up on a higher-up's desk. Sooner or later we will run out of something we need to do our jobs. In construction we are borrowing begging and stealing things as simple as cases for our splices. We're not trying to get out of doing the work; we simply can't do it without the supplies. I don't know what is going on. There is a part of me hoping that we'll run out and someone will have to explain to Lowell McAdam why we sat around for a day waiting for the simplest of supplies.

Rumors of course, are flying fast and furious. I don't have a clue what is happening. Why are so many people being loaned to construction? Why would Verizon want to cooperate with Comcast? Why do the new vans not have the full ads the old ones have. No clue. Unfortunately my crystal ball is awful

cloudy right now. So what can we do to steer this seemingly sinking ship in a direction of our choosing?

We really need to put the pressure on the company. We are 7 months from our contract expiration and everything is business as usual. The hell it is. We don't have a contract! Don't forget at any minute one side can walk away and we'll be back where we were in August. Why are we still doing as much if not more than we were before the strike? FiOS technicians are consistently loaded with more than 8 hours of work and then given crap for calling to get it removed. Or techs are completing 8 hours of work in 4 hours. If you do that, all you are doing is giving them a reason to make the numbers higher. The numbers will never stop rising. The company is convinced we can always be doing more. But when you add in the safety things we HAVE to do for our own lives, there is no way you can safely do the work. So what is going on?

Folks, I'm not telling you not to do your work. What I am saying is to do your work to delight the customer, not to get the numbers. Do your work safely. If you have glowing customer commendations, what supervisor is going to target you? Don't cut corners on things that can kill you. Safety is no joke and the person you are affecting is you, no one else. We all want to be able to go home at night and do the things we love to do. We need to get through the days at work as safely as possible in order to do that. Remember if we all stand together they really can't do anything without us. We are the legs this company stands on so they better respect us. Or we might just possibly drop them on their ass.

“Comizon”

by Shannon Opfer

This proposed cooperation with Comcast is something I don't understand. I've read over it but I don't speak Legalese. All I know is this is a bad idea for us as employees and union members. We need to do anything we can to keep this from happening. We need to write to our representatives and let them know that business is not the most important thing. We are members of this community and what affects us will affect the community. If our way of life is harmed by this, as we can only assume it would be, it would have a negative impact on our economy. We cannot afford to allow good union jobs to disappear into non-union jobs.

Several other cell phone companies are protesting this merger as it will create a monopoly. We need to push back as union members against this. Whether we protest by letters, or informational picketing we need to be proactive because if this does go through, it will be too late. The company told the union it wouldn't affect us in the field at all. It will only affect the wireless side. We all see this as the bull sh** it is. Now we just need to decide what to do about it. Never doubt that a small group of people can change the world. We don't really want to change it; we just want it to stay the way it was.

Never Forget

We wear red on Thursdays to honor a member who was killed during a strike. He was hit by a car and died of his injuries. We can never forget that, but we can also never forget other things either. This goes out to the Annapolis garage. We still do not have a contract. We have way too many members who have for-

gotten this fact. Also, we had two associates that crossed our picket line and yet people are still talking to them. These people are enjoying all the benefits that WE fought for while they continued to collect a paycheck. Those two weeks were too difficult for some people. Think about that the next time you get a phone

Thanks to...

By Scott Pruett

I would like at this time to thank Daryl, Shannon, and Mike for joining me in this journey we have undertaken. They have given a lot of their free time.

Also thanks to those who came out to our open house. It went really well. Thanks to Rich for his bbq and John for the buffalo dip, as well as Mrs. Winter for the phenomenal cucumber salad

and pasta. I like to think a good time was had by all. We'll have to think about having some more of those. Maybe we'll try to have one down south next time.

And now that you've seen where we are, maybe you can bring a couple people to the next meeting which will be March 14 here at the hall. The more the merrier! Let's see if we can't fill the meeting room up.

Recent Grievances

By Shannon Opfer

It seems like I'm still singing the same old song even though its been so long since I've done a newsletter. But that's ok, you can ask anyone, I very rarely get tired of hearing myself talk. Anyway, we really need everyone to stop doing the things they know they are not supposed to do.

You know what I mean. No more talking on the cell while driving. Please! There have already been far too many accidents this year and Sheila Ketterer has already mentioned that she'd like to increase the penalties for accidents. After one accident another director's first words were not "is the technician ok?", they were "Pull his records. Was he on the phone?" There is no wiggle room here. It's a state law and Verizon will give you time off for it.

Skycreek. Yes again. There will no longer be any sort of ECM

at all. If you are not meeting the numbers, they will send you home. Guaranteed. Just make the phone calls. And do not make them on your personal phone. They give you the company tool to do it, and the time to do it. But you have to take the time. Don't do it on your way home, or while you're driving. They can pay you for the over time or the time in the morning.

Also, please remember the company phone is a tool. Do not use it for personal business. They are tracking it and you will be disciplined if they feel its necessary.

We've had a few small successes lately in getting people some time back, but its no guarantee. The best bet is to do what you are supposed to be doing where you are supposed to be doing it. We cannot defend stupidity. If I could spend all my time fighting the real battles we have instead of the ones we make for ourselves, my life would be so much easier.

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We're on the web at
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Check out our Facebook Page

Calendar

3/12/12	Retiree Club	9:30 am
3/14/12	Membership Meeting, north	4:30 pm
3/22/12	National Solidarity Day	
3/30/12	President's Meeting	10:00 am
4/11/12	Membership Meeting, south	tba