



The Sentinel

Official quarterly
newsletter of the
Communications
Workers of America
Local 2100

**Communications Workers of America
Local 2100
Box F, Chase, MD 21027**

410-335-2100

SEPTEMBER 2010 MEETINGS

800-445-0242

410-335-0414 (fax)

mail@cwa2100

www.cwa2100.org

Baltimore

Monday September 20th, 2010

Knights of Columbus Hall

Frederick Rd.—Catonsville

Bel Air

Tuesday September 21st, 2010

Abingdon Fire Hall

Abingdon Rd

Westminster/Frederick

Wednesday September 22nd, 2010

VFW Post #467

519 Poole Rd.

NOTE: All Meetings Start 5:30 PM

Officers

President

Mark Balsamo

Ex. Vice President

Kevin Miller

Sec./Treasurer

Charles Dobry

District 1 VP

Mike Somers

District 2 VP

Gary Kelso

District 3 VP

Nick Riddle

District 4 VP

Bryan Wholey

District 5 VP

Kevin Davis

Congratulations to the Recent Verizon Retirees

Local 2100 would like to congratulate the recent retirees on the last EISP offer they accepted as part of the latest package. We know there was a lot of controversy surrounding the EISP with the negotiated offer of \$50,000 plus the extended years of service and some job security. The hard

work of CWA and the understanding of our members a good contract was negotiated.

Even if you are not a true retiree or you are a post '03 member and decided to take advantage of the offer and put an end to the other possibilities of separation, we wish you the best.

CWA and all the locals rely on the support of our members and appreciate the time and hard work that you devoted and the faith you had in CWA.

Everyone leaving the payroll will be missed and the local wishes all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

by Mark Balsamo / Kevin Miller



I'm sure most of you have heard by now the current status of our President. Mark is currently out on benefits from an injury he sustained to his Achilles tendon. He is recovering at

home and after surgery and a few walking casts and now a soft cast—the physical therapy begins. Once Mark is released back to full duty he will then begin the retirement process from the last EISP offer.

All that said, you are getting an article written by the acting president.

I started out like everyone else, just a member of the local. I was then persuaded to become active and take on the role of a steward. From there, the comment was put to me “Put up or shut up” and so my adventure to be District Vice President began. After getting roped in even further I was pushed to run for Secretary/Treasurer position. I actually ran and won this position but resigned due to other positions coming open. I then ran for Executive Vice President and won. At every step in this journey you take on more responsibility and you see how the effects of one situation affects the outcome of other unrelated situations. Now that I have been filling in for Mark I can appreciate the time and dedication it takes to be the President of a Local. There are a lot of things that need to be considered and not every decision makes every member happy. Not everything can be changed with a phone call, some things require the assistance of the membership in the field and the actions that you take. Another thing that I'm sure people don't realize is how much work really goes on handling issues that arise in the Local. It takes phone calls, reviewing policies, communications with the DVP's, issues on every management level and even some crystal ball interpretation. A ton of work is done behind the scenes and some things do get set-

led before it actually affects the membership. It takes a huge effort not only from the Local but also from the membership. All this said, hurry back Mark.

There have been some changes since our last membership meetings and even more since the last newsletter. A lot of members have taken the EISP offers, a changing of the guard in management, some new policies, schedule changes, different classes being offered, the sale of West Virginia to Frontier and even changes in the Local. The Executive board held a special meeting in regards to our soon to be retired president. As in the past, when others have retired from Verizon and stayed on as elected Officers of the Local compensation was considered for the retirees. The Executive board unanimously approved an offer with Mark to fulfill his term as President until the end of 2011. As with all of the elected positions in the Local another election will take place at the end of 2011.

Some of the things you should see coming out of the local for the upcoming year are options like; ideas in keeping the membership strong and toward a single course of action, more district and local activities that will be family orientated, more internal organizing campaigns, more education for members and stewards along with more communications from the local through the District Vice Presidents to the stewards and members. The next year will not be an easy course for anyone. The moving of members to fill the voids left by our brothers and sisters that will be leaving and have left payroll, the expiration of the contract in August, the economy of our country and some of the lame brain ideas the company will try to come up with will keep all of us on alert. Standing together and taking up for each other couldn't come at a better time for solidarity and unity. Remember in our prayer at the meetings, “The injury of one should be the concern of all”.

In Unity,
Kevin Miller, EVP
and Acting President.

Retirees Corner

by Tom Thomson

CWA Local 2100 retirees are holding their Annual Crab Feast on Sunday, October 17, 2010 at 12:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall on 1010 Frederick Road in Catonsville.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. This event is open to all retirees in Local 2100.

Come out enjoy some great company, good crabs and watch the away Ravens take on the New England Patriots.

If you have any questions, need tickets or would like to join the Retiree's Club please contact Tom Thompson at 410-925-3759 or 410-692-9407 or shoot an email to herberthomson@msn.com or contact the Local.

Financial Overview of the Local.....

by Chuck Dobry

The 2009/2010 books are coming to a close and a new chapter is being written for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. There was a budget and finance meeting at the Local with the committee and changes have been put in place. There was serious consideration given to the current EISP and surplus conditions and the budget was reduced by 10% over last years reduction of 10%. After reviewing last years budget we are approximately 15% under budget for the current year. A lot of changes took place, we changed banks to reduce bank fees, made changes to the telephone package, reduced the general services and are looking at other ways to reduce our budget. In being financially responsible to the Local these steps were and are necessary for the good of the Local. We would like to thank the Budget and Finance Committee for their work and diligence in keeping the Local on solid ground.

Community Services Committee.....

by Gary Kelso

In preparation of the upcoming seasons the Committee is getting ready to start moving forward on some ideas. We are looking into another food drive and donate the collections to a food bank in the area to help them add to their inventory. There are also plans to adopt some local families for the holiday season and provide them with the items necessary for good Christmas.

Some other ideas that the committee is considering is a Local Scholarship Program for college, getting a group to volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity project and other local organizations/activities that could use the help of a great group of people.

So keep an eye on the Union Bulletin boards for further information to donate or volunteer some time to worthy projects.

FiOS/HSI discount available

Recently, an agreement was reached to provide active Verizon employees a discount on their FiOS service. If you subscribe to FiOS and have a 2 year agreement the price for a Triple Play will be \$79.95 per month plus any taxes and fees relating to the free Ultimate HD.

Verizon Online is also making an offer to active Verizon employees which would give them a discount of \$10 per month off an HSI Triple Play and \$5 per month off a Double Play.

Both discounts for FiOs and HSI will be effective as long as the employee is active and maintains the eligible package on his/her account or until modified or

discontinued by the company in its sole discretion.

General Terms of Employee Offers:

- Available to all active employees who are employed by Verizon companies who maintain the eligible bundle or HSI standalone service on their account.
- Only one Employee discount/promotion is available per employee and per account.
- Orders must be placed online and require an email address (either corporate or other).
- The FiOS offer cannot be combined with other employee or other discounts except the \$5 online ordering credit for Freedom or FiOS Digital voice, where applicable and eligible.

- The HSI bundle and HSI line share discount offers can be combined with other applicable promotional offers available to the general public, but not other employee discounts (except concession voice service as set forth below).
- The voice packages (Freedom Essentials/Value or FiOS Digital Voice) included as part of bundles will replace concession voice service. Voice concession service can be combined with the HSI line share offer.
- The HSI line share discount does not apply to the HSI Price Guarantee plans.
So take advantage of the offer and save some money on your monthly budget.

It's your time, track it!!

Nick Riddle

As we approach the end of the year a very ugly beast is rearing its ugly head. New this year, Verizon technicians have been using V-Mobile to request time off. The ugly is this system is inaccurate and misleading. Some show fewer days left, while others show more. This is starting to create problems with

technicians going on vacation only to have no pay or other days deducted from their entitlements. This is totally unacceptable and needs to be corrected.

While the local fights to have this corrected each member needs to monitor their own time off should there be a discrepancy. You should

ask your supervisor for a print-out of the days the company says you used. Contact your local steward of DVP if you have any questions or concerns.

Finally pursuant to Article 30, in the fine print, Floating Holidays must be scheduled by October 1st, with 30 days prior notice.

Contact Expiration ... coming soon.

5,4,3,2,1.....

August 6, 2011 is approaching faster than we can imagine. Yes, less than 12 months away! The question now would be "What's in it for me"? Do you enjoy your paid vacation? Do you make a good living? Are you covered by

health care? Do you have retirement and a 401K? Do you get paid holidays? Do you get a profit sharing check? These are just a few of the benefits the current contract provides to our members and their families.

Don't believe for one minute the company just gives us these! You had better be ready to fight for what is yours and lead by example if you enjoy the benefits that we currently have!!

Vote, Vote, Vote

...Chuck Dobry

Over the last two years, America has experienced the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. This has left the local and state governments facing deep budget cuts and hard choices, threatening the jobs of crucial public service employees. This also has ill effects on private sector employees as well.

Our economy didn't get this bad overnight, and it won't be fixed overnight either. That's why it has never been so important for us to continue supporting our elected leaders who care more about working families and less about Wall Street CEO's and Big Bank lobbyists.

Public employees have been essential in helping our communities get through the recession by providing efficient and effective services throughout Maryland. We need elected officials who recognize the valuable contributions we make and who will fight for what is best for working families in Maryland.

The Maryland General election voting will be open November 2nd, 2010. Voters also have the option of an Absentee Ballot form, but remember there are rules with Absentee Balloting. It really doesn't matter the form you use to vote, but please get to the polls and let your voices be heard.

If anyone is interested, the Local has a list of recommended candidates that have been endorsed by the AFL-CIO and other Union Labor organizations (such as CWA, IBEW, NABET, Building Trades, etc.). This list looks at the candidates past voting records as they relate to Union matters and the benefits towards working families. All candidates are sent a survey and if they are looking for the endorsement of the Unions an interview was scheduled to determine their political views. The interviews are conducted by a panel of Union Leaders.

So remember get out and VOTE. Your future depends on it.

AIL and AFLAC Coverage's Available Soon.....

The Local is looking into some additional benefits for our members to supplement their life outside of the current benefits package that the contract provides for us.

Recently, our members should have received information regarding American Income Life (AIL) which will provide \$2,000 of accidental death insurance at no cost to any member in good standing in the Local. They also provide additional insurance that

our members can purchase for supplemental coverage for items such as; co-pays, dental, vision, prescriptions, additional life insurance, etc.

We are also in talks with AFLAC on a group rate discount for our members that are interested in purchasing this additional type of coverage. AFLAC pays money directly to the policy holder based on the type and level of coverage the member chooses. Benefits could be

paid on hospital stays, doctor visits, wellness care, emergency room and other types of visits. Plans are available on an individual or family basis. This would be an individual/family coverage at a group rate. These coverage's can also follow the members if they leave the payroll of their current employer. More information will be available soon.

Both of these coverage's will be available to current members in good standing along with our Retiree Club members.

Entertainment.....

CWA ANNUAL

BULL & OYSTER ROAST

Friday October 22, 2010 7pm till midnight

Featuring music by DJ JEWELL

American Legion Hall

Putty Hill & Old Harford Rd.

Parkville, MD

Please contact **Local 2101** 410 882-8800



Local 2100 410 335-2100 (Call Ginny)