

CWA 9415 Membership

Meetings - 6:30

April 15

May 20

June 17

Safety Committee - 3rd Tues 5:30 PM

1831 Park Blvd. - Oakland

www.CWA9415.org



Volunteer Today!

We are seeking volunteers for committees - Women's & Equity, Community Services, Health & Safety, Organizing, Mobilizing & Communications. Call today!

REPORT FROM THE ISLANDS

(continued from front page)

(military) project, Dwayne Worley (Undersea Cable Stations) and Chief Steward Bob McCulloch (Satellite Earth Station). Our primary issues in the AT&T unit include Overtime, contracting out of work, and staffing issues.

Being located over 2000 miles away from our local office in Oakland presents certain unique challenges for the stewards in Hawaii. Since we have no executive officers here, we rely heavily on our Executive Vice-Presidents in Oakland for assistance; Christina Huggins for Legacy T and Sally Venable for Mobility.

One immediate goal we have now is to begin actively building an expanded mobilization organization in order to prepare for upcoming contract negotiations in both of our units, utilizing the Steward's Army concept.

Aloha to all of our brothers and sisters on the mainland.



CWA and ver.di, Germany's largest union, officially established the first-ever union to unite and represent workers in the U.S. and Europe - T Union, a joint affiliate of both organizations. Top officers of both unions formally signed the new partnership during a video conference and talked through strategies and plans for the new organization.

The new union will support T-Mobile workers who want a union voice and collective bargaining rights in the United States and other countries, and German union members who work for T-Mobile in the U.S. A new website is now live, where T-Mobile workers can safely share information and experiences and discuss workplace issues. That site is www.t-mobileunion.org. A text messaging system for U.S. members only also is up and running: text TUNION to 77007 to get a message about the campaign.

Workers in a number of T-Mobile locations in the United States are in contact with CWA and have expressed strong interest in getting a voice. In the past, T-Mobile has strongly opposed its U.S. employees from seeking collective bargaining rights. T Union is a new cooperative program where unions worldwide are working together to stop corporations' attacks against workers and build bargaining power, in the United States and around the globe.

CWA President Larry Cohen said the new union is a "new step in global solidarity" and will be a major part of the struggle for workers' organizing and bargaining rights around the world. "This is an aspect of organizing that hasn't been done before - it's a huge breakthrough," he said. "This new union sends a message to T-Mobile management in the U.S. that workers at Deutsche Telekom and at other T-Mobile operations who have bargaining rights will fight hard to protect them and to support their U.S. counterparts who also want the right to collective bargaining."

a 9415 production edited by randy christensen
send questions, articles, poems, etc
to rchristensen@cwa9415.org



Local 9415

Live Wire

April 2008

Mobilize 4 Justice

by Valerie Reyna,
Local 9415 President

In CWA Mobilization is our strategy which allows every member to play a positive role in improving working conditions, while building a strong voice at work through a one-on-one, worker-to-worker structure. This structure allows us to communicate with every single member and can mean either educating the members on a certain topic or asking the members to get involved in a work place or collective action. Our Local has built this structure through Stewards and activists who volunteered to be responsible for talking to co-workers about issues of importance to working families in the coming year.

Job Security, Health Care & Retirement Security are the focus in the coming year as every contract comes up at AT&T - now the largest unionized employer in the country. This is where the standards will be set - this is where the battle lines will be drawn, laying a solid basis for our future - it's in our hands!

Make no mistake - We're under attack at AT&T and they're not waiting until the contracts expire. Management is violating the contract today - co-mingling work between the Legacy S and Legacy T contracts, sending our construction jobs-to-contractors and our service rep calls out-of-state, just to name few. AT&T is intentionally undermining agreements that are currently in place in every area.



It's outrageous and only possible since the National Labor Relations Board, where we used to contest such violations is packed with Bush appointees that consistently side with the employers. Recently even the Federal

Bankruptcy Courts shredded the Contracts of Airline workers - eliminating contractual pension obligations with the stroke of a pen! This new reality requires that we unite ourselves and our communities into an effective force to challenge these greedy corporate policies. It's the only way we can win.
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- AT&T Tech Unity = Victory!
- CWA Launches New Union

FROM THE ISLANDS the local report

by Bob McCulloch, Chief Steward - Hawaii

CWA Local 9415 represents members in Hawaii who work under the (Legacy) AT&T and the Cingular (AT&T Mobility) contract. We recently completed training of six new stewards for the AT&T Mobility Contract. District 9 Staff Rep Tom Runnion and Local 9415 President Valerie Reyna conducted the training in Honolulu, immediately following the District 9 Conference. Executive Vice President Sally Venable and Chief Steward for Hawaii Bob McCulloch assisted.

We would like to welcome our six new stewards: Chris Cabico (Call Center), James Donnelly (Kapolei Retail Store), Alex Chase & Eric Siy (Mililani Retail Store), Kelvin Kikuchi (Technician), and Jeff Teruya (Pearl City Retail Store). They are joining our hard working existing Cingular/Mobility stewards: John Chilcott (Kapiolani Retail Store), Iris Yasukochi (Pearl City Retail Store), Alohalinda Alcott (Call Center), John Manzanares (Waipahu Retail Store), and Suzette Kali (Lihue, Kauai Retail Store).

Many of the issues that we are dealing with at AT&T Mobility in Hawaii include unfair and unjust terminations, attendance issues, commissions, staffing, contracting out of technician work, and management's reluctance to provide information requested by the company.

The (Legacy) AT&T unit is represented by Stewards Tommy Martinez, Tabby Cambra, John Meletia, Ethel Becker, and Carrie Koki on the HITS/JHITS

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Part of a 70 ft mural of the history of the Hawaiian Labor Movement by Artist Tomas Belsky, located in Hilo, HI.



Techs @ AT&T Resist Contract Violations

by Randy Christensen, Local 9415 Contractual Vice President

In the I&R world at AT&T, management thought they would simply violate the contractual rights of the workers. They announced they would be upgrading Installation & Repair Techs to a new title without Bargaining the terms with the union of the workers. Management was taught a valuable lesson. Never mess with workers that know their rights and communicate with their leadership. Once alerted to managements' game plan, the workers were having none of it. There was no cooperation.

As one tech put it, "We didn't do anything!" Precisely! We didn't play their game. We refused to fill out their 'canvass forms.' We let them know that we would resist at every step. We let them know we meant business. We did this in all the locals throughout District 9 and beyond! It was a simple test of our solidarity and our ability to unite while they worked quite hard at dividing us in so many ways, and in violating our contract. It was impressive to witness the united action of CWA locals across the various geographic areas.

First our leadership hung up on management's conference call and then the techs stood with them, refusing to cooperate with management's plan to divide and conquer. Management backed right up and is now bargaining with us as they should have from the start!

This is the type of simple solidarity that we have to rely on as we move into the final year of our contract. Management will continue to come at us in a variety of ways to weaken and divide our ranks, getting ready for bargaining. We'll need to maintain our vigilance, increase our awareness and organize ourselves with greater unity. We must create that powerful indivisible force that continually moves forward.

Forward Ever - Backward Never!

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CWA LAUNCHES NEW INTERNATIONAL UNION

MoBilizing 4 Justice

(continued from front page)

These policies are coming directly from Texas at AT&T and are having a dramatic impact on job loss during a time that we can ill afford it. We'll be working to raise awareness and to activate the willing - to challenge the mighty, with everything we have. They might have the money but without us, it's all for naught.

The coming contracts aren't all that this mobilization structure is about. This year we have the unique opportunity to turn the hand of time, to let go of the Bush administration and all of their policies, opening the road for change. But there's nothing automatic about it. Our members need to understand the stakes. It boils down to our survival as the middle class working family versus the greedy Corporations with CEO's that make more in a day than we do in our lifetime! Our members need to vote but they need to understand the issues.

The Employee Free Choice Act passed Congress last year; but will not become the law of the land under a Republican administration, as is the case with Health Care Reform, Peace and so many other critical issues.

We need to mobilize for change to happen! We'll be organizing trainings and mobilizing like never before. We're not just looking to defend ourselves anymore. It's time for a change. We'll be looking for ways to increase our strength and flex our united power - opening the road to resolving the crisis that we currently face. So... Hook up with your mobilization team and let's get busy. Jobs with Justice, Health Care & Retirement Security!

CONTRACT 2009 GETTING READY

by Kathleen Kinchius, Local 9415 Contractual Vice President

As we enter the last year of our contract it is important to remember what has happened in the past and to anticipate what may happen in the future.

We know that rumors will be running rampant. This time they will be coming in from all over the country. Some manager in BellSouth has told their work group that CWA in Pacific Bell has already agreed to a reduction in healthcare coverage. Another manager in Legacy T has said that all the work is moving to management and contractors. Still another in Southwestern Bell has announced that all pensions are being done away with. And so it goes.

Meanwhile you are wondering "what is the union doing?" and starting to worry about April 2009.

Well, there are a couple of things that you can do to help relieve your anxiety. First of all start (if you haven't already) setting aside a few extra dollars a week just in case. Having a credit balance in the checking account always helps to make you feel more secure. Then volunteer to work with your stewards in the mobilization campaign before and during bargaining. This is the best way to be in the know about what is going on. As a workgroup mobilizer you will be the one to keep your co-workers up-to-date on bargaining and you will bring their concerns back to the Local officers. But if you don't feel up to that, then attend the monthly membership meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm and find out from the "horse's mouth" what's going on.

Remember, you are not a spectator in a union verses company fight. The struggle is for and about you - and me - and your friend - and even your co-worker that you really don't care for that much. Everyone pitching in to the best of their ability is the best way to achieve our goals.

MILLION MEMBER MOBILIZATION

CWA, UAW, Steelworkers and FPTE Create New Strategic Alliance

CWA and three unions representing more than 3 million active and retired members are working together in a new strategic alliance to achieve our members' four key priorities: the Employee Free Choice Act, health care reform, jobs/fair trade and retirement security.

CWA, the United Auto Workers, the United Steelworkers and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers will share resources and develop political and legislative strategies, member mobilizations and other actions to build a political movement that puts workers' rights and protections at the top of the nation's agenda. See our website for the complete article and related links.

The unions have agreed that the first critical step is enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act and all are major backers of the Million Member Mobilization, the campaign that will send photos and signatures of more than a million workers to Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill with the message "Pass the Employee Free Choice Act now!" Read more about the Employee Free Choice Act at www.cwa-union.org/efca.

"Only by restoring bargaining rights for U.S. workers will we be able to transform our political landscape, achieve such critical goals as universal health care and begin to rebuild the middle class," said CWA President Larry Cohen. These unions, along with CWA, have long worked to promote workers rights, and "this Alliance enables us to expand those efforts and resources and help build a political movement that will make real gains for working families."

**BE ONE
IN A MILLION!**



WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

On Workers' Memorial Day we remember the casualties of America's longest undeclared war: 110,000 dead and millions wounded - every year. The war isn't just overseas; it's here at home and the battleground is the workplace. Nationwide, in 2006, more than 4.1 million workers were injured and 5,703 workers killed due to job hazards. Another 50,000 died due to occupational diseases from sources such as toxic chemicals. It is also our opportunity to bring together workers, their families, community-based worker centers, unions, environmentalists, and other health and safety advocates in a unified effort to alert the public and the government to our outrage and our demands for action that leads to better workplace health and safety.

HONORING THE FALLEN past 5 years in communications

- 2002 Jarrad Lyon, CWA 1126 in Rome, N. Y. electrocuted while working by a sagging power line.
- 2003 James Grahame, CWA 9410 in San Francisco, CA. exposure to asbestos on the job.
- 2003 Richard Umansky, NABET-CWA 51016 in New York, N. Y., fell from unguarded TV platform.
- 2004 Scott Hamilton, CWA 9511 in Escondido, CA., heat stroke while replacing cable in heat.
- 2004 William McFadden, CWA 9410 in San Francisco, CA. electrocuted when a power line fell on him.
- 2005 Paul Hurt, CWA 9423 in San Jose, CA., electrocuted while repairing a line.
- 2006 Brent Cheney, CWA 4377 in La Porte, IN., electrocuted by wire-rope ladder-release in frames.
- 2006 Marvin Benson, CWA 2100 in Chase, MD. electrocuted when his bucket made contact with power.
- 2006 Gordon Davis, NABET-CWA 52031 in Silver Spring, MD., hit by motorist while putting tools away.
- 2006 Jerry Ellison, CWA 6171 in Krum, TX. Fleet Technician trapped under a bucket truck that moved.
- 2007 James de Cou, CWA 9586 in Norwalk, CA, heart attack while trying to "keep his numbers up."
- 2007 Phillip Hodges, CWA 4100, Detroit, MI. fell from a ladder while performing repair work on a cable.
- 2007 John Hetherington, Jr., CWA 3411 in Shreveport, LA., hit by a truck while putting his tools away.

LIBERTY



**From
Unsafe
Work**



**Workers
Memorial
Day**

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Each year in California, 23,000 workers are diagnosed with a chronic, deadly disease caused by workplace chemical exposure, and approximately 6,500 California workers die due to associated chronic diseases. Workers in California are not adequately protected.

AB 515, authored by Assembly Member Sally Lieber will require the OSH Standards Board to make it a priority to issue standards for chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, reproductive or developmental harm, and require those standards be based on healthbased data, to the extent feasible. California has data now to set those standards, avoiding duplication of resources and speeding the process - we should use it. California workers deserve to be protected at work from harmful exposures to the same hazardous substances for which the community is protected in the environment.

Join together to observe WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY at the Zampa Memorial Bridge - help fight for safer working conditions. The bridge represents the dedication of all the men and women who build these monumental projects and reminds us too of those who lose their lives in the process. This is the only bridge in the U.S. named in honor of a blue collar worker. Alfred Zampa was a member of Iron Workers Local 378, and as he said, "Anytime someone got killed on the job, we'd go jittery and go home for the day. We'd wonder, is it our turn next? If we got hurt, we couldn't get no insurance, no welfare or nothing, until the union came up. I don't know where I'd be without the union."

**SATURDAY - 8:30 am
APRIL 26, 2008
ALFRED ZAMPA BRIDGE**
(last exit before bridge traveling north on Hwy 80 - Crockett)