

## Dear President Bush,

With September being the month we Americans celebrate the working men and women of our great nation, I am writing you today to ask your assistance with a matter of great urgency. The matter of which I speak is the rapid disappearance of Middle Class America. In the six years you've been on the job, the American Middle Class has steadily declined. Today, 43% of American households have an annual income of less than \$25,000. Another 28% make less than \$50,000 each year. That's 71% of all American households!

Now perhaps you've forgotten what it's like to try to live in today's economy on that kind of income. Oops! My bad, you NEVER had to live on that type of income. Well, no matter, you did tell us you are a different kind of conservative. Let's see, what was the term you used? Oh yeah, "Compassionate Conservative", that's it. Perhaps you could use the position of power that you hold as the leader of the free world and help us little folks down here.

An American President once said:

"Use power to help people. For we are given power not to advance our own purposes nor to make a great show in the world, nor a name. There is but one just use of power and it is to serve people."

Let's see, who was that? You should know because you've quoted him yourself. I'm talking about none other than the old man himself, George H.W. Bush. That's right, old Poppy Bush! Right about now, you're probably asking yourself, "What can I do about this problem? This has been going on for longer than I've had the job!"

Well Dubya, the truth is you're right. The decline has been going on for many years. Some would even say for about 25 years. You see it was about that time when your daddy's boss, one President Ronald Reagan sent a message loud and clear to Corporate America that the time had come to get rid of what they considered a huge thorn in their side. The name of the thorn is organized labor. You know, the working people of Middle Class America!

In the 25 years since Old Dutch sent that message, the rate of union membership in the United States has dropped by 50%. Interestingly, the standard of living in the United States when compared to the other industrialized democracies has dropped as well. In fact, today we are number eight in the world in terms of overall standard of living.

In answer to what you can do about this, I have a good suggestion. Read the United States Department of Labor mission statement. It reads, in part:

The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find workers, **strengthening free collective bargaining...**

Imagine that right there in the mission statement, *strengthen collective bargaining*. How about it? Why don't you pledge your support, twist the arms of a few of your friends in the Senate of the United States, and let's see if you can't get the Employee Free Choice Act signed into law. Better yet, let's see if we can't repeal that abomination of labor law known as the Taft-Hartley Act.

I'm not asking much. What do you say; can you help a sister and brother out here?

Sincerely,

The American Middle Class

P.S. - *Happy Labor Day!*



"I offered to make them all VP's if they didn't organize but they didn't take the bait."

*"Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living"*

Mother Jones

She was born the daughter of a Roman Catholic tenant farmer, near the city of Cork, Ireland. Mary Harris, aka Mother Jones, came to be known as "the most dangerous woman in America", a phrase coined by a West Virginia District Attorney named Reese Blizzard. In 1902, when she was arrested for ignoring an injunction banning meetings by striking miners. "There sits the most dangerous woman in America", Blizzard announced. "She crooks her finger and twenty thousand contented men lay down."

Such can be the power of one person willing to follow their convictions. During her lifetime, working folk knew Mother Jones as "The Miners' Angel". Persevering in her efforts despite the many tragic events she witnessed, Mother Jones expressed her fierce determination vividly in her famous declaration, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living". You have to love such a person.

In my career with the CWA I have had the honor to work with a few such people. Of course, none of us faces the perils Mother Jones did in her time; these people nonetheless stood tall in the face of adversity and put their livelihoods on the line. They set the example of what it means to be a labor leader, and taught me what it meant to be Union.

One of these individuals is Jim Mazzi. Jim served as the President of Local 2108 before becoming a Staff Rep with the CWA in 1976. When I joined Local 2108 in 1983 people still lamented the good old days when Jim Mazzi was the Local President. He taught me the importance of trying to see the other side of the story in any conflict. Only then can you make the right argument in order to reach an agreement. As a labor leader, he demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for seeing a bigger picture. I always admired that in him.

Then there is Grace Leonard.

Grace began her career with the telephone company just a few years after Alexander started the whole thing. She served as an officer in CWA Local 2336 before taking a Staff Rep position. She had the extraordinary ability to fight like hell with the Company (she cusses like a sailor too! but that's a story for another time), while still giving them the ability to save face and work towards an amicable settlement to a problem.



It was both Grace and Jim who taught me the importance of educating and preparing the next generation of leaders.

Then there is the person who I consider my mentor in CWA. While I consider it the highest honor to know her, I have my days when I wish we had never met! Katie Mazzi said to me one day, "You need to run for an Executive Board position". I told her she was nuts! I had no ambition for such a position. She did not fight with me. She simply waited for my involvement to reach the point where I knew I could not do otherwise. She served as the President of Local 2108 for six years and I had the honor to work with her as Secretary-Treasurer.

Now another generation of workers is coming along and I have the honor of working with the next generation of CWA leaders. While there isn't space to name them all, I would like to single out one person in particular.

Several years ago, the CWA organized Verizon Information Services (now Idearc). For the last couple of years the group represented by Local 2108 here in Greenbelt has been without a Steward. While Vice-President Jenny Sylvester has done an admirable job in representing Idearc employees, her biggest limitation is the fact that she doesn't work there.

Recently, Kim Lee transferred from the Pittsburgh Division of Idearc and the day she joined as a Union Member, she signed up to be a Steward. Although she had no experience as a Union Steward, she has been a breathe of fresh air.

A single mother who moved from her hometown of Pittsburgh to take a better job as a Premise Sales Rep with Idearc, most of her pay comes from commission sales. Any time she takes away from selling to perform her job as a Union Steward she is losing money. Do you think this has slowed her down? Hell No! Like Mother Jones, she has the conviction of her beliefs to challenge management when she thinks someone is not receiving fair treatment. We need more like her!

Let me close by saying the job of a Union Steward is truly a thankless one. The hours are long and you walk around as a target for management. So tomorrow, when you go to work, find your Steward and tell them "Thanks, thanks for standing up for me"

*Les*

**Communications Workers of America**

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**Amory Proctor.....Executive Vice President**  
**Johnny M. Brown.....Secretary-Treasurer**  
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**ILCA** (301) 459-8381: Avaya and Lucent  
(301) 459-8422: Verizon  
(301) 459-9541: VCSI

**CWA**

**Local Office: (301) 459-2108      Local FAX: (301) 459-1859**  
**Web Site: www.cwalocal2108.org**

# CWA Leadership Conference 2007

By: Sy Gaines – Steward, CWA Local 2108



**A**s Steward for Local 2108 – AVCSI Glen Dale Garage, I had the distinct honor of attending the first year Leadership Conference held at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV from July 29 through August 3, 2007. Wow! What a pleasure it was to meet members from other locals. We fellowshiped, exchanged experiences and ideas; and just had a great time.

The conference was well planned with one motive, "Staying Unified and Educated." The classes were informative and gave me a real

sense of the history of the labor movement. However, I really enjoyed the classes on Leadership & Leadership Development and Labor History presented by **Robbie Massey** and **Sarah Etherton**, respectively. The classes and exercises really gave me insight on the labor struggle of our founding fathers and what true leadership should be. This training was very timely due to the upcoming contract of August 2008. The same struggles that our forefathers fought for, we are still fighting for today, over a century later. I personally feel as a Union, we need to stand strong and united in every effort to acquire fairness in these upcoming contract negotiations. Our members should get more involved and knowledgeable of the importance of organizing and staying unified in these trying times. I've also learned how legislation impacts on the Union. Therefore, all members should pay special attention to the current political debates, nationally and locally, and remember to get out and **VOTE PRO-UNION!**

I plan to personally implement the things I've learned at the conference into my dealings with management and educating any bargaining unit employees on the importance of staying unified in the workplace. As a Steward, I am more energized than ever to go back to my workplace and do what has to be done, to make sure the Union remains a force to be reckoned with.

Special thanks to the Local 2108 Executive Board for affording me the opportunity to participate in the conference. I think I can speak for all the participants at the conference when I say the staff of Stalnaker Hall was tremendous and its hospitality second to none. I enjoyed my entire stay at West Virginia University and look forward to attending the conference next year.

By Micki Wade Chief Steward CWA Local 2108

I was privileged to attend my second year at the 2007 Leadership Conference at West Virginia University this summer. The second year focused on three main issues: health and safety, worker's compensation and organizing workers.

While health and safety has always been a concern for our outside techs, many health concerns are overlooked for those

of us who work inside. We work in sick buildings and are subject to a host of cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs). CTDs are injuries associated with gradual and repeated exposure to workplace risk factors affecting parts of the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and/or nervous systems. Risk factors that are directly related to the development of work related CTDs are repetition, posture, work pace, workload, job security and lack of control over work.

Additional health symptoms and disorders such as anxiousness, irritability, high blood pressure, ulcers and headaches can be caused by poor work organization. No company, including Verizon, cares about your health so we must take our concerns to Congress. If you feel you have health issues directly related to the workplace, please contact your union steward so they can take it to the local.

Secondly, many "good Verizon employees" have slipped on ice in the parking lots or been hurt on company property and declined to file workers' comp claim. FILE A CLAIM!!!! It will protect you in the event of medical problems that surface after the fact and if the company gets enough claims, they might clean up the parking lot before noon the day after an ice storm. The company expects you to be at work so the least they can do is make sure you can get from your car to the building without breaking your leg.

Last but not least, we must organize Verizon Wireless and Verizon Business.

There are workers in both companies that want to be a part of the CWA but are threatened and intimidated for just asking management a question about unionization. The company is reducing our ranks in the hopes of destroying our union altogether. If they are successful, lower wages and reduced benefits will follow. When you talk to a Verizon Wireless or Verizon Business worker, ask if they want to unionize and more importantly would they be willing to get the word out in their workplace; and then enlist the help of your steward and the officers of our local.

West Virginia is a great place and I felt as if I was coming home but more than that, I learned we must all do our part. Each of us can make a difference.

## Recently Retired Members



"I've finally found a job that's perfect for me – I'm retired."

- Debbie Boyle
- Linda Freund
- Jesse Owens
- Mary P. Smith
- John Singleton
- James P. Bradley
- Patricia Chillemi
- Joe Porter
- Joe Gioffre
- Sharon Godfrey
- William Hurd
- Beverly Marschall
- Hector Morales
- Clifford Punphrey
- Linda Sabolic



## For Once, Verizon Couldn't Hide From Complaints

# Verizon Under Scrutiny By PSC

These headlines herald the Maryland Public Service Commission's opening an investigation into hundreds of complaints from Verizon customers, some of whom said the phone company took two weeks or more to restore service.

PSC officials have logged between 200 and 300 complaints about Verizon repair service so far this year, including reports of difficulties in scheduling repair appointments and no-show repair crews. In its order, the PSC said that "unreasonable" delays meant that some consumers had no way to call 911, contact medical providers or connect security systems to monitoring services during the outages. "Reliable telephone service is a necessity, not a luxury, and a seven or ten day delay (or longer) in restoring lost telephone service can threaten consumers' health and safety," the commission said in its order. "While some consumers have alternatives to Verizon's telephone service, such as wireless phones, many, especially the elderly, do not."

The PSC order required Verizon to produce internal documentation providing information on why complaints have jumped 50% compared to the same period last year. The data will include procedures Verizon uses to address service problems, the number of workers assigned and resources dedicated to responding to repairs and how widespread delays have come. For once, Verizon could not hide in the dark corners of its press-one-for-this, press-two-for-that automated answering maze. They could not say, oh, someone will be there between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and sorry, we cannot give you a narrower window. Best of all, they couldn't not show up at all!

"What's the problem?" Steven B. Larsen, the new chair of the PSC, demanded to know. He did not get an answer - what a surprise: The Company accused of keeping customers waiting needed more time itself to figure out why it keeps customers waiting. Larsen and other commissioners asked Verizon executives if the company, faced with competition from other kinds of phone service providers, is focusing less on its traditional copper lines and more on its fiber-optic cables that can bring high-speed Internet, cable television and phone service.

Verizon officials said the company has enough workers to handle all of its businesses, but they could not provide details. Of course, that's what they have to say. However, Local 2108 members who are involved in the maintenance of the copper network know better. Verizon has deliberately neglected the copper to fund the build out of the FTTP network for FiOS. No longer giving technicians the time (and sometimes the training) to repair defective facilities

Verizon Maryland Inc. responded to the state regulators, saying it plans to put more technicians on the job and it will provide better information about when repairmen will show up for appointments. "We feel these efforts will go a long way toward addressing the commission's concerns about missed appointments", William R. Robert, president of Verizon Maryland Inc., said in a statement. The company also said it would establish an automated system to update customers on the status of repair requests and explore offering customers' text messages when dispatching the technician.

Customer complaints sparked the PSC inquiry and a panel spokesperson could not say what would happen next. The PSC could fine Verizon or suggest ways to improve service or take other action. "We're looking into the complaints," said LaWanda Edwards, the PSC spokesperson. "We want to make sure customers are being treated fairly and that the company is adhering to the laws of the state."

It seems the PSC believes this is just the tip of the iceberg as far as Verizon service goes. We agree and encourage anyone, employees, their families and friends, not to settle for unacceptable levels of service. If you know of anyone with chronic or significant service problems, we recommend they file a complaint with the PSC. Verizon is still a regulated utility and is accountable to consumers through action by the PSC.



**CWA LOCAL 2108**

## ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

BE SURE TO COME TO:

MAYO BEACH PARK - EDGEWATER, MD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007 - NOON TO 5 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

FOOD \* SODAS \* BEER \* SPORTS \* GAMES \* MUSIC \* SWIMMING

FOOD CATERED BY GLEN'S BBQ UNLIMITED

\*\*\*\*\*

**\$10.00 PER TICKET**

**CHILDREN UNDER 2 ADMITTED FREE**

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE GATE

LIMIT OF 6 TICKETS PER MEMBER - NO PETS ALLOWED

LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

MAYO BEACH HAS LIMITED ATTENDANCE AT THE PARK. 50 TICKETS WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE SEE YOUR CHIEF STEWARD OR CALL THE LOCAL OFFICE AT (301) 459-2108 FOR TICKETS.

**To Mayo Beach from I-95 Using Rt. 214 East (Central Avenue)**



(This flyer produced by Local 2108 in the Local Office)



## CWA Local 2108 Members

### Welcome New Members

**Mike Carter**  
Craig Gallegos

**Millicent Wade**  
Derrick Gray

**Loren Goldsberry**  
Arthur Burnett

**Ed Anderson**  
William L. Snipes

### Transferred Members

**Tonie Price**  
Wesley Brown  
Jacquelyn Fowlkes  
Patneta Layne  
Cathy-Anne Smith  
Anthony Mobley  
Brian Rice  
Karen Nicolas-Dunham  
Estrellita Joyner  
Sandra Randolph  
Kimberly Latney  
Antoinette Tyree  
Debra Gray  
Angela Okeke  
Elizabeth DaCosta  
Bonnie Hildwein  
Darlene Ennis  
Meisha Poole

**Gregory Farrell**  
O. Joseph Grim

**Wayne Stephens**  
Aaron Spears

**Ruben Flores**  
Michelle Bradley

**Don Kurz**  
Nicholas Arter  
Derrick Spinner

**Joe Cooke**  
William Hurd

**Mike Carter**  
Rommel Robleto  
Purnell Wright  
Errol Dunn

### "In Honor of..."

is an event designed to honor and commemorate our loved ones who have passed away.

Tuesday, September 25th, 2007  
Hampshire Greens Golf Course  
616 Firestone Drive, Olney, MD 20905

**Registration** Begins: 7:30 AM, **Golf** -Shotgun Start: 9:00 AM, **Bocce** -Starts at 10am.  
Continental Breakfast: 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM  
Buffet Dinner: 2:30 PM  
Gatorade, sodas, water, and domestic beer served all day.

**Golf** --Captain's Choice Format (144 Golfers Maximum)  
Prizes for low team scores (1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd place), along with prizes for most accurate drive (Men, Women, and Seniors) and closest to the pin (2 Holes).



Mulligans and special contests also available.  
Reservations are on first come, first serve basis.  
**Bocce** --Equipment will be provided.  
Prizes awarded depending on number of participants.



\*\*\*Payment is due by September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007\*\*\*

Golf \$125.00 / Bocce \$65.00 / Dinner Only: \$25.00

Includes: Green fees, golf cart, yardage book, bag pickup, driving range balls, door prizes, beverages (course and banquet), continental breakfast, buffet dinner and bocce equipment.

**Note to Verizon employees** -- The Verizon Foundation will match a portion of your donation to this event. Please contact George for additional details.

For reservations or questions, please contact:  
George Guthrie (W) 301-595-6983 or George.J.Guthrie@Verizon.com  
(Home) GJGut3@Verizon.net

**Make Checks Payable to:** Special Olympics MD  
Remit to: George Guthrie  
8495 Timberland Circle  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Hosted by: The George W. Conway Family and George Guthrie & Friends  
\*\*\*A Golf and Bocce Tournament to Benefit Special Olympics MD\*\*\*

## Personals

*We wish to extend sincere sympathy to the family and friends of:*

**Lillie Mae Campbell**, mother of **Valda Jenkins** who died on March 31, 2007.

**Hintson Richardson**, father of **Sandra Richardson** who died on April 15, 2007.

**Benita A. Alexander**, sister of **Gwendolyn Holton** who died July 2007.

**Sampson Nelson**, grandfather of **Annette Niler** who died on July, 2007.

**Antoinette Fleshman**, mother of **Elydrith Aguilar** who died on July 12, 2007.

**Jerome Parham**, step-son of **Evelyn Parham** who died on July 20, 2007.

**Harry Carzon**, husband of retired member **Eileen Carzon** and father of **Steve Carzon, Anita Mitchell** and **Deborah Hoza** who died on July 26, 2007.

**Sally Nucci**, mother of **Bill Nucci** who died on August 3, 2007.

**Helen R. Brown**, grandmother of **Anthony Smith** who died on August 6, 2007.

**Robert Walter Orr, Sr.**, father of **Bob Orr** who died on August 9, 2007.

**Denise Gibson**, wife of **Larry Gibson** who died on August 13, 2007.

**Minnie Montague**, grandmother of **Michael Heigh** who died on August 14, 2007.

**Clinton Rush, Sr.**, father of **Clinton Rush, Jr.** who died on August 18, 2007.

### Congratulations to:

**Ann Marie Johnson and Dion Pollard** who were married on July 14, 2007.

## Verizon Sale To FairPoint Devastating On Many Fronts

A new survey of the 2500 Verizon communications workers who serve customers in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont demonstrates that service quality will suffer if the proposed sale of Verizon lines to FairPoint Communications goes forward.

The survey shows a significant risk that more than half of all current workers, and 80 percent of those most experienced, are seriously considering leaving the company if the sale is approved by regulators and FairPoint takes over Verizon's operations. Such a loss of skilled, experienced workers would have a devastating effect on service quality to customers in the three-state region.

The results of this survey were presented to the Vermont Public Service Board to directly refute statements by FairPoint that it will have the resources needed to improve service quality, maintain plant, and increase workforce levels if it takes over the significantly larger Verizon operations.

Of those who are pension eligible - and the most experienced - 80 percent are seriously considering retirement if the transaction is approved; only 12 percent would consider retirement if the transaction is not approved.



Workers stated that they are very concerned about FairPoint's ability to continue to provide a defined benefit

pension plan and retiree health benefits such as workers now have with Verizon. Some workers cited the fact that current FairPoint workers have neither a defined benefit pension plan nor retiree health benefits.

Survey respondents also outlined their concerns that FairPoint lacks adequate resources to maintain and upgrade plant facilities, provide quality customer service and offer customers the services they want thus jeopardizing job security.

FairPoint has stated that it "intends" to hire more workers but has refused to make any enforceable commitments. FairPoint also has refused to provide specific commitments on wages, benefits, working conditions, service quality and financial viability. Instead, management has relied on vague promises," Peres told the PSB. The survey's results clearly indicate that FairPoint may be hard pressed to maintain its current staffing levels, much less hire additional workers.

CWA maintains that the best way to protect consumers in the three-state region is for the PSB to reject the proposed transaction between Verizon and FairPoint. If the PSB believes that FairPoint's severe financial deficiencies can be overcome, the Board should adopt strict service quality standards, benchmarks and penalty/rebates as conditions of any merger approval, Peres said. "These service quality conditions are especially important, given the probable exodus of experienced workers," he added.

**Washington, DC Walk To D'Feet ALS®  
For Pete's Sake**

**Come join the Communication Workers of America (CWA) Union  
as we Walk to D'Feet ALS®.**

**Schedule:** Registration and Check-in begins at 9:00 am and the Walk begins at 10:00 am

**Date:** Sunday, October 21, 2007

**Location:** Constitution Gardens

For more information call Christine Kinley at 1-866-FITE ALS or email [walk@ALSinfo.org](mailto:walk@ALSinfo.org) directly.

You can join the team directly by going to:  
[http://lights.alsinfo.org/site/TR/Events/General/1631277664?pg=team&f\\_id=11848&team\\_id=9801](http://lights.alsinfo.org/site/TR/Events/General/1631277664?pg=team&f_id=11848&team_id=9801)

**The walk site is wheelchair and stroller accessible. You don't need to walk any or all of the route in order to participate.**

## No FiOS For You

As Verizon grapples with the annoying issues brought to their attention by the Maryland PSC, they have announced there are currently no plans to deploy the "Gee Whiz" FiOS service to Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. To paraphrase The Soup Nazi from the Seinfeld TV series, "No FiOS For YOU!"

Verizon touts the super speed of the fiber optic FiOS service, but only wants to give it to areas fitting their business model. Many of the areas not being considered for FiOS don't even qualify for DSL due to their distance from the CO and/or Hub. Unless customers want to join the Slowskys Family, cable broadband may be the only option to dial-up service.

Providing only dial tone service to customers in an age of high-speed internet is roughly equivalent to providing postal service and not dial tone eighty years ago. By not providing FiOS to the entire state of Maryland, Verizon is creating a digital divide, with a swath down the center of the state housing the haves, and the areas to the east and west of that swath housings the have nots. Isn't deregulation great!!

## How to Engineer Failure...

Reprinted from CWA Local 1103.

A Japanese company (Toyota) and an American company (G.M.) decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race. On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommended appropriate action. Their conclusion was that the Japanese had 8 people rowing and 1 person steering, while the American team had 8 people steering and 1 person rowing.

Finding a deeper study was in order, American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion. They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were rowing.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese, the rowing



team's management structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 3 area superintendents and 1 Assistant superintendent steering manager. They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 1 person rowing the boat greater

incentive to work harder. It was called the "Rowing Team Quality First Program," with meetings, dinners and free pens for the rower. There were discussions of getting new paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practice and bonuses for all. The next year the Japanese won by two miles.

Humiliated, the American management laid off the rower for poor performance, halted development of a new canoe, sold the paddles and canceled all capital investment for new equipment. The money saved was distributed to the senior executives as bonuses and the next year's racing team was outsourced to India.

Sadly, the end.

*Sad but true. Here's something else to think about. Ford has spent the last thirty years moving all of its factories out of the U.S., claiming they can't make money paying American wages. Toyota has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the U.S.. The last quarter's results were: Toyota makes \$4 billion in profits while Ford racked up \$9 billion in losses - and Ford management is scratching their heads. Hey Verizon! You might want to read this also.*



## Verizon Workers Gearing Up for the Fight in 2008

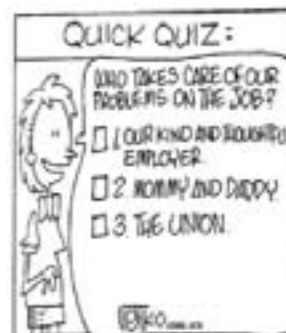
Thousands of CWA and IBEW members at Verizon rallied at "**One Year 'til Expiration**" actions from Boston, Mass., to Virginia on August 2, sending a message to Verizon that CWA will safeguard good jobs, quality health care, and other benefits in contract negotiations that begin next June.

Union members and activists also criticized the company's assault on the rights of Verizon Business and Verizon Wireless workers who want union representation, as well as Verizon's plan to sell telephone lines in New England to FairPoint Communications.

Contracts covering some 70,000 CWA and IBEWers at Verizon East – Verizon territory from Maine to Virginia – **expire August 2, 2008**. "All of us want to win a good contract, to stop the sale, and tear down the wall at Verizon Business," said CWA District 1 Vice President **Chris Shelton**. "This can only be accomplished through mobilizing and building community support, and that's our plan for 2008."

Rallies were held in Boston, Mass.; Baltimore, Md.; Richmond, Fredericksburg and Petersburg, Virginia; Morgantown, Charleston, and Poca, West Virginia; and other locations.

CWAers at Verizon West held a support rally in Upland, Calif., to show their solidarity with next year's Verizon bargaining. The Verizon West contract, covering 6,000 workers, does not expire until March 2010, but workers spotlighted management's interference earlier this year in an organizing effort by DSL technicians in California.



In New York City, more than 3,000 CWA and IBEW members held their "One Year 'til Expiration" rally on June 27; Verizon West workers also rallied that day in Long Beach, Calif., to protest the company's union-busting.

Here at Local 2108, Officers, Chief Stewards and Stewards, hand-billed work locations in an effort to bring awareness to the one year anniversary countdown.

# Local 2108 Union Calendar

## September 2007

- 3 HOLIDAY - Labor Day  
Local Office Closed.  
Union Negotiated Holiday
- 5 Chief Steward Meeting 9:00 am  
Local Office
- 5 Finance Committee Meeting 4:00 pm  
Local Office
- 12 Retired Members' Chapter Meeting 11:00 am  
Local Office, Landover, MD
- 12 General Membership Meeting 6:00 pm  
American Legion Post 268, Wheaton, MD
- 15 CWA Local 2108 Picnic 12-5 pm  
Mayo Beach, MD
- 26-27 Blood Drive  
3901 Calverton Blvd



## October 2007

- 3 Chief Steward Meeting 9:00 am  
Local Office
- 3 Finance Committee Meeting 4:00 pm  
Local Office
- 10 Retired Members' Chapter Meeting 11:00 am  
Local Office, Landover, MD
- 10 General Membership Meeting 6:00 pm  
Local Office, Landover, MD
- 21 ALS Walk 9:00 am  
Washington, DC
- 31 Halloween

**VERIZON & VCSI CONTRACT  
EXPIRES AUGUST 2, 2008**

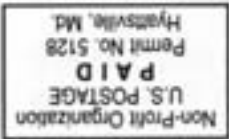
**ARE YOU READY?**

**START SAVING NOW !!**

**WEAR RED ON THURSDAY'S !!**

**Visit Local 2108 On The Web: [www.cwacal2108.org](http://www.cwacal2108.org)**

**Letter to  
President Bush...  
See page 1**



**COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL 2108  
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