

Another Setback For Verizon at PSC

Maryland Public Service Commission cites Verizon's undisputed and deteriorating service quality performance

In a scathing and pointed 40 page document, the Maryland Public Service Commission recently took Verizon to task over its service performance in the last two years. Verizon was seeking an Alternative Form of Regulation (AFOR), which sought to increase prices in various "baskets" of service throughout the state.

Due to its ineffectual documented service failures on the copper side (the part that the PSC regulates), the Commission had no recourse but to reject the proposal, and question the Company's sincerity to follow the settlement and keep their promise to devote more technicians AND more overtime to aid in relief of Out-of-Service (OOS) troubles.

In October 2007, the PSC and Verizon agreed on a settlement for lowering OOS troubles by:

- Moving 50 technicians from building our fiber-optic network in Maryland to focus on repairing our traditional network to get our missed appointments back into compliance with the Commission's standard; [and]
- Increasing overtime by 1,000 hours per day- or the equivalent of 125 additional union jobs – to focus on maintaining our traditional network.

At the two-day evidentiary hearing, Verizon confirmed that it has not met its proposed two-business-day proxy for the 8-hour out of service rule for residential customers, but restores business customers at or near the 8-hour limit. Verizon also confirmed that it has met the 20% missed appointment standard by calibrating its standard appointment offer times to the work force it has devoted to repairs. In practice, this means untenably long standard appointment times (often more than a week out and sometimes closer to 3 weeks). Even more troublingly, the data confirms that Verizon is not even attempting to comply with the timeframes required by Commission regulations.

The Company's work force is, by design, insufficient to effect repairs or to restore service as our regulations require – and all the more acutely so in light of the Company's conscious business decision to divert portions of its already scarce repair force to the task of installing fiber-optic facilities in selected portions of the state while cutting thousands of jobs.

And the customers are getting testy.

Seems like Verizon has a lot of work to do, and is not pleasing many people in the way they are handling their repair responsibilities. Until things begin to improve, The Maryland Public Service Commission will continue to hold up rate increases.



2108 Marches In Waldorf

Local 2108 joined with our sister Local 2252 for a noon time rally in Waldorf, MD. AT&T members are in a battle for their livelihoods and to hold onto 70 years worth of bargaining gains.

According to Local 2252 President, Sean Linehan, virtually every AT&T proposal involves givebacks of one sort or another, from the elimination of their job security language to cost-shifting on healthcare totalling thousands of dollars a year.

"We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Benjamin Franklin

Truly, Benjamin Franklin never spoke truer words than those he spoke in the summer of 1776. The colonials, engaged in a heated debate over what to do about their treatment by the British Crown, knew that with their new Declaration of Independence the King would consider them traitors the moment they signed.

They were an inferior force with few resources pitted against the might of the British Empire. The only thing they had to rely on was one another.

We no longer have a British Crown to fight against. What we do have is much the same in terms of power. We have multi-national corporations on whose empires the sun still does not set.

Last year our Verizon and VCSI members engaged in a fight for our wages and benefits that saw us work under a stopped clock for eight days in order to reach a fair agreement.

Our brothers and sisters at at&t are currently in a battle for their very livelihoods to reach an agreement across five different bargaining tables. at&t is attempting to take advantage of the difficulties faced by the automobile industry in order to drastically reduce their health care obligations to our members. They are also pushing very hard to eliminate retiree health care altogether. As Mr. Franklin said over 200 years ago, we'd better all hang together or we surely will hang separately.

For our Avaya members, the current contract expires on May 23rd at 11:59pm. This will be the first negotiations with Avaya

since private investors purchased the company. I believe it goes without saying a main goal for Avaya will be to reduce health care costs and very possibly eliminate retiree health care completely. Once again, we either hang together or ... you know the rest.



Our Idearc members are facing bargaining this Fall with a company that declared bankruptcy. This is a challenge most of us have never faced before. It will be more important than ever that we all stand together.

We tend to think about standing together primarily as it relates to bargaining. Once the contract is settled we settle into a routine of going to work each day, not really thinking about what it means to be a union member.

This is a huge mistake and here is why. Ask yourself this question, "Does the company you work for stop coordinating their actions after bargaining is over?" **HELL NO!**

Here's a case in point. Verizon has continued to coordinate their efforts to build and install their new FiOS network as quickly and cheaply as possible. For certain, Verizon has a game plan and they are executing it. A big part of that plan is to put as much pressure as possible on technicians to increase productivity at any cost. In this case, they have taken to threatening and disciplining our members for not meeting the productivity number of the moment.

As Union members, we need to fight back as one against this company strategy. We need to stand together against the company plan that has us pitted against one another. Too many of us are forgetting that our only strength lies in standing together. Too often we are only looking out for our own well being and forgetting our fellow sisters and brothers. The company strategy of disciplining those who they consider to be the least productive is one we must stand together and fight.

I recently heard of a management directive to pick the bottom two people in productivity and discipline them if they don't improve. Now, the first instinct is to ask yourself, "Am I one of those two people?", and then do everything you can to make sure you're not. That is exactly what the company is counting on us doing in order to continue executing their plan.

The first problem is, someone will always be on the bottom. The second problem is, someday that someone will be you.

Don't wait for that day and then start looking for help. Don't let the company's strategy continue to divide us as union brothers and sisters. Do the job you've been trained to do honestly. Standing together now is the only way we can defeat the strategy that will one day find you on the bottom and wondering who's going to help you.

Les

Communications Workers of America
2108 news
 published monthly by
CWA Local 2108
Printing done in-house

Les Evans.....President and Editor
Amory Proctor.....Executive Vice President
Johnny M. Brown.....Secretary-Treasurer
Marilyn R. Irwin.....Vice President
Jenny K. Sylvester.....Vice President
Paul Goldbeck.....Managing Editor

Recording Announcements

ILCA (301) 595-1824: Verizon
 (301) 595-1826: VCSI
 (301) 595-1834: Avaya
 (301) 595-3072: Idearc

CWA

Local Office: (301) 595-2108 Local FAX: (301) 595-2412
Web Site: www.cwalocal2108.org

RMC 2108 Retirees Corner

Calvin Foster, President RMC 2108

This month's meeting was short two people . Vice President Mike Wallace and Treasurer Janice Crowe conducted the meeting as Barbara Balster and I were called to family matters .

The election of a delegate for the CWA Convention and Legislative conference was held . Vice President Mike Wallace will be a delegate.

The convention and conference will be held June 19 to 26th in

Washington DC . On June 15 to 17 Dennis Strout and I will also represent the Washington and Maryland CWA RMC for the Alliance for Retired Americans Legislative Conference . This month will be an important moment for Labor on Capital Hill .

Janice Crowe is hoping to have another boat trip this year perhaps in July .The New York trip to see West Side Story was enjoyed by all .

Enjoy the good weather that is sure to come.The next meeting is on May 13 at 11:00 am .

Hope to see you there .

Denis Bailey, Former CWA Local 2108 Executive Vice President, Dies

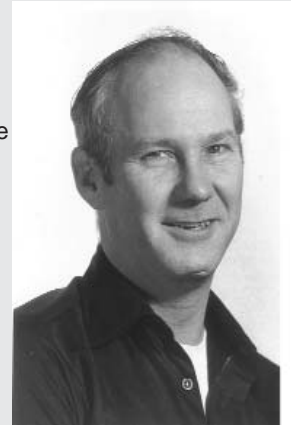
Harold Denis Bailey, 68, of Silver Spring died of Cancer on March 19, 2009.

From the very beginning of his career with C&P Telephone, Denis Bailey was a CWA activist. As a long time Chief Steward and Chairperson of the Community Services Committee, Denis spear-headed very successful Union-Company blood drives and United Way Campaigns. Denis was elected Vice President of CWA Local 2108 in January, 1979 and held that position until January, 1985 when he was elected Executive Vice President. He served in that capacity until December, 1990.

Mr. Bailey graduated from Walter Johnson High School in 1959 and attended Montgomery College. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1969, then served as a reservist during his career with the telephone company.

Denis worked as a bartender for Pop Dietle's Tavern in Silver Spring and was a boy's football coach in Montgomery County. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Memorial contributions may be made to JSSA Hospice, 6123 Montrose Rd, Rockville, MD 20852.



Retired CWA District 2 VP Peter Catucci, 60, Succumbs After Valiant Fight

Retired District 2 Vice President Peter G. Catucci, who spent a lifetime fighting for working families, died April 3 after battling ALS disease for more than two years. Catucci, 60, was CWA's longest-serving district vice president, having won election to the post at CWA's 48th Convention in 1986.

About a month ago, Catucci and CWA President Larry Cohen were in attendance at the White House as President Barack Obama signed an executive order that removed restrictions on responsible scientific research and federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. Since stepping down as a CWA leader in 2008, Catucci had been a tireless fighter to restore the funds.

"Pete's service to our union is legend," said CWA President Larry Cohen. "He helped lead many of the positive changes we made in recent years, including CWA's groundbreaking 'Ready for the Future' restructuring," Cohen said, adding "Pete's beloved District 2 was his constant focus beyond his family." District 2 Vice President Ron Collins, a long-time friend and colleague, praised Catucci's "incomparable fighting spirit during his years of service to his union and in finding a cure for those suffering from ALS."

Catucci's commitment to working men and women began in 1968 when he joined CWA Local 2336 after going to work at C & P Telephone, now Verizon. Catucci served as steward, strike captain and executive vice president before being elected local president in 1976. As president, Catucci lead the local through tough rounds of bargaining.

Elected District 2 Vice President in 1986, Catucci's leadership and dedication to organizing helped bring CWA representation to thousands of workers in sectors including airlines, health care, public service, printing, news media, broadcast, cable TV, higher education and law enforcement.

Despite his February 2007 diagnosis of ALS,(Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) Catucci continued to devote time and energy over the next two years to pressing for an end to restrictions on the federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Catucci retired at the CWA Convention in June 2008. He told delegates that he would continue to keep up the fight for stem cell research and for the Employee Free Choice Act, which he called "stem cell research for the labor movement."

Catucci is survived by his wife, Terry; Children, Nick, Traci and Francesca. The family has asked that donations be made to the 4 Pete's Sake ALS Foundation, Attn: Kurt Weigert, 1020 Cromwell Bridge Road, Towson, MD 21286.



2008 CWA LOCAL 2108 SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

CWA Local 2108 is proud to offer scholarships to our members and their families. Please read the rules below, and call the Local if you have additional questions.

1. Three \$2,000 scholarships are available.
2. Available to members in good standing since last negotiated contract, their spouse and dependent children or dependent children of deceased members.
3. \$1,000 will be mailed directly to the institution per semester.
4. Student must take at least 9 credits per semester.

5. Must have a **letter of acceptance** to college or accredited learning institution with application.
6. Drawing at July membership meeting as a raffle.
7. Community Service Committee will screen applications.
8. Applications must be postmarked by June 30, of current year.
9. **Resignation from the union will forfeit scholarship awards.**

NAME: _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____

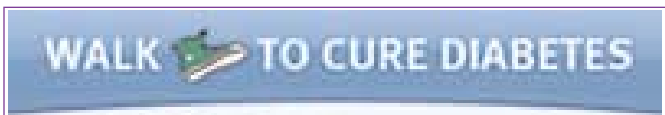
RELATIONSHIP TO MEMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ HOME TELEPHONE #: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

MEMBER'S NAME: _____ WORK TELEPHONE #: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____



Join CWA Local 2108 in our annual Walk to Cure Diabetes on May 31, 2009 at the Washington Nationals Stadium in Washington, DC. Registration starts at 8:30am, and the walk will begin at 10:00am.

JDRF is the leader in research leading to a cure for type 1 diabetes in the world.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that strikes children and adults suddenly, and can be fatal. Until a cure is found, people with type 1 diabetes have to test their blood sugar and give themselves insulin injections multiple times or use a pump - each day, every day of their lives. And even with that intensive care, insulin is not a cure for diabetes, nor does it prevent its eventual and devastating complications, which may include kidney failure, blindness, heart disease, stroke, and amputation.

For further information, please contact the Local Office in Beltsville: 301.595.2108



DC WALK
MAY 31, 2009
@ NATIONALS PARK

Join CWA Local 2108



DO BUY

Get ready for Spring—stockpile your union-made garden supplies and quality tools for those spring projects.

Look for these brand names at your hardware store. Since many of these companies produce in the U.S. and elsewhere, check for a "Made-in-the-USA" label.

TOOLS

AUTOMATIC WRENCHES

Edgerton Forge (IBB)

BATTERIES (FLASHLIGHT)

Ray-O-Vac Heavy Duty, D, and AA, Packaged Alkaline Batteries (UAW)

CLIPS, SCREWS, NUTS & BOLTS

Service Supply (UAW)

CUTTING TOOLS

Ohio Metal Working Products (IBB)

GARDEN TOOLS, PITCHFORKS

Union Tools (Sears, Agway, Razorback) (IBB)

LADDERS

Versa (UAW)

LADDERS, WOOD, ATTIC, STEP

Kentucky Ladder (Warner Corp.) (UAW)

PLIERS, HOOKS

Klein Tools Inc. (IBB)

SHEARS, SCISSORS

Clauss Cutlery (UAW)

STRIKING TOOLS, CROW BARS

Warwood (IBB)

GENERAL TOOLS

Armstrong, Klein Tools, Snap-on tools (IBB)

POST HOLE DIGGERS

AZL Resources (IBB)

RAKES & SHOVELS

Ames (UAW)

SPORTING GOODS

BOATS, PONTOON

Riviera Cruiser by LML Corp (UAW)

BOAT COVERS

Charles Rice (UAW)

BOAT PARTS, WATER PUMPS, IMPELLERS,

Macerators, Pool Motors, Pool Pumps

ITT Jabco (UAW)

BOAT ROPES

Dare Products (UAW)

BOAT TRAILERS

E-Z Loader (IBB)

CLAY PIGEONS

Remington (UAW)

FISHING NET

FNT (UAW)

HANDGUNS & RIFLES

Cott (UAW), Remington (IAM), Winchester (IAM)

HOCKEY STICKS

Hillierich & Bradby (UAW)

MARINE HARDWARE, HORSE HARDWARE

North & Judd (brand names—Anchor, Wilcox-Crittenden) (UAW)

POOL LIGHTS, PUMPS, HEATERS, POOL MOTORS

Hydrotech (Purex) (UAW), ITT Jabco (UAW)

TENNIS NETS, VOLLEYBALL NETS, BACKSTOP NETTING

FNT (UAW)

GOLF BALLS

Spalding (IBB), Callaway (IBB)

GOLF CLUBS

McGregor (IBB)

AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS



MARCH/APRIL 2008

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

- PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL (HTH)
- Luxury Hotel, Waikiki, Hawaii
- International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU)

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

- ECHOSTAR DISH NETWORK
- Satellite Television Service
- Communications Workers of America

- BLUEMAN PRODUCTIONS
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)

OTHERS

- VINCENT BACH DIVISION,
- CONN-SELMER, INC.:
- Elkhart, Indiana
- Musical Instruments: Trumpets, Trombones, Saxophones
- United Automobile Workers (UAW)
- R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.
- Cigarettes: Best Value, Camel, Century, Doral, Eclipse, Magna, Monarch, More, Now, Salem, Sterling, Vantage, and Winston; plus all Moonlight Tobacco products
- Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers International Union



CWA Local 2108 Members

Welcome New Members

Karen Lewis

Rhonda Small
Cynthia Rodwell
Steven Lockwood
Taneisha Robinson
Darnell Kitts
Lana Shields
Aja Diggs
Kathryn Monique West
Jacqueline Velez
Emmanuel Quezada
Yeimie Hernandez
Reina Portillo
Favaron Samuels, Jr.
Dane Calloway, Sr.
Kenyatia Fletcher
Susan Newman
Tonette Kitt

Kerin King
Daniel Oke

Tiffany Martin

Montoya Hutchins

David Broch

Carmalita Feemster

Ed Anderson

Michauna Patterson
Celenia Brothers
Stephanie Garibaldi
Sekinat Adewuhmi
Lakeshia Garrett
Adeboua Akhionbare
Dana Carter
Boscolo Vides
Stephanie Morris
Tiffany Lawson
Matt Oskvarek
Yasmin Lastre
Chanel Williams
Angela Williams
C'mon Clayborne

Tonja Hyman

Marquita Dalton

Karen Lewis/Tiffany Martin

Kristi Robinson

Transferred Members

Marlena Duckett

Hilario Campos

Rocio Leonzo

Lisa Gilchrist
Matthew Mosley
Monique Mathis
Cecelia Washington
Carmela Smith-Strong
Charles Pinnix
Joyce Wingfield
Regina Rolan
Stannley Clinton
Kisha Thomas
Capria Callahan
George Guyah
Adela Morales
Mary Epps
Gerri Foster
Terry Hayes
Lori McKnight
Dantrell Weems
Kimecia Tompkins-Brown
Carla Marshall
Ines Millard
Tina Towler
Cheryl Jones
Iris Mejia
LaTanya Dale
F.C. Jones
Christopher Entler
Angela Allen
Charrise Reid

Sy Gaines

Sean Price
Frank Lamptey
Georan Taylor
Anthony Wilson

Don Kurz

Katrina Jones
Brian Jenkins
Steven Lewin

Rocio Leonzo/LouJuan Murray

LeslieChacon
Lufrey Jonas
Deborah Adams
Paula Green
Kerry Slone
Rosetta Wright
Carolyn English
Dean Wilder
Gregory J. Boyd
Douglas J. Ball
Kelly Hill
Angela Victoria Reed
Elizabeth Boyd

Mike Carter

Cory Lovelace

LouJuan Murray

Shirley Milton
Glenda Carpenter
Josie Freeman
Beverly Thompson
F. Ann Green
Jeffrey Hellman
Eric Scott
Gail Taylor
Sandra Solarz
Phyllis Jones
Thaonne Malone
LaTonya Haynes
Ore's Tadele
Gayle Rodgers
Claudia Brown
Sandra Burch
Sheila Tavares
Anthony Cruse
Tanishia Harris
Carolyn Tidwell
Joel Murray
Jalandra Davis
Gaye Crouse
Gregory Lawrence

Don Lilley
Billie Cox
Tricia Thomas

Personals

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

Joyce Chappell, mother of Darryl Chappell who died on September 2, 2008.

Paul Dorsey, grandfather of Tiffany Martin who died on January 12, 2009.

Truman Johnson, father of Nichole Johnson who died on January 17, 2009.

Denis Bailey, a retired member and former Executive Vice President of CWA Local 2108 who died on March 19, 2009.

Louise Anderson, mother of Cassandra Anderson who died on March 19, 2009.

Winfred Treece, brother of retired member Barbara Pervall who died on March 20, 2009.

Brittany Hawkins, daughter of Dynisha Brown who died on March 22, 2009.

Alphonse Vital, Jr., uncle of Herbert Vital who died on March 26, 2009.

Mary C. McCarthy, mother of Pat McCarthy who died on April 10, 2009.

Anne Falkenhof, mother of Mary Anne Dietrich who died on April 11, 2009.

Dyrull White, a retired member died on April 11, 2009.

Congratulations To:

Patricia Lyle on the birth of her son, Joseph Preston Michael Biggens on March 28, 2009.

Jessica and Brian Bahorich on the birth of their daughter, Isabella Quinn Bahorich on April 1, 2009.

Retired Members

James Dunn, Jr.

Katherine Butler

Gary Swann

James E. Berry

Eugene Jenkins

Gary Logan

Archie Watson, Jr.

Carolyn Tomlinson

Gregory Kline

Phyllis Mason

Chung Bell

Edward Washington

Union Sportsmen's Alliance to Hold Local Event


The Union Sportsmen's Alliance is extremely excited to announce their 1st Annual Capitol Area Sporting Clays Shooting Event to be held at **Prince George's County Trap & Skeet Center in Glenn Dale, MD on June 18, 2009.**

The USA is a one-of-a-kind hunting and fishing club designed exclusively for union members, retirees, and their families who hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. The club is endorsed by the AFL-CIO and 20 of its affiliated unions.

The USA connects union sportsmen and women throughout North America with exclusive discounts on hunting and fishing gear, provides information on great places to hunt and fish, and gives USA members chances to win great prizes. Last year one lucky union member won a new Triton Bass boat and this year the USA is giving away a new Chevy Silverado truck.

Membership costs \$25 per year and by joining you will receive:

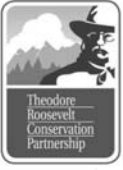
- USA-logo Buck knife
- 12 chances to win in the USA Gun-a-Month giveaway
- Subscription to a top outdoor magazine
- \$25 gift certificate for Beretta field gear
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear and services
- Personalized USA membership card
- Free MyTopo online mapping subscription
- Chances to win a Chevy truck along with other exceptional prizes and trips
- Access to "Members-Only" section of the USA website
- Subscription to USA newspaper, The Union Sportsmen's Journal



1st Annual Capitol Area UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE SPORTING CLAYS SHOOT

The USA is a program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and our AFL-CIO trade union partners providing exceptional outdoor benefits to union members and their families.

To learn more visit www.UnionSportsmen.org



You're Invited

to participate in this special event by
being a sponsor, sponsoring a group from your organization, or as an individual shooter.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard L. Trumka
Event Chair, Secretary-Treasurer AFL-CIO

Mona Robinson
Event Co-Chair

Don Rollins
Chairman, USA Working Committee

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President, Machinists

Christopher Merritt
General Manager, Beretta USA

Edwin D. Hill
International President, IBEW

William P. Hite
General President, Plumbers and Pipefitters

Newton B. Jones
International President, Boilermakers

Kinsey M. Robinson
International President, Roofers

Michael J. Sullivan
General President, Sheet Metal Workers


James A. Williams
General President, Painters

WHEN: THURSDAY, June 18, 2009
Registration 8:00 a.m. sharp! • Shotgun start 9:30 a.m.
Lunch raffle and exhibition shoot to follow

*Please note: New Shooter Instruction from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. ONLY!
Shotguns provided by Beretta.*

WHERE: **Prince George's County Trap & Skeet**
10400 Good Luck Road
Glenn Dale, MD 20769 • (301) 577-7178

All proceeds from this event go to support the USA and TRCP to "help guarantee all Americans a place to hunt, fish and shoot!"



SHOOTING EXHIBITION
by Beretta
Pro-Staff
Member

Please fill out the registration form below and send with your check to:
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership / USA Shoot
Attn: Gretchen Vanhorn • 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive • Nashville, TN 37211
For more info: Greg Singleton (703) 455-4701 or USA (877) 872-2211

R E G I S T R A T I O N

June 18, 8:00 a.m. • RSVP by June 4, 2009

**Make checks payable to: THEODORE ROOSEVELT
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP (Tax ID #04-3706385)**

Please choose sponsorship level and fill in the names of your shooters.

Yes, I would like to sponsor:

Platinum \$ 2,000 Gold \$ 1,500 Silver \$ 1,000 **A USA MEMBERSHIP IS INCLUDED FOR EVERY SHOOTER!**

Station* \$ 750 Provide a Raffle/Prize/Donation

*Does not include shooters.

Organization: _____

Shooter's Name: _____ (\$175) _____ (\$175)

E-Mail: _____

Beretta USA will provide firearms at every shooting station. However, you are welcome to bring your own gun to the shoot. Ammo will be provided.

DIRECTIONS:

FROM WASHINGTON: take DC-295 N, exit MD-193 E towards NASA (GODDARD)/GLENN DALE, left onto GREENBELT RD/MD-193 E, left onto GOOD LUCK RD, turn right to stay on GOOD LUCK RD, after .4 miles, the club is on the left.

FROM BALTIMORE: take MD-295 S toward WASHINGTON, take the POWDER MILL RD exit toward BELTSVILLE, left onto POWDER MILL RD, slight right onto SOIL CONSERVATION RD, left onto GOOD LUCK RD, after .4 miles, club is on the left.

Accommodations: rooms are available at the Holiday Inn, Greenbelt, MD. Please call (301) 982-7000. Be sure to tell them you're with the USA Shoot at PGJ.

A Letter to President Obama

CWA, IBEW and Verizon Chiefs Make Proposal For Health Care Reform

In January 2009, CWA President **Larry Cohen**, IBEW President **Edwin Hill** and Verizon CEO, **Ivan Seidengerg**, sent President Obama a letter pushing for drastic Health Care Reform.

In the letter, the heads of the unions and the company talk about the need to compete with the rest of the world by leveling the playing field so that American companies (like Verizon) who provide insurance for their employees are NOT paying for individuals whose companies do not.

This is not a new idea, and it is one that President Obama has supported. He nominated former Senator **Tom Daschle** from South Dakota to the cabinet post as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Senator Daschle is also reporting directly to the President as the White House "Health Czar" and it is he who will be directly responsible for writing new policy.

Cohen, Hill and Seidenberg also presented President

Obama with goals they could work with the President on, including:

Cover Everyone: Assure quality, affordable healthcare with comprehensive benefits for all Americans.

Control Costs: Create a framework that allows insurance companies and the government to offer a choice of affordable public and private options, reduce bureaucracy, and promote prevention and cost effective care.

Share Responsibility: Spread financing through the system and assure the government, employers and individuals participate in paying their fair share.

Improve Quality: Promote preventive care, evidence-based care and safe staffing standards and expand use of Health Information Technology.



Local 2108 Collects Over 600 Pounds Of Food for Area Food Banks

CWA Local 2108 recently received a thank you note from The Capital Area Food Bank for our donation of 644 pounds of food from our recent canned goods drive at many of our work locations.

The Capital Area Food Bank is a federal tax-exempt charity which solicits donations of food products which are in turn distributed to charitable groups engaged in feeding the needy, the ill, the elderly and infants.

A special thanks to Chief Steward Sabrina Staley, who worked with Verizon Director Kim Hylton, to challenge Managers of the Large Business organization to participate with us and matched their contributions dollar for dollar.

Third Annual Labor Night at

Nationals Park

Friday, July 24, 2009

Washington Nationals

-vs-

San Diego Padres

Game time – 7:05 pm

Tickets: \$10 per person

Join Local 2108 at the Nationals Park this summer as we travel to DC to see the Nats play the Padres. Tickets are only \$10.00, with a portion of the ticket sales to benefit the Community Services Agency, Metropolitan Washington Council. Ticket sales will be on a "first come-first served basis."

To order your tickets, please call the Local Office: 301.595.2108. Don't be left out!

AFL-CIO Night at Camden Yards

Friday, June 26, 2009

Baltimore Orioles

-vs-

Washington Nationals

Game time – 7:05 pm

Tickets: \$5 per person

Join Local 2108 at the ballpark this summer as we travel up the road to see the O's play the Nationals. Tickets are only \$5.00. All ticket sales will be on a "first come-first served basis."

There will be fireworks presented after the ballgame, and we always have a great time.

To order your tickets, please call the Local Office: 301.595.2108. See you at the yard !!

Work Area Protection Critical on Interstate Highways

While attending the District 2 Conference in Williamsburg, Va., Virginia Safety Advocate Alan Johnson, addressed the convention detailing information covered with members of Verizon's Potomac Safety Function Team in regards to "work area protection" on interstate highways.

Currently in Virginia, the Department of Transportation is in the process of placing cameras in various locations on interstate highways. Buried Service Wire (BSW) crews are being required to place buried service wire to a designated location, generally a pole placed along a state right of way. Systems Techs are given the installation orders to "turn-up" and maintain the T-1 circuits for these cameras. In many instances, these pole locations are not in an area where a technician is able to park their vehicle and perform their work appropriately.

While Verizon has provided technicians with guidelines for various highway scenarios, technicians trying to

improve productivity numbers may attempt to provide the needed services without following precautionary guidelines in accordance with the Department of Transportation guidelines.

In the event that one of our members chooses to perform this type of work without utilizing the proper work area protection, they not only jeopardize their own or someone else's life, they risk disciplinary action by the company and the possibility of **personal fines by OSHA.**

While this camera placement project is currently only being performed in Virginia, Work Area Protection guidelines are pertinent for highway projects in Maryland and DC.

Any technician unsure about proper work area protection guidelines should contact your immediate supervisor for assistance.

Local 2108 Union Calendar

May 2009

- 6** Chief Steward Meeting - 9:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 10** Mother's Day
- 13** Retired Member Club Meeting 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 13** General Membership Meeting 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 23** AVAYA Contract Expires 11:59 pm
- 25** Memorial Day - Union Negotiated Holiday
Local Office Closed
- 31** JDRF Walk For The Cure 10:00am
Nationals Park, Washington, DC

June 2009

- 3** Chief Steward Meeting - Cancelled
- 10** Retired Member Club Meeting 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 10** General Membership Meeting 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 21** Father's Day
- 22-24** 71st CWA International Convention
Washington, DC
- 24-26** CWA Legislative-Political Conference
Washington, DC
- 26** AFL-CIO Night at Camden Yards 7:00pm
Baltimore Orioles -vs- Washington Nationals

Visit Local 2108 On The Web: www.cwacal2108.org

**PSC Deals
Verizon Another
Setback...
See Page...1**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 5128
Hyattsville, Md.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL 2108
10782 Rhode Island Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-2513
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
ISSN: 0162-248X