

Act Today! Renew the ACP and Keep Families Connected

CWA Local 2108 is encouraging all members to contact their legislative leaders to act on important legislation that directly affects the Telecommunication Industry.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is the largest internet affordability program in U.S. history. Eligible low-income households can receive a discount of up to \$30 per month for internet, and up to \$75 for households on Tribal lands. Many ISPs participating in the program have reduced monthly charges to \$30, meaning that ACP participants can get internet at no cost. The program has been a huge success, with nearly 23 million households benefitting from the program and over 1,700 ISPs participating, including every major CWA employer. We all know today that internet access is a necessity, not a luxury. ACP helps working families maintain stable access to high speed broadband and connect to education, health, and economic opportunities online.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also provided a historic \$42.5 billion to build broadband to unserved and underserved households through the **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**. ACP is built into the economics of the BEAD program and providers have said that without ACP to support customers in low income and rural areas, they are less likely to participate in BEAD build-out in those areas.

CWA members have been working hard to ensure the historic BEAD investment creates good jobs for CWA members. Losing ACP means not only hurting households today but also hurting the BEAD program's investment in future infrastructure and future jobs.

CWA agrees with many in Congress that we need to reform the Universal Service Fund to ensure that it's a sustainable mechanism for bridging the digital divide in the future. However, in the short term, we need to bridge the gap for families that currently rely on ACP so that they can stay connected while Congress and the FCC work towards a long term solution.

Congress needs to act NOW.

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law granted an initial \$14.2 billion to fund ACP, but that funding is about to run out and the FCC estimates it will run out by April 2024.
- Without action, internet providers will be sending notices to consumers that they will lose this benefit. Millions of households will lose the benefit if Congress doesn't act now.
- The White House recently made a funding request to Congress for \$6 billion to keep the pro-



TELL CONGRESS: RENEW ACP AND KEEP FAMILIES CONNECTED!

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) currently helps nearly 23 million households access high speed broadband, providing \$30 per month to qualifying families for affordable internet access. This means more families online, and more jobs for CWA members.

But funding is running out. Unless Congress acts NOW to renew ACP, the program will end by April 2024.

Losing ACP would hurt CWA's efforts to create new jobs. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is funding millions of dollars of broadband infrastructure, and CWA has advocated for those funds to create good jobs for CWA members. Losing ACP would put this program at risk by making it less appealing for ISPs to take public funds and build new networks in rural areas.

We all know that the internet today is a necessity and this crucial benefit helps working families stay connected to school, telehealth, and jobs. Within weeks, families will start to receive notices that they will lose access to ACP, unless Congress acts NOW to pass legislation introduced in Congress by both Republicans and Democrats to keep the program funded.

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN ACP EXTENSION ACT, SUPPORT GOOD JOBS, AND KEEP FAMILIES CONNECTED!

CWA.ORG/RENEWACP



Scan The Code and Act Today!!



gram funded until the end of 2024, and Representatives Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) have introduced the bipartisan ACP Extension Act, which would provide an additional \$7 billion to fund the program.

- CWA calls on Congress to pass legislation that will keep families connected through 2024.

CWA Endorses John Morse For District 3 House Representative

Last month, the CWA Maryland State Council met with Democratic Congressional candidate John Morse to discuss his upcoming bid to replace John Sarbanes in Maryland's 3rd Congressional District. Representative Sarbanes is stepping down at the end of this term.

Morse grew up in a union family, where the importance of workers' rights and the power of collective action were part of our daily conversations. Those early experiences instilled a deep respect for the struggles and achievements of working families. This shaped his understanding of fairness and justice, prompting him to go to law school in order to get skills to serve working people.



For the past 12 years he has been working for the **Association of Flight Attendants-CWA** in the capacity of General Council or Staff Attorney and in that capacity he has been specializing in matters falling under the Railway Labor Act, the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act, the Duty of Fair Representation, Title VII, FMLA, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. His practice spans representation from arbitration and mediation to federal trial and appellate courts as well as administrative practice before federal agencies and advising on pending legislation and contract negotiations.

One of the fixtures of his campaign is passing the PRO Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act. As a union lawyer, John has fought for the dignity of work and to protect the rights of ordinary working people. He will champion policies that ensure workers receive fair wages, benefits, and safe working conditions. John will also fight for policies like the PRO Act that give working people tools to hold corporate America accountable and fight for their own dignity at work.

Morse also wants to hold Wall Street and hedge funds accountable.

Speculation Tax on Wall Street Transactions: Morse will push for a speculation tax on Wall Street transactions where financial traders pay a small fee on every transaction, just like a sales tax, that is used to discourage speculation and invest in the education, health, and the social safety net and create good paying jobs.

Fully Fund Federal Oversight: He feels we also need to fully fund the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to better police Wall Street abuses.

Prohibit Hedge Funds from Purchasing Single Family Homes: Morse wants to also ban hedge funds from purchasing single-family homes. Since the start of the pandemic, hedge funds and investors were responsible for nearly 1/3 of all home sales. This reduces inventory and drives up the price of owning a home. We need to make housing more affordable and give more families access to achieve the American Dream of home ownership.

Maryland's 3rd Congressional District comprises all of Howard county as well as parts of Anne Arundel and Carroll counties.

For more, visit the John Morse campaign website:
www.morse4maryland.com

The CWA Joseph A. Beirne Foundation Scholarship Program

The CWA Joe Beirne Foundation was established in October 1974 by the Communications Workers of America Executive Board to honor the name and memory of the founding President of CWA, who served for more than 30 years. In his capacity as the first CWA President, Joe Beirne took great pride in the roles he played in the fields of education and learning and other areas of social concern.

Sixteen partial college scholarships of \$4,000 each are being offered for the 2024-2025 school year. Winners, selected in a lottery drawing, also will receive second-year scholarships of the same amount contingent upon satisfactory academic accomplishment. Part-time students, less than 12 credits, will receive half of the scholarship monies.

Eligible for the awards are CWA members and their spouses, children and grandchildren, including those of retired or deceased members. Applicants must be high school graduates or at least high school students who will graduate during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to schooling may also apply.

Applications are accepted during the months of November through April. **Final deadline for the 2023-2024 school year is April 30, 2024.**

To apply online, go to:

<http://www.cwa-union.org/pages/beirne>

Thinking About Retirement?

You may want to check out these important workshops presented by **Networth Financial** Group to see if the reality of retirement is on your horizon!!

Timing Social Security Benefits

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM - Via Zoom

Retirement Preparedness Score

Thursday, February 15, 2024 @ 6:30PM - Via Zoom

Reservations are required and to RSVP you may call Networth at (800)-859-2212, or register online at :

<http://www.networth.net/event/marylanddcvirginia>

NetWorth is also advising members who are considering retirement to schedule an appointment to evaluate your company supplied pension calculations. Over the past 20 years, Networth has uncovered numerous calculation discrepancies and their Independent Pension Analysis can help verify accuracy.



To receive CWA action alerts via text message, Text CWAAction to 69866



Throughout U.S. labor history, Black workers have played a key role not only in forming unions, but helping secure improved pay, benefits and working conditions even amid ongoing discrimination.

As our union celebrates Black History Month, we look back on just a few of many examples of Black workers' contributions to the labor movement, even as the fight for equality and racial justice continues. In 1838, Black workers in Baltimore, Md. formed the Caulkers Association, one of the first Black trade unions in the U.S. Many members worked as caulkers, carpenters and longshoremen. The group collectively bargained with shipyard owners, leading to much higher pay than non-union caulk workers.

Nearly 30 years later, Issac Myers founded The Colored Caulkers Trade Union Society, which was formed to fight discrimination against Black employment in the ship caulking industry. The group eventually bought stocks that led to a purchase of a shipyard and railway that employed hundreds of workers. The group was also awarded several government contracts.

Myers, who would serve as a labor leader until he passed away in 1891, was among more than 200 black workers who in 1869 formed the Colored National Labor Union (CNLU), a confederation of independent Black local and state unions and one of the first national black labor organizations.



Issac Myers

The CNLU sought to increase the number of black workers, improve working conditions, develop a national public education system and eliminate workplace discrimination. Myers served as the group's president until 1872. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass succeeded Myers.

In the early 20th century, Black workers continued their fight for justice. The Industrial Workers of America (IWA) was one of the first established trade unions to organize black workers.

In 1925, trade unionist and labor organizer A. Philip Randolph helped found the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first union of predominantly Black members to receive a charter in the American Federation of Labor. At its height, the union had about 18,000 members in North America.

The labor movement has long stood as an ally to the civil rights movement, often working together, Randolph also played a key role in advancing civil rights, including working with other leaders such as Bayard Rustin to protest discrimination in the defense industries and armed forces. Pressure from Rudolph, Rustin and other leaders spurred President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue an Executive Order in 1941 that abolished discrimination in the defense industry. President Harry S. Truman issued an Executive Order abolishing discrimination in the armed forces in 1948.

In 1955, Randolph became a vice president of the AFL-CIO, where he continuously fought to end discrimination, including from within the newly-formed federation.

In 1965, Randolph and Rustin founded the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) to continue the alliance between civil rights and the labor movement. APRI is today an AFL-CIO constituency group that fights for racial and economic justice.



A. Phillip Randolph

Are you "WEARING RED" on Thursdays?

Personals

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

Retiree **Sue Johnson**, wife of retiree **Bill Johnson** who passed away on January 2, 2024.

Member **Christopher Ludvigsen** who passed away on January 10, 2024.

Former member, **James L. Abrams** who passed away on January 17, 2024.

Former member, **Arden Bardelang** who passed away on January 22, 2024.

Hayes Jarman Jr, father-in-law to Chief Steward **Tony Meeks**, who passed away on January 24, 2024.

Congratulations to:

Member **Bon Carlo Tadena** on the birth of his son **Liam Jacob Tadena**, who was born on December 19, 2023.

Welcome to Local 2108

New Members

Kendra Whitaker
Jasmine Clark
Alexandra Dodson
Lyle Ryan
Christina Meyers
Tayler Fish
Tyscha Henry

Caitlyn Gundy
Tyrn Goodson-Seck
Abteen Teymourash
Samuel Djarbeng
Jennifer Murphy
Trevor Kenney
Justin Davis

Marcus Eades
Rocky Mlodik
Saniya Brooks
Mario Meza
Simon Hugos

Tonja Jones

Courtney Mullins
Breya Price

Transferred Members

Kendra Whitaker

Devin McCleary
Jaron Jackson
Pamela Price
Michelle Joynes
Martez Clark



RMC 2108 Retirees Corner

Welcome to 2024!! Let's make this a great year!! I am hoping that this year will be without all the political drama of we dealt with last year. But with that being said, even with all his legal issues, our former President is running again.

The RMC is committed to share information about planned political activities with our members as well as information about impending legislation which may positively or negatively impact retirees and seniors. We must have a say in our future.

Join us at our next meeting on February 14 at 11:00am so we can talk about issues and catch up with friends. Hope to see you there !!

Calvin C Foster Jr
President- RMC 2108





UNION-MADE STAY-WARM SHOPPING LIST

<p><u>Coffee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight O'Clock • Folgers • Kauai • Maxwell House • Millstone 	<p><u>Soups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell • College Inn • MC Soups • Snider • S.F. Soup Co. 	<p><u>Alcohol</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacardi • Buffalo Trace • Jack Daniel's • Jim Beam • Knob Creek
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Be an Ethical Consumer
BUY UNION
Labor 411

Local 2108 Calendar

FEBRUARY 2024

- 12-14 **CWA New Officers Training**
Baltimore, MD
- 14 **Valentine's Day**

- 14 **RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am**
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 14 **Membership Meeting - 6:00pm**
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 19 **President's Day**
Local Office Closed

MARCH 2024

- 4-5 **Advanced Stewards Training**
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 10 **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
- 13 **RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am**
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 13 **Membership Meeting - 6:00pm**
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**

- 31 **Easter Sunday**

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request my union representative, officer or steward to be present at this meeting. Without union representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Membership Meeting - Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 6:00pm
RMC 2108 Meeting - Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - 11:00am




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Communications Workers of America Local 2108

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Amory Proctor - Executive Vice President
Tamera Nelson - Secretary-Treasurer
LaTasha Carpenter - Vice President

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