

CWA President Shelton Rips Trump Tax Plan

There's no question that the tax legislation is a huge giveaway to corporations and the wealthiest Americans at the expense of working families and young people who will be stuck paying the bill for decades.

This is an example of dealmaking by and for corporate interests and the 1 percent. Working people will pay the price for the tax loopholes that encourage companies to move even more jobs offshore and the attacks on programs that working and middle income families count on.

Congress's own Joint Committee on Taxation pointed out that benefits for working and middle income families are meager and temporary, with just 10 percent of the tax cut going to middle and working class families. The JCT also noted that 53 percent of taxpayers will see their taxes go up in 2025, because of the games Republicans are playing.

The plan adds at least \$1 trillion to the deficit, and that already is being used by Republican leaders to justify their campaign to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

This tax plan is upside down. Instead of making working families pay more for tax breaks for the corporations and the richest Americans, we should be closing the loopholes that Wall Street will continue to exploit. We should be rebuilding our infrastructure, making education affordable, and making sure that corporations keep good jobs here in the U.S., instead of opening up new loopholes that encourage the offshoring of jobs, as this tax plan does.

President Trump and the Republican leadership still claim that working families will get at least a \$4,000 pay raise, even though most economists -- and even CEOs -- say that corporations will use their tax cuts to buy

back stock and reward investors.

The American people know a bad deal when they see it. That's why the percentage of Americans who oppose the plan, now 55 percent, continues to grow.

Those voices will grow even louder come Election Day 2018. We'll keep exposing this Republican tax plan as a corporate money grab that results in working and middle income families paying more, but getting less. We'll keep reminding working people about the \$4,000 raise that President Trump and the Republican leadership promised them.



Ben Jealous, the CWA endorsed candidate for Maryland Governor in 2018 and a former CWA member, makes a special appearance at Breakfast with Santa with RMC 2108 Secretary Jenny Sylvester. Let's hope Santa can deliver a win in November!!

"Breakfast With Santa 2017"



With over 100 members and their children/grandchildren in attendance, this year's "Breakfast With Santa" was once again a smashing success. Special thanks goes out to the following for all their efforts: , Don and Karen Kurz, Scot and Ursula McElroy, Mike Foster, Icy Barton, Matt Klingman, Amory Proctor, Marilyn Irwin, and "special" guest Dick Bissell from the Association of Retired Americans, who may have been in disguise !!



If you have a New Years resolution to get back in the classroom, FutureLink can help you get started. We offer the Workshop Organize Your Life. This workshop can help you find the time you need to get everything done! Improve your ability to manage tasks by learning to prioritize goals and apply time management skills to every aspect of your life. To enroll in this workshop is very easy. Simply go to the FutureLink Website <https://www.vz-futurelink.net> and go to the Self Knowledge menu and then click on Enroll in a Workshop.

Also if you are interested in increasing your knowledge and improving your Customer Contact and/or Technical skills, then check out the classes that FutureLink will be offering:

Customer Contact Online Future Prep Class (RAMP Qualifier)

(Monday Classes - 5 weeks) - February 26 - March 26, 2018 - 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Introduction To Telecommunication Technology online Future Prep class (RAMP Qualifier)

(Tuesday Classes - 7 weeks) - February 20 to April 3, 2018 - 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

(Thursday Classes - 7 weeks) - February 22 to April 5, 2018 - 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

Call Joann Herman in the Home Study department at **1-866-308-8082**, Option 1 and let her know you want to want to secure a seat in the first class of the year!

You can also log onto the FutureLink Website to enroll today!

<https://www.vz-futurelink.net>

Are you "WEARING RED" on
Thursdays?

RMC 2108 Retirees Corner

On behalf of the 2108 RMC, I would like to wish a healthy and prosperous 2018 to you all.

Actually, it is so much more than a wish. As a retiree council, it is our goal; it is our mission. Minus receiving a huge lottery win or inheritance, your health, comfort and dignity in retirement is contingent on having good medical benefits and sufficient money on which to live. That's why, for the well-being of current and future retirees, we must fight for the continuation and enhancement of Medicare and Social Security, and not allow any diminishment of them. We must stand up against employers who want to turn their backs on their retirees so they can pander to their stockholders. We must insist that corporations share the fruits of their labors with the employees and retirees who create(d) the profits, and not allow CEOs and shareholder to grab all the money. Seniors in these United States should never have to choose between food or medicine. They should never cut their pills in half or skip doses because they can't afford refills.

We discuss these and other topics of interest to retirees at our monthly meetings, which are held at the Local Office on the second Wednesday of the month, beginning at 11:00 a.m., followed by a nice lunch. I hope to see you at our next meeting on January 10th!

Calvin C Foster Jr
President- RMC 2108



The 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.

Fifteen partial college scholarships of \$4,000 each are being offered for the 2018-2019 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.

Applications are accepted during the months of November through April. **Final deadline for the 2018-2019 school year is April 30, 2018.**

To apply online, go to:

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

The Vincent & Patricia Maisano Labor Scholarship Program

This scholarship award is being presented as a tribute to the second CWA District 13 International Vice President and the former Secretary-Treasurer of CWA Local 13000. Both of these individuals retired in April of 2005. Vince and Pat both placed a high priority on education.

All CWA District 2-13 members, their spouses, children and grandchildren (including dependents of laid-off, retired or deceased CWA District 2-13 members) who are or were members in good standing at the time of separation from the Union may apply. 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. Prior winners may not apply.

One (1) scholarship, to be paid at the rate of \$1,000.00, will be awarded to an eligible applicant from the District 2-13 Potomac Region.

Applications will be accepted during the months of December through March. Final deadline is **March 31st** of the year in which the scholarship will be awarded.

The winners will be chosen by lottery drawing.

To apply online, go to:

<http://district2-13.cwa-union.org/pages/scholarship>

Since 1991, the Union Plus Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$4.2 million to students of working families who want to begin or continue their post-secondary education. Over 2,800 families have benefited from the program's commitment to higher education. The Union Plus Scholarship Program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended. The required essay can account for up to half your total score. Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

Application Deadline:

A complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on **Wednesday, January 31, 2018**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

Scholarship Award Amounts:

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2018. Students may re-apply each year.

Award date:

The Scholarship Committee will determine recipients of scholarship awards by May 31st each year. During the first two weeks of June award recipients will be individually notified by mail, and all applicants will be sent an email with notification that the award list is posted at UnionPlus.org/Scholarships.

Eligibility:

- Current and retired members of participating unions, their spouses and their dependent children (as defined by IRS regulations). At least one year of continuous union membership by the applicant, applicant's spouse or parent (if applicant is a dependent). The one year membership minimum must be satisfied by May 31, 2018.
- The applicant must be accepted into a U.S. accredited college or university, community college or technical or trade school at the time the award is issued. Awards must be used for the fall of 2018 school year.

To apply for the scholarships, go to :

<http://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship>

Your VZ CPS Award is Tax Deferrable

In March 2018, eligible Verizon employees will be awarded the annual Corporate Profit Sharing Award as a result of collective bargaining. Verizon fought long and hard to do away with the CPS award during the 2015-16 round of bargaining, but as a result of you actions on the picket line we continue to benefit from the fruits of our labor.

As in the past, you have had the opportunity to defer your CPS award (minus appropriate taxes and deductions and any overtime adjustments you receive) into your Verizon Savings Plan account. This allows the award to grow over time like other contributions to the Verizon Savings Plan.

To defer the award you must make your election between January 2, 2018 and February 2, 2018 by going online to www.netbenefits.com/verizon or by calling the Verizon Savings Plan Service Center at 1-888-457-9333 from 8:30am to 12 midnight, Monday-Friday. The deferral period ends at 5:00pm on February 2, 2018.

If you choose not to defer your award, you will receive your CPS award on March 9, 2018 in a separate check/deposit. The minimum amount of this years distribution will be \$700, but the final determination will be made in February 2018, based on the company's financial results for 2017.

Personals

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

Henry T. Chavis, grandfather of **Rochelle Quick**, who passed November 30, 2017.

Virginia Leigh Pinkard, mother of **Arnita Pinkard**, who passed December 3, 2017.

Virginia Aquilino, mother of CWA Local 2108 Administrative Assistant, **Denise Lowthers** who passed away December 12, 2017.

Rose Marie Evans, mother of former Local 2108 President **Les Evans**, who passed December 16, 2017.

Elizabeth DeBoe, a retired member who passed on December 21, 2017.

Welcome to Local 2108

New Members

Glenn Miller

Kwesi Okyere
Angel Lemus

Tammy Nelson

Roosevelt Green
Denis Harris
Derek Paige, Jr.
Manfred Peay

Moose Singleton

Terrance Superville
Jon-Paul Purdy

Tony Meeks

Marisa Birchfield
Thomas D Moore, II
Brian Canada

Mike Foster

Antonio Delgado
LaTanya Tweedy
Stephen Spencer
Errol Samuels

Scot McElroy

Frederick Brown



Transferred Members

Tonie Price/Rocio Leonzo/Weather McGraw

Crystal Jones
Micki Eckert
Ermoine Brown
Carolyn Banks
Douglas Begger

Janin Willis
Stacy Mitchell
Taia Harris-Green
Regina Collins

Glenn Miller

Wendie Barbee

Mike Foster

Khaaliq Canada

Scot McElroy

Thomas Crocetti
Chris Mowell

Congratulations to Recent Retirees:



Gerard Linstrom
Gene Heard



Children's Hospital 50/50 Raffle

Winner:

Keith Mason - \$997.00

You may want to check out one of the listed workshops presented by **Nettworth Financial Group** for a retirement check-up and a free meal!!

Retirement Preparedness

Thursday, January 18th @ 6:30 pm – Blackwall Hitch, 400 Sixth Street, Annapolis

Tuesday, January 30th @ 6:30 pm – Ruth's Chris, 106 Crown Park Avenue, Gaithersburg

Retirement – What to Expect

Wednesday, January 31st @ 6:30 pm – Elks Lodge, 2210 Old Washington Road, Waldorf

Reservations are required and to RSVP you may call (877)-534-2860, or register online at Nettworth.net.

Please specify if you plan to bring a guest with you and the name(s) of your guest(s).

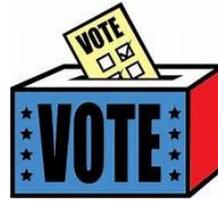
We look forward to seeing you there!



Referendum Vote Held at 12/17 Membership Meeting

Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 3 of the CWA Constitution, Local 2108 held a referendum vote at our December 13, 2017 Membership Meeting.

Verizon had transferred Mary Jenkins, Secretary/Treasurer of CWA Local 2101 from Hunt Valley, Baltimore to the Chesapeake Complex in Silver Spring. CWA Local 2101 requested a jurisdictional waiver so she may maintain her membership in Local 2101 in order for her to complete her term in office ending on 12/31/2020.



The CWA Constitution requires that both Local 2108 (as the “waiving” local) and Local 2101 (as the “expanding” local) vote on this matter. Members in attendance at the December Membership voted to waive jurisdiction. CWA Local 2101 also conducted a vote at their membership meeting to retain membership. Mary Jenkins, per the CWA Constitution, will be able to finish her term in office at CWA Local 2101.

Local 2108 Calendar

JANUARY 2018

- 1 New Year's Day
Local Office Closed
- 10 RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 10 Membership Meeting - 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 15-16 Telecommunications & Technologies Conf.
Phoenix, AZ
- 21-26 Local Officer Training
Silver Spring, MD

FEBRUARY 2018

- 7 Chief Stewards Meeting - 9:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 14 Valentines 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

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, January 10, 2018, 6:00pm
RMC 2108 Meeting - Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 11:00am



10782 Rhode Island Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705

Web Address: www.cwalocal2108.org

Local Office: (301) 595-2108 :: Local Fax: (301) 595-2412

Matt Klingman - Vice President

LaTasha Carpenter - Vice President

Johnny Brown - Secretary-Treasurer

Amory Proctor - Executive Vice President

Marilyn Irwin - President

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