

AVAYA & Verizon Offer Buyout Packages Can You Afford to Retire?

With the announcement of a Voluntary Termination Package (VTP) at AVAYA and an EISP offering at Verizon this past month, CWA members who are contemplating retirement often see these packages as a catalyst to jump start their retirement plans. But since this is such an important life decision, CWA is advising any potential recipient to seek advice from a reputable financial advisor to assist you in meeting your retirement goals.

Retirement income planning is the process of understanding how much income you'll need during your retirement years to support the retirement lifestyle you want, and positioning your assets to provide that income. While there's no such thing as a "one size fits all" plan, there are steps you can take to maximize the possibility of a financially secure retirement.

CWA Local 2108 has been working with the financial planners at Nettworth in coordinating retirement planning seminars to assist our members in making the right financial decisions. If you are contemplating a buy-out package, please consider joining us at one of the retirement seminars to get valuable information to assist you in your decision making.

CWA Local 2108, 10786 Rhode Island Avenue, Beltsville, MD

Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 12pm **Markets in Motion**

Saturday, June 10, 2017 – 12pm **Retirement Income Planning**

Ruth's Chris Steak House, 301 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD

Thursday, May 25, 2017 – 6:30pm **Markets in Motion**

Reservations are required and to RSVP you may call 1-877-534-2860, or register online at Nettworth.net.

In addition, if you feel any of your family or fellow co-workers may be interested, please do not hesitate to bring them along and let us know how many will join you at the seminar.



LABOR NIGHT AT
NATIONALS PARK

Friday, July 30, 2017 - 7:05PM



Washington Nationals –vs– Colorado Rockies

Tickets are \$15.00 each and will be sold on a first come/first served basis by calling the Local on 301-595-2108. Only a limited number of tickets are available. Call today !!

Got Money Left on Your HRA Card? Use it Before December 31, 2017



As you may recall, CWA and Verizon negotiated a Health Care Reimbursement Account (HRA) effective 1-1-2013, in the amount of \$850.00 for our members to utilize in offsetting costs associated with increases to our benefit package. As we jump forward to our new 2016 contract with Verizon, CWA agreed that if the participant's balance was less than \$50 as of 12-31-2016, such

amount would be forfeited. For those who had more than \$50 in the account as of that date, they would have until 12-31-2017 to use it, or the remaining balance will be forfeited.

CWA Local 2108 is encouraging all members who still have funds remaining on your Health Care Reimbursement account to schedule any needed doctors visits before the end of the year to utilize any remaining balances on your card.

Remember, you can use your HRA card to pay for deductibles, co-pays, prescriptions and eyeglasses!!

Time to Stop Rewarding Contractors That Send Good Jobs Overseas

The Communications Workers of America recently issued a statement on the off-shoring of good jobs by U.S. government contractors.

Keeping good jobs in the U.S. is a top priority for working people. Corporations that send call center jobs and other good jobs overseas shouldn't be rewarded with federal contracts.

Despite the campaign promises of President Trump, that's exactly what's happening. The new report by Good Jobs Nation and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch quantifies the extent of off-shoring by the largest U.S. government contractors as well as the absence of action by the Trump administration to keep good jobs in the U.S.

CWA has exposed the off-shoring of good call center jobs at companies including T-Mobile, AT&T, Verizon, Xerox, Sykes Enterprises and many more. We've joined with Senators and Members of Congress who have proposed legislation to stop rewarding off-shoring and with those who have called on President Trump to sign an executive order that would help keep good call center jobs in the U.S.

"Companies that receive lucrative federal government contracts to provide call center services are among the leading exporters of call center work to overseas locations, eliminating good jobs at home. That's not where our tax money should be going. The U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act will keep good jobs here and hold corporations accountable. That's what working people want," said CWA President Chris Shelton.

It's time for Congress to act, by passing bi-partisan call center legislation that will make U.S. companies that offshore call center jobs ineligible for certain federal grants and loans. And it's time for President Trump to act, by signing the executive order that blocks corporations that offshore good jobs from receiving federal contracts.

Labor Night at Camden Yards

CWA Local 2108 is sorry to report that we have been notified by the AFL-CIO that "Union Night at Camden Yards" scheduled for Friday, June 30th 2017 against the Tampa Bay Rays, has been postponed.



We were advised that an alternative date will be provided, however, that date and price has yet to be determined. We will notify you upon receiving any additional information from the Baltimore Orioles and the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of the AFL-CIO.

By: Matt Klingman

Spring is in the Air.....

Along with a whole slew of potential hazards that were not much of a problem during the winter.

Bees and hornets are more active this time of year, and they love to use our outside plant as their homes. Normally docile animals such as squirrels and birds can be aggressive when they feel the need to defend their nests and new-borns. Snakes are becoming active also, and can be found in the strangest places. I once found a juvenile black snake in an alarm panel in a customer's house! Mosquitoes and ticks were once just considered a nuisance. Now that we know how many serious diseases their bite can transmit, wearing repellent every day is wise. Do a tick check after working outside, especially if you were in tall grass or wooded areas.



As if the insects and animals aren't bad enough, even the plants are getting ready to attack! Poison ivy, oak and sumac are growing and often get intertwined with other plants, making identification difficult. Pollen counts are at a twenty-year high right now. In addition to causing respiratory problems, the pollen also covers vehicle windows and mirrors, decreasing visibility. Trees can grow into utility lines, and when coupled with wet weather can make a conductor out of Mrs. Smith's cherry tree.

Sunburns happen year-round, not just during the summer. Our chances of getting skin cancer increase with every blistering sunburn we get in our lifetime. It is recommended that we apply sunscreen often and cover our heads with a hat to protect ourselves from too much exposure to the sun.

We all want to go home at the end of our day in the same condition we arrived at work. Whether we are new hires or have been performing the same job functions for thirty-plus years, it is important to be vigilant as we perform all aspects of our job functions. Do a proper job pre-survey to assess any potential dangers. Keep wasp spray, mosquito repellent and sunscreen handy, for use when appropriate. Keep windshields clean for maximum visibility. ALWAYS use safety equipment to test for power. NEVER raise a bucket into tree branches, as energized utility lines could be hiding there. If we are always aware of our surroundings, and don't let familiarity lead us to complacency, the odds

Personals

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

Alex Cary, a retired member who died on March 17, 2017.

John Stephen Howe, father of **Rose Howe** who died on March 21, 2017.

Fatima Deonarine, mother of **Caroline Deonarine** who died on March 28, 2017.

Mamie R. Reid, mother of **James R. Reid**, who died on April 2, 2017.

Michael L. Smith, father of **Christopher Smith** who died on April 5, 2017.

Julie Marie Lewinski, mother of retired member **Jenny K. Sylvester**, mother-in-law of retired member **Dave Keister** and grandmother of **Andrew Keister** who died on April 16, 2017.

Rev. Donald Lee Turley, father of **Robert Turley**, who died on April 20, 2017.

Welcome to Local 2108

New Members

Ken Singleton

Adam Cochran
Hendk Yohannes
Brandon Hankerson



Tina Mischou

Gary Lovingood
William Steele
Erick Little

Tony Meeks

JaQuan Harrison
Jason Green
Rolando Coney, Sr.
Jesse Avans
Joseph Kozak
Sheku Kamara
Anthony Oliver
Kevin Doman-Oliver
Harshod Spells

Congratulations to Recent Retirees:



Maggie Fonville
David Cormier
Philip R Clark
David X Brooks
Donna Dillman-Butler



RMC 2108 Retirees Corner

Lately, we have heard that some members are experiencing difficulties in processing medical claims through some medical providers that are unfamiliar with the Verizon - United Healthcare Advantage Plan. If you are still having difficulty after using the customer service number, 1-877-211-6548 (TTY 711) please call our CWA / Verizon Retiree Healthcare Coordinator, Cynthia (Cindy) Ebner on 1-866-248-4449 for help. There is always a solution to be found for health care problems and the CWA RMC will help you find one.

For more help, information and a luncheon meeting with friends, come to our RMC meeting on May 10, 2017 at 11:00am.



RMC 2108

Calvin C Foster Jr
President- RMC 2108

NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive - May 13, 2017

CWA Local 2108 wants to encourage all members to participate in this year's National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, which will occur on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

Last spring, NALC members and other union volunteers collected over 80 million pounds of food, setting a new record for the most food ever collected in their one-day food drive. This remarkable feat proves what can be accomplished together with commitment, determination, solidarity and hard work.

Food Drive for Hunger



While the total pounds of food collected are hard to visualize, the faces of those who are helped by this effort are all too familiar -- children, seniors, and working families struggling to make ends meet.

The results of the recent election may embolden members of Congress who are determined to cut programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, and other critical safety net services, making initiatives such as this food drive particularly important.

Working in partnership with the AFL-CIO Labor Liaison Network, United Way Worldwide, our nation's food security advocates and a host of other partners, the NALC gets food into the cupboards of those in need. All people need to do is place a bag of unopened, non-perishable food next to their mailbox before their letter carrier delivers their mail on Saturday, May 13th, and the carrier will do the rest. Once collected, the food is taken back to the postal station, sorted, and delivered by union volunteers to area food banks or pantries.

Local 2108 Calendar

MAY 2017

- 10 RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 10 Membership Meeting - 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 14 Mother's Day



- 29 Memorial Day
Local Office Closed

JUNE 2017

- 7 Chief Stewards Meeting - 9:30am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 7 Finance Committee Meeting - 4:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 14 RMC 2108 Meeting - 11:00am
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 14 Membership Meeting - 6:00pm
Local Office, Beltsville, MD
- 18 Father's Day



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, May 10, 2017, 6:00pm
RMC 2108 Meeting - Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 11:00am



10782 Rhode Island Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20705

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LaTasha Carpenter - Vice President

Johnny Brown - Secretary-Treasurer

Amory Proctor - Executive Vice President

Marilyn Irwin - President

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