

CWA VOI CE



The Communications Workers of America, Local 2202

Virginia Beach, VA

March/April 2005

Editor's Appeal

Let's Get Real

"It doesn't affect me". "Me not being there won't make a difference". "Why bother, they're minds are made up anyway". Most of us have at one time heard these familiar adages. And *most of the time*, these words are spoken when people need a reason to excuse themselves from not being involved in something that they really should be a part of. Fact of the matter is, people generally look for the *easiest, less time-consuming, and the least expensive way* to be a part of something instead of actively involving themselves in what they actually share a common interest in.

Let's get real. We all pay taxes to the government in one form or another. So, why would the average citizen be inhibited from voicing their opinion to the government for or against any fiscal plans to alter the tax structure? Likewise, why continue to get secondhand information from other unionists who attend membership meetings when, you, as a dues paying member have the same opportunity to attend, provide feedback, and get first-hand information for yourself.

It is interesting that humans, in general, have an innate desire to look for the street that is the shortest not considering the wear and tear that a bumpy dirt road can cause on a vehicle. The cost of going down the long, but well-maintained highway may be far less than the repairs to fix the troubles caused by going down that back road. In other words, it may require an additional push to make it to union meetings, or to write a letter to congressional leaders for or against changes that will affect working persons—but look at yourself in the end being one of many activists who willingly took a stand to promote justice for all.

Let's get real. If you really want something good for yourself, who better than YOU could be involved to express specifically what YOU want?

-Byron "Chuck" Taylor

Local 2202 Scholarship
-Details Inside-

Local VP Requests Answers On FTTP Project

Since Verizon rolled out the FTTP (*Fiber-to-the-Prem*) project in Northern Virginia, many of our local technicians have been tasked job assignments out of town with many questions which remain unanswered. Our Local along with other Locals in our district has continuously worked to resolve numerous situations which were birthed through poor decisions on behalf the company. Although there has been some progression, there remain some critical issues that require attention from the company. In an effort to get some questions answered, Vice President Kathy Hillman wrote an e-mail letter to the FTTP project's Director, Walter Jones. Hopefully, by the next issue of the *CWA VOI CE*, Mr. Jones will have replied to the following letter for printing.

From: K Hillman
To: Walter L. Jones Jr.
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2005 2:05 PM
Subject: FTTP

Dear Mr. Jones,

I've just returned from Fairfax, Virginia. Once again I was approached with questions that have remained unanswered since the last time I was there. There seems to be a communication break down at some point, and I'm writing to you in hopes that we can get these very important questions answered.

If we have not passed the one year anniversary of the birth of the Fiber project, it is surely near. How many homes have been passed? How many new customers do we have? Is it working? Is it possible to get a report on our progress?

Many technicians have been forced to Northern Virginia for some time now. Rumor has it that March will be the final month for those techs. Is that true? Term employees have been told that they will be forced to Northern Virginia indefinitely. Is that true? Could we possibly get a structured six month schedule so that these technicians can make plans and let their families know when they'll be coming home?

There is still a shortage of tools, fiber splicing equipment, and test equipment. When will the tools be available for technicians to do the job at hand?

The living conditions at the Homestead Hotel are shabby at best. There is a problem with the cleanliness of the hotel and the parking there is very poor. Has anyone addressed this issue?

When will the overtime caps be lifted?

Your time in answering these questions is appreciated. I will have this letter as well as your reply printed in our Local 2202 newspaper and with our other locals as well.

Cordially,

Kathy Hillman
Vice President
Local 2202



Dear Union Brothers and Sisters,

Because there is and has been so much in legislature that will affect us as working people, I have asked John Wills, our Secretary-Treasurer, to provide some information on COPE in this issue.

COPE (Committee on Political Education) is our union's way to fight legislatively—lobbying for laws that support the rights of working people and to support those running for office that are worker friendly.

I personally encourage every officer, steward, and member of our Local to consider and to continue giving to COPE.

**In Unity,
Louie**

COPE: The Best Return On Your Investment
Or How \$1.00 from You Can Mean a \$4,368.00 Raise for a Single Mom
BY JOHN WILLS

We have turned a corner. After years of voluntary layoffs (otherwise known as EISP offers) Verizon is finally hiring. Avaya and VIS have new employees, both new hires and transfers. The outlook for membership growth in our local is once again good. We all know that every new member improves our leverage at the bargaining table and improves our power to influence our employers when we need to mobilize for our rights as workers.

What many of us do not realize is the importance of increasing our participation in the COPE program. CWA-COPE is the political action committee for the working men and women of CWA, their families and retirees. It is a voluntary deduction from your paycheck each payday. The minimum contribution is \$1.00 per member per week. The other levels are \$2.00, \$5.00, \$7.00 and \$10.00 per week. Your contributions ensure that your voice is heard in the political arena.

No matter what improvements to wages, benefits and working conditions we gain through bargaining, a stroke of a pen by a president or governor, a flurry of "ayes" in support of legislation endorsed by reactionary right wing groups like the National Right to Work Committee, an arbitrary and onerous change of rules by the Department of Labor can render our contract meaningless and our union ineffective.

Example: CWA represented flight attendants at US Airways have had their pensions gutted as a result of the airline's bankruptcy.

Example: We live in a nation that prides itself on the "Rule of Law" but those politicians who are now in the majority and who make the rules do not have our interests at heart. To prove this we have just witnessed two unconscionable votes in the Senate.

First our senators refused to raise the minimum wage. Currently at \$5.15 an hour, the proposal would have raised it to \$7.25. A minimum wage worker now earns \$10,712.00 per year, but the Senate deems this to be enough, even though the federal government declares that the poverty level for a family of three is \$15,672.00. Imagine that you're a single parent with two children. Could you provide for your family with only \$15,672.00, much less \$10,712.00? And the increase that the Senate refused to grant only would have raised the minimum wage to \$15,080.00. (See "COPE" on next page)

PAYROLL NUMBER (IF REQUIRED)	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	PRINT EMPLOYEE NAME
PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION CARD		CWA-COPE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE I hereby authorize my employer to deduct from my wages the sum of \$_____ each pay period and to remit such amount to the Communications Workers of America Committee on Political Education Political Contributions Committee. ("CWA-COPE PCC")
THIS AUTHORIZATION IS VOLUNTARILY MADE BASED ON MY SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING THAT:		▶ The signing of this authorization card and the making of contributions to CWA COPE PCC are not conditions of membership in the union nor of employment with the Company and that I may refuse to do so without fear of reprisal.
FOLD HERE ▶ I am making a contribution to a joint fund-raising effort sponsored by CWA-COPE PCC and the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education Political Contributions Committee ("AFL-CIO COPE PCC") and that CWA-COPE PCC and AFL-CIO COPE PCC will use my contributions for political purposes, including but not limited to, the making of contributions to or expenditures on behalf of candidates for federal, state, and local offices and addressing political issues of public importance.		FOLD HERE
▶ Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.		
▶ Contributions or gifts to CWA-COPE PCC and AFL-CIO COPE PCC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> New Enrollment <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Amount		
_____ EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE	_____ DATE	_____ LOCAL NUMBER
_____ EMAIL ADDRESS	_____ STREET ADDRESS	_____ CITY
_____ NAME OF EMPLOYER	_____ OCCUPATION	_____ STATE
_____ ZIP		
Authorized by the Communications Workers of America and the AFL-CIO on behalf of a joint fund-raising effort by CWA-COPE PCC and AFL-CIO COPE PCC.		

(“COPE” continued from previous page) Still below the poverty line. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay refused to even consider helping America’s working poor. He said Congress wasn’t interested in increasing the minimum wage. The same Congress that has voted itself \$28,500.00 in wage increases since the minimum wage was last increased.

The second vote is the Credit Card Bailout Bill—er, I mean the “bankruptcy reform” bill. This bill doesn’t apply to US Airways. This bill applies to you. Rather than passing legislation that would really benefit working families like ending predatory lending, high-interest credit cards to college students, payday loans to the working poor, outrageous health care costs, the bill has carved out a huge number of working families that will now be unable to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Lose your job? Doesn’t matter. No health insurance? Doesn’t matter. Unless your income is below the median level of your state, then you will have to file for Chapter 13 and a judge will order a debt-repayment plan so that you can: 1) contribute to the \$30 billion in profits that the credit card industry saw last year, and 2) find yourself in a situation where it will be much harder, impossible even, to make a fresh start.

But the news is not all bad. You will be glad to know that the Senate kept the millionaires loophole or “asset protection trusts” used by wealthy individuals to shelter their portfolios from creditors. So if you’re so inclined you can establish a trust of unlimited size and shelter it from any bankruptcy judge anywhere in the country.

We as workers need to protect ourselves from these politicians who serve capital and turn their backs on labor. We need to guarantee that more women and men are elected to represent us who have our interests at heart. The minimum wage bill was defeated by a vote of 49 to 46. If only two senators had changed their votes and supported the bill—it would have passed. More COPE dollars could have equaled two more worker friendly senators. And \$1.00 per week from you could have meant a 40% raise for a single mom and her two children.

Banks and credit card companies know full well the importance of their political action committees. So do US Airways and the other airlines. It is a lesson that we all must learn and the lesson is **give to COPE**. If you are a long-time member who has been giving at the old minimum of 10¢ or 25¢ per week, consider increasing your contribution to \$1.00 or more per week. Remember, if you work for VCSI or VIS and are paid every two weeks, you need to double the weekly contribution. If you’re a new member or just filling out your blue card, then be sure to complete the bottom portion to the CWA-COPE Political Contributions Committee. You can also download the form from the COPE website. Go to <http://www.cwa-cope.org/> and click on “Contribute Today.” You may also cut out the form opposite this page, complete it and deliver to your

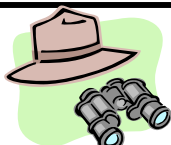
CONGRATULATIONS!

To Alex Long and Robert Spratley who won the \$5.00 door prizes at the March 14th Membership Meeting.

Robert L. Burland’s name was drawn for the Pot-of-Gold worth \$286.26 at the March 14th Membership Meeting. He was not present to claim his prize.

The Pot-of-Gold has grown to \$308.28.

JOIN US AT THE NEXT
MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005
7:30 P.M.
IRONWORKERS HALL
5307 E. VIRGINIA BEACH BLVD
NORFOLK, VA



Congratulations!

Andrea Kane

who located her name in the January/February newsletter.

Locate your name hidden in ALL CAPS in this issue—just call the Union Office at (757)456-2202 & we’ll put \$10.00 in your pocket!

Read about it in the
CWA VOICE



Don’t Forget...

CWA
still wears
RED on Thursdays!

shop steward or union officer. There is also a form you can download to send in a contribution by check. Don’t forget to view the support incentive gifts.

Do it soon. We need to build our war chest before next year’s Congressional elections. More COPE dollars will allow more worker friendly candidates to get their message out and will result in our voice being heard and not just the Ken Lays of the world.

Verizon Shareholder Meeting in Houston, TX

Verizon will hold its’ annual shareholders meeting in Houston, TX on May 5, 2005.

Please look out for your proxy statements in the mail as they should be arriving at your homes in the near future.

As usual, we will be collecting completed proxy statements to be delivered to the company’s annual meeting in bulk. We will get more information out regarding this through our mobilization structure as it is received from the National Union.

New Test Standards for Fiber Jobs

We have been advised by Verizon that effective February 21, the company is now requiring additional test standards for the fiber jobs located at the FSC (Fiber Service Center) in Hampton, VA.

In addition to qualifying on the UTB-R Job Family 2 for both the Fiber Customer Support Analyst and the Fiber Network Technician positions, the company is now requiring the following tests:

Fiber Customer Support Analyst

- Computer and Internet Knowledge Test
- Fiber Customer Support Analyst SI

Fiber Network Technician

- Network, Internet & Data Knowledge Test
- Fiber Network Technician SI

SI-Structured Interview

Verizon plans to implement on-line savings plan statements through Fidelity by the end of the first quarter. According to the company, employees would be able to use Fidelity's NetBenefits to learn, research, plan and evaluate their portfolios and future goals. The company indicated that employees would still be able to request paper statements as an option but the default would be statements on-line.

Additionally, the company is planning to implement EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) and ACH (Automated Clearing House) by the end of the first quarter through Fidelity. EFT would provide participants the ability to receive their withdrawals, loans, and distributions from the savings plan directly into their bank account without waiting for a paper check.

According to the company, electronic ACH would allow inactive participants to make loan payments electronically by transferring funds directly from their bank account to Fidelity.

Request for Information

Medical Testing as a Weapon?

The union has been advised by legal that Verizon's increased use (and likely illegal use) of requesting medical testing of employees may be a weapon against them. It appears that the company has been requiring employees to undergo medical testing or treatment, or has sent employees for IME examinations for reasons other than regular FMLA/disability eligibility cases.

It has been reported for example that local managers often claim that they are afraid of an employee and they then send the employee for psychological testing, etc. Frequently, the "fear" is based on nothing more than the fact that the employee got angry about something and had some words with a supervisor or co-worker. This ordinarily would be no basis at all for requiring medical testing. Such mandatory testing could be a substantial violation of the disability provisions of the contract and perhaps also violate federal and state law.

The union is requesting the names and phone numbers of anyone you know who has been required to undergo any type of mandatory medical testing, IME, etc. Keep in mind that this is **not a request for regular FMLA or disability cases** where there is a dispute between employee eligibility. We are requesting information on cases where the company is (was) making some claim or harassing the employee and claims the employee is (was) sick but the employee claims (s)he was not.

Social Security is the nation's most important program for retirement security. It is a guaranteed, risk-free secure system. It was created to help supplement workers' employer-sponsored pension and personal savings. It is considered the "crown jewel" of our nation's social safety net because it has cut poverty among the elderly by two-thirds. STARLING L GIBSON

Some Americans (20%) rely on Social Security as their sole income. Most Hispanics, for example, the largest growing population in the workforce, rely on Social Security as their full pension. This is because only 15% of Hispanics have a pension or an annuity. Many work in dangerous jobs that lead to their death. Social Security is a demonstration of America's values. Workers know that if they work and pay taxes, they will have earned a secure retirement. Workers earn Social Security during the years they work before retirement and help pay for the Social Security of future generations. Workers contribute 6.2% of their payroll tax into a trust fund to pay for their Social Security benefits upon retirement. Low- and-middle-income workers pay this tax disproportionately. Employers pay a matching 6.2% tax. Social Security uses the average gains in a worker's lifetime to calculate an initial level for retirement disability, and survivor benefits. To ensure stable income replacement over time, the formula is adjusted for wage growth, instead of for inflation.

Social Security currently faces a dilemma because people are living longer; 77 million baby boomers are nearing retirement age. Because today's birth rate is low, there now exists a large drop in the worker-to-beneficiary ratio to fund the system for future generations.

There is no immediate need to change Social Security. It is not in crisis. Social Security has been able to guarantee workers full-benefits upon retirement, and will continue to do so for many years to come. While it is predicted that in 2018 Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes, the system will still pay full promised benefits until 2042 and at least 70% of benefits after that. Long-term projections for Social Security are more optimistic now and government actuaries have pushed back the date of projected insolvency (from 2029 to 2042). The Congressional Budget Office predicts that the trust fund will last even longer (2052).

The shortfall can be corrected with a few legislative fixes to Social Security, not dismantling it. Improvements must be based on solid accounting, not gimmicks or individual accounts that put a quick buck into the hands of Wall Street's money managers.

The following are some ways to put needed funds into Social Security include: (1) put back the funds Congress took out of the Social Security Trust Fund; (2) repeal President Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent; (3) maintain the inheritance tax for millionaires; or (4) raise the payroll tax to the first \$190,000 of income. Instead, President Bush wants to overhaul the system by chipping away at Social Security's very foundation, that of providing guaranteed benefits to all retirees.

Diverting Funds to Private Retirement Accounts. CWA opposes President Bush's proposed Individual Retirement Accounts. Under this method, tomorrow's seniors would lose retirement security. Private accounts will ruin the Social Security system, not save it. Other proposals that may cripple Social Security include: (1) changing the way the government calculates funding future benefits; (2) raising the retirement age (above the average age of mortality, age 80); (3) raising the payroll tax by 20 percent; (4) replacing the payroll tax as Social Security's financing mechanism and adding a savings plan for long-term or chronic care to augment Social Security payments; or (5) making tax cuts for the rich permanent which would result in cuts to future benefits for the elderly, disabled, and even the families of workers who have died.

CWA opposes any legislation that would create "individual security accounts" funded by employee Social Security payroll deductions. This would change the Social Security system's funding mechanism by allowing young workers to divert up to 4% of the 6.2% paid in social security payroll taxes (about two-thirds) into these accounts so they could be invested in the risky stock market. Annual contributions would stop at \$1,000 to \$1,300. If these accounts don't perform well because individuals invested wrong -- tomorrow's elderly could face big trouble because guaranteed full benefits would no longer exist for this group.

"Owning" Private Accounts. Today's young workers should get what they earned during their working years, not false promises. (see "Social Security" next page)

("Social Security" continued from previous page) President Bush's "ownership society" plan -- of limited government where individuals are responsible for their own retirement security, and where young workers would "own" these diverted social security funds, is troubling. There are trade-offs for those who choose these individual accounts. The plan includes a "claw back" to later reduce one's retirement benefit (with interest) -- that could mean 50 cents for every dollar out of your social security benefits. So much for the appeal of owning one's account.

It's not "voluntary" and comes with benefit cuts. To pay for creating individual accounts, this measure would change the way one's social security benefits are calculated using a price index, instead of wages (although wages rise faster than inflation). Benefits would be reduced, and these cuts would apply to everyone. For today's young worker, this would mean a 40 percent cut in benefits. Even if one chooses not to participate in these accounts, benefits would still be reduced. Workers who remain in the traditional system would experience a benefit cut of \$9,000 per year when they retire.

It makes no sense to make individual accounts part of Social Security. There already exists a plan for individual accounts to save up for retirement on top of Social Security -- they are called 401 (K) plans and IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts). According to researcher Peter Orzag of the Brookings Institute, only 35 of all females today opt-in to 401 (K) plans, while 86 percent opt-out. Only 19 percent of Hispanics opt-in, while 75 percent opt-out. What American workers need is an easier way for them to save.

No "choice". These funds must be invested through a centralized government agency, not by individuals. If a worker needs these funds, they won't be available to him or her. Workers won't have a choice to withdraw them until they retire, even if one becomes disabled! This is unrealistic.

Workers would not be able to pass the accounts on to their heirs. Under this measure, individuals must turn their accounts into lifetime annuities that must be used to provide retirement income. If so, they cannot be passed on to one's heirs.

Individual Retirement Accounts will add to the deficit. This measure would permanently damage Social Security by diverting nearly \$2 trillion to \$5 trillion over the next 10 years from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay transition fees to Wall Street for managing these accounts. Congress would have to borrow heavily to pay for these costs -- which could cut long-term liabilities by \$13 trillion!

President Bush's proposal is fiscally irresponsible. It takes effect after he leaves office. Today's deficits will play a great role in future funding of Social Security.

The government as a whole faces big fiscal challenges well before 2042 and Social Security is a very small part of the problem. The federal budget is currently more than \$400 billion short. The U.S. dollar is also weak. Social Security is projected to have a shortfall of \$3.7 trillion dollars. President Bush's projection of \$10 trillion dollars uses infinite numbers, and 60 percent of these costs would occur after the year 2078! To pay for major changes in the Social Security program, the funding would have to come from extensive borrowing and cuts in vital public programs and benefits. The United States should not depend on other countries to fund its trust fund. IOUs will not fix Social Security. CWA supports a return of extracted-funds back to the Social Security Trust Fund by repealing the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans given away by the last Congress, and maintaining the inheritance tax for millionaires.

Repealing tax cuts for those earning over \$200,000 a year will return \$2.9 trillion dollars to the treasury. Retaining the estate tax at the 2009 level would return \$1.0 trillion dollars. This would amount to \$3.9 trillion dollars.

There is a potential for waste and corruption. This could lead to a potentially corrupt process of politicians choosing which of their Wall Street friends will get the money.

Freezing Growth in Social Security Benefits. CWA opposes President Bush's proposal to freeze future growth in Social Security benefits to current living standards. This change to the formula used to calculate Social Security benefits would leave retirees to receive lesser payouts than expected under today's law. It would index future benefits to inflation rather than using increases in wages to slow the growth in benefits. It is predicted that wages will most likely grow faster than inflation in the future; therefore, under this measure, individuals at all income levels would absorb larger income losses at retirement. For example, this method would cut the share of lifetime average income replaced by Social Security in half in 70 years. Social Security currently replaces 42 percent of earnings for the average worker age 65. Under this method, income replacement will fall to about 27% in 35 years, and 18% in 70 years. Price-indexing would be more damaging to low-and-middle income workers who tend to have less non-Social Security income to fall back on. These workers are also more likely to become disabled or die before they can use their Social Security benefits.

Higher-Payroll Taxes. Low-and-middle income workers should not be the one's to shoulder this responsibility. CWA supports raising the payroll tax cap to include a larger share of the income of highly-paid individuals (e.g., income above the current cap of \$90,000).

According to a White House memo, the latest Social Security's trustees report cites that "...the current system's benefit formula would require some \$10 trillion in tax increases over the long term." This would require raising the payroll tax by 20 percent "simply to provide waged-indexed benefit levels to those born this year."

Public Workers. CWA opposes including "newly-hired" state and local workers in the Social Security system. This expansion would not improve the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund in the long-term. Instead it will disrupt already well-established public pension plans. This would harm state and local pension programs that are currently well funded and would increase costs to state and local governments. It would hurt public safety officers most of whom face mandatory retirement years before the Social Security retirement age.

Welcome New Members

A BIG WELCOME to our new members and transfers into the Local!

Seth Diget	Aaron Ritter
James Hodge	John DiBattiste
Jason Mallett	
Bernard Nuber	
Sean Jones	
Natasha Brickhouse	
Gerald Carson	
Keith Hatch	
Robert Potter	
Jerome Belin, Jr.	
Thomas Deegan	
Shane Perry	
Jonathan DelosAngeles	
Gregory Turner	
William Johnson	
Donald Drake, Jr.	
Williams Hurd, Sr.	
Carl Armstronge	
James Dratwick	
Kendrick Thompson	
Jeff Reynolds	
Pharoah Mosby	
Hans Huhta	
Michael Giles	
Yolonda Urquhart	
Chad Campbell	
Stephen Bittner	
Bryan Fulks	
James Bulko	
Edward Wetherington	
Marco Archer	
Ken Spencer	
Rashele Mayfield	
Joseph Martin	
Kevin Summers	
Gregory Heilman	
Jason Brzuszkiewicz	

WOMEN CHANGE AMERICA BY PAULA TERVEER

March is National Women's History Month and this year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the multicultural women's history movement as well as the 85th anniversary of women in the United States winning the right to vote. This year's theme, "Women Change America", celebrates and honors the role of American women in transforming our culture, history, and politics.

According to the NWHP (National Women's History Project), as recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown subject in America's schools. Even though women played a large part in history, their roles were not in the public realm and their part did not make it into historical records. Much of the information we have was gleaned from personal diaries, letters and articles written by women of the time. The purpose of bringing attention to women's history is not to idealize women, but to provide a full view of the contributions women have made to improve our lives here in America and worldwide.



March is National Women's History Month

Learning about the extraordinary achievements of women helps diminish the tendency to dismiss and trivialize what women are and what they accomplish. The knowledge provides a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. This perspective can encourage girls and women to think larger and bolder and can give boys and men a fuller



understanding of the female experience.

In 1980, President Carter issued the first presidential Proclamation calling on the American people to recognize women's contribution to our history. Seven years later, fourteen governors had declared March as Women's History Month, and the same year Congress and the President followed by declaring March as National History Month. Women's history is our nation's story. It is the story of how women have changed America and how they will continue to do so.

Ways and Means BY CHRIS DAVIDSON

There are three groups in our Nation that fall under "ways and means." In government, it is our way or the highway and what we in mean what we say and say what we mean. The other two lie within the citizenry. Whether Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, each of us fall into either "we have the means, therefore we have a way" or "we have away we just don't have the means." Thus, the *haves* and the *have nots*.

In my last article, I asked each of you to ponder where children are getting their values and morals from. Were you surprised to consider adults? We often hear the words "instill values and morals into our children" as if they were steel rebar or cast iron girders. Well, I'm not here to write the definitive article or to produce a cure-all. I just want YOU to THINK.

So let's look at the *haves* and the *have nots*. The *haves* have two major assets in this country, the government and the media. The government, of course, is run out of Washington, DC. The media, basically, rule out of New York and Los Angeles. And they used to get along real good, until Vietnam, until Johnson and Nixon. One hand stopped washing the other and have ever more tried catching the other red-handed. In certain areas, some hippies of the sixties that sought to destroy America's institutions, are now running them. In the media, decision-makers are looking to appease our most overt thoughts and actions all the while loosening and mainstreaming our carnal nature, via FM radio, free pay TV and print media.

I think we can agree that our government and the media paint in broad strokes that exceedingly oversimplifies the individual complexities of its' constituents. Dramatize and sensationalize, to create panic attacks and panic addicts. Remember the counter-culture phrase "join in, tune out"? Ahhh! That's better. One thing I know is that while we are at work or school, while we are watching "American Idol" or "Survivor", while we are wasting our lives watching others live theirs, the decision-makers are on conference calls, e-mail, and special interest junkets determining ours. That is, if we let them. CWA is our powerful voice.

CONDOLENCES

To our members, retirees, and their families who were known to have lost loved ones

Beatrice Crocker	(Sister)
James Sweeney	(Father-in-law)
Andrea Kane	(Uncle)
Lorraine Joyner	(Husband)
Sharon Patti	(Grandfather)
Valerie Phillips	(Brother)
Warren (Tony) Matzen	(Mother-in-law)
Monika Cassell	(Grandmother)
Christine Deihl	(Grandmother)
Stephanie Johnson-Whitehurst	(Nephew)
Wayne A. Hinton, Jr.	(Nephew)
Crescenda Mitchell	(Grandfather)



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Wear A Blue Ribbon throughout the entire month

Local Offers The 2005 Alfred E. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship

The Regular meetings were held on January 19th and February 15th with coffee, tea and homemade cakes at 10:00 a.m. and the meetings at 10:30 a.m. In January a new member, Debbie Puckett, was added to our club. Frances VanDyck won the *birthday drawing* and Sybil Beasley won the 50/50 drawing. At the February meeting Verna Stevens (92) won the *birthday drawing* and Debbie Puckett won the 50/50 raffle. On March 16th we were served a delicious breakfast before the meeting.

	Future Events	
April 19	Tea & Coffee Meeting	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
May 17	Tea & Coffee Meeting	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
June 21	Picnic	
Sept 15	Craft Show & Yard Sale (members will furnish the crafts) (no more than 3 items for yard sale)	

The following members have not been well: Mary Lee Gilliland, Sally Hope and her husband, Tommy, Donald Thomlinson, and Henry Roughton. Linda Gwynn is in Oakgrove Sentara Nursing Home. Our sympathy was extended to Sally Hope who lost her mother in February.

Margaret Becraft and her group of travelers went to Edenton, NC on March 26 with lunch at Nixon's and then to the Rocky Hock Theater to see "The Last Sacrifice". She is planning a trip in June to Lancaster, PA, and to New York City at a later date. *(See RMC on this page below)*

Local 2202 is currently accepting applications for the 2005 **Alfred E. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship**. This annual scholarship honors the legacy of our Local's past President, Alfred E. Cunningham who served this Local from 1976 to 1984. For his unwavering commitment and dedication to this Local, and for his tireless efforts in fighting for workers rights, past and present, within this Local—it is with great pleasure that we offer this scholarship bearing this great man's name.

The Alfred E. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship is valued at \$500.00 and is available to all Local 2202 members in good standing, their spouses or domestic partners and their children. Applicants must be at least either high school graduates or high school students who will graduate during the academic year in which they apply. Second-year on and graduate students returning to school may also apply.

The award will be made payable to the institution of higher learning, which may be a university, a two- or four-year college, a trade, technical, or a professional school. **The deadline for completed scholarship applications will be Monday, July 11, 2005.** The winner will be chosen by lottery at the July 11th General Membership Meeting.

Several alternatives will be chosen in the event the winner declines or is deemed to be ineligible.

To apply, simply complete the application below and return it to the Union Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2005. Sorry, only one (1) application per union member will be accepted.

CWA Local 2202 Annual Picnic

Chesapeake Campgrounds

Sunday, May 15, 2005

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

(food will be served from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)



Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Chicken and all the fixings
and more...

Fun, Games, & Pony Rides
Music by Vazquez Entertainment
Magic Show
Face Painting
Volley Ball

Free to CWA Members and their families and guests

Chesapeake Campground
693 South George Washington Hwy
Chesapeake, Virginia 23323
Toll Free 1-888-584-2267

OPEN ALL YEAR

*Located 2 miles south of drawbridge
in Deep Creek on U.S. 17.
Chesapeake Campgrounds is on the
North-South Inland Waterway*

(RMC continued from top of page)

If you are interested in traveling, call Margaret on (757) 464-2595. Don't forget bowling every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Indian River Bowling Alley, at \$4.50 for three games.

The Thursday Night Dinner Group met and had a dinner at the following restaurants: Olive Garden, Jimmy's Sea-food and Steak Restaurant, Lone Star Restaurant, Surf Rider and many other interesting restaurants. Come and join us for a good dinner and great fellowship.

Thanks to the following for preparing the newsletters for mailing: Marie McKnight, Marion Trueblood and Dorothea Kline.

Special Thanks!

To everyone that gave of their time and treasures to benefit our member, Denyse Roberts and her family.

The Alfred E. Cunningham Memorial Scholarship

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

RELATIONSHIP TO MEMBER _____

MEMBER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME # _____ WORK # _____

APPLICANT'S SSN# _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY, TRADE
OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

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Labor CALENDAR

April

- 4** Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Union Office
Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in 1968 while helping striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 6** District 2 Conference, Williamsburg, VA
- 7** District 2 Conference, Williamsburg, VA
- 8** District 2 Conference, Williamsburg, VA
- 12** *Florence Reece*, active in Harlan County, Kentucky coal strikes and author of the famous labor song "*Which Side Are You On*," was born in 1900.
 Steward's Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 Union Office
- 14** In 1939, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was published. The novel of social protest dramatized the story of "*Okies*"—workers who migrated from Oklahoma's dust bowl to the groves of California -- and experience tremendous hardships and exploitation along the way.
- 15** *Asa Philip Randolph*, an African-American and one of the most influential trade unionists in the US labor movement, was born in 1889. The organizer and president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, an all-black union, Randolph said: "*The* essence of trade unionism is uplift. The labor movement traditionally has been the haven for the dispossessed, the despised, the neglected, the downtrodden, and the poor."

20 In 1914, company gunmen attacked a tent colony of striking miners and their families in Colorado, setting it ablaze and killing 19 men, women and children in what is remembered as the **Ludlow Massacre.**

27 James Oppenheim's poem, "*Bread and Roses*", was published in Industrial Solidarity in 1946. The poem reads: "*Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes hearts starve as well as bodies; give us bread, but give us roses,*" It was penned after Oppenheim saw a sign held by young mill girls picketing in the 1912 strike against woolen companies in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

May

- 1** Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was born in 1830. The renowned labor organizer, who lived to be 100, said, "I live in the United States, but I do not know exactly where. My address is wherever there is a fight against oppression. My address is like my shoes; it travels with me. I abide where there is a fight against wrong."
- 2** Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Union Office
- 9** General Membership Meeting, 7:30p.m.
 Ironworkers Hall, 5307 E. Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, VA



March is National Nutrition Month

Celebrate!

Get A Taste For Good Nutrition