



CWA VOICE

The Communications Workers of America, Local 2202 Virginia Beach, VA September/October 2004

Editor's Appeal Making Your Vote Count

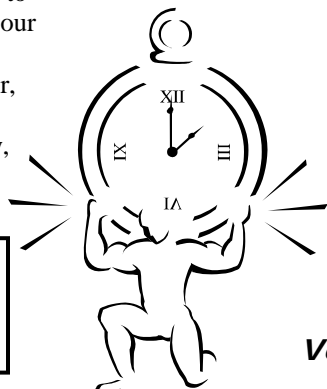
Autumns here! The children are back in school and we are currently picking up after Hurricane Charley and *his cousin* Hurricane Fran; and at the time of printing hoping that their menacing relatives, Hurricanes Ivan and Jeanne—would just GO AWAY! And on top of that, there's no doubt that we are all working as hard as ever on our jobs anxiously awaiting our rewards for exceeding corporate standards. *Are you still waiting?*

Well, while we're waiting on our companies to recognize what value we possess—let's familiarize ourselves with the issues that will have an impact on working people as we approach the upcoming November election. To name a few—good jobs for American workers and keeping them in the U.S., good health care coverage, tax cuts not restricted to the wealthiest, the right to overtime, full funding for the "No Child Left Behind Act", and the right to form unions among many other issues.

In order to make an intelligent decision and to make our votes count at the polls in November, we must carefully consider each presidential platform and how it will impact us *individually*, as *working persons*, and as *citizens of this country*.

It is for this reason that we dedicate this issue of the **CWA VOICE** to provide information to be considered prior to casting your votes during the November 2nd election. And, please remember, how you vote is a personal decision—but most importantly, please exercise your right to VOTE.

Election Issues
inside this edition
-See Inside-



CWA National Convention "RECLAIMING AMERICA"

BY PAULA TERVEER

CWA's 66th Annual Convention took place on August 30-31 in Anaheim, California. In attendance from our Local were Louie Scinaldi, John Wills, and myself, Paula Terveer. Tony Bixler, Vice President of District 9 welcomed everyone to the convention and introduced CWA President, Morty Bahr. Morty called the 2004 presidential race "*the most important election for working people in decades, with candidates offering a very clear choice for voters between jobs and empty promises, between health security and giveaways to insurance companies and pharmaceutical firms, between respect for working families and a continuing handout for the wealthy.*" Morty also discussed how bargaining for job security and health benefits is becoming more and more difficult with each contract.

Our guest speakers included Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate, (D-CA) and Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of Representatives, (D-CA). They also spoke about the importance of the presidential election. Outsourcing of American jobs and the escalating health care costs is of great concern and in need of immediate attention. Both supported an administration that would not be hostile to labor and tax cuts that would be beneficial to all not just a select few.

We heard from CWA Executive Vice President Larry Cohen who focused on the erosion of organizing rights facing American workers today and how the Department of Labor is protecting businesses instead of the working people it was created to protect. EVP Cohen also encouraged the use of CWA/NETT, our CWA on-line and lab-based training program. The courses offered will help to increase our skills for job advancement and to make us more marketable outside the company. Organizing awards were given out to the many locals throughout the country who were successful in organizing. Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Easterling spoke about the current political climate in reference to labor and pointed out that this election is crucial for the future of American workers.

The delegates heard reports from the Convention Committees. Appeals and resolutions were discussed and voted on. At the close of the convention, President Bahr discussed the history of CWA and his two predecessors, Joe Beirne and Glen Watts. Bahr concluded with an announcement that after 50 years of service with CWA, that he intends to retire at the end of his term one year from now.

DON'T BE PRESSED BY TIME...

The deadline to register to
vote in VA is
Monday, October 4th
by 5:00 p.m.

Voter registration applications available in
the Union Office—Call (757) 456-2202

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Union Sisters and Brothers,
The election coming up on November 2nd should be in the forefront of everyone's mind. Some say that we should not be involved in politics, but education on issues is our responsibility.

The Union and the Local would be remiss if we did not point out the candidate's views on issues that affect workers.

Due to certain legalities, some materials have been omitted from this web-based publication. Call the Union Office on (757) 456-2202 for a full-scaled hard copy.

Our Country's future as well as our Union's future lie in our hands, it's up to each one of us. Please familiarize yourself with all of the issues without all of the rhetoric. If you are not registered to vote please do so and if you are please take the time to vote.

Again, it's just my opinion.

**In Unity,
Louie**



CWA
still wears
RED on Thursdays

CONGRATULATIONS!

To
Andrea Kane
and
Carol Castillo
who won the \$5.00 door prizes at the September 13th Membership Meeting.

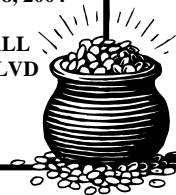
Mikisha Vargas' name was drawn for the Pot-of-Gold worth \$220.20 at the September 13th Membership Meeting.

She was not present to claim her prize.

The Pot-of-Gold has grown to \$242.22.

JOIN US AT THE NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004 7:30 P.M.

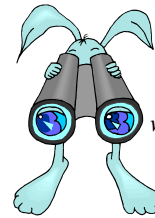
**IRONWORKERS HALL
5307 E. VA BEACH BLVD
NORFOLK, VA**



IVR For Technical Positions at Verizon

Verizon has established a toll-free interactive voice response number for employee referrals of family and friends interested in a technical position with the company. When the candidate calls, (s)he will be asked to complete a brief job questionnaire by touch-tone phone. Questions include such items as: "can you determine the colors of wires, do you have a current driver's license, etc." At the end of the call, if all of the questions have been answered appropriately, the applicant will be scheduled for testing.

Interested candidates may call (800) 678-4869.



Congratulations to

Angel Santos

who located his name in the July/August 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 too!

Read it in the CWA VOICE

New Number For Verizon Payroll Services

Verizon Payroll Services is available to employees on a single telephone number, 866-4VZ-PAYS (866-489-7297). The toll-free number will connect you to a payroll representative or the Verizon Employee Self Service (VZESS) system. You can reach a live rep or follow the voice prompt using your VZID and your SSN to create a PIN in order to perform various tasks such as getting payroll stub info and making tax exemption changes.

The CWA Local 2202 Women's Committee

Wishes to thank everyone for their support by bringing in complimentary toiletries. Your efforts provided women in shelters the benefit of being loved & pampered. Thank You!

◆ *Unused cellular telephones are being collected for the use of persons living in shelters at this time*

Just place your donations in the buckets marked NEST at work locations

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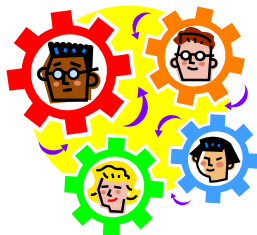


**Good
Jobs**



**Health
Care**

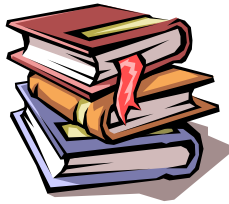
**Freedom
To Form
Unions**



See "What's At Stake" continued on next page

**Join thousands of Union Customer
Service Professionals around the world
in celebrating their solidarity
Thursday, October 7 2004
CUSTOMER SERVICE PROFESSIONALS
DAY**

Education



Civil
&
Human
Rights



Safety
&
Health



Learn the issues, check the records and **VOTE**.

For additional info, visit www.votenov2.com

Welcome New Members

A BIG WELCOME to our new member and transfer into the Local!

Douglas Seymour

CONDOLENCES

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

Audrey Collins	(Stepfather)
Chuck Taylor	(Sister)
Billy Williams	(Grandmother)
David Sawyer	(Brother)
Anita Lynn	(Husband)
Pamela Toczek	(Father)
Wayne Hinton (CSSC)	(Sister)

On Community Service Local Involved In United Way's "Day of Caring" BY BYRON "CHUCK" TAYLOR

Friday, September 10th was clear and warm. It was a good day to simply lounge and relax, or to go shopping, or to work in a garden, or even to do something on that lengthy "to do list" from last year around the house. However, four very committed members along with myself, found ourselves rolling and brushing a protectant wood sealant on the deck of a group home operated through the Virginia Beach Department of Human Services. It was through the United Way's annual "Day of Caring" that was held on September 10th that gave our members and other persons from the community the opportunity to give back by rendering small tasks that would otherwise be delayed due to limited resources or by being less of a priority. Tasks included light office work, running errands, painting, and even *sealing a deck* along with other tasks which would allow a nonprofit organization to focus more on the actual service in which they are in existence to provide to the community.

Not only were our members involved in the maintenance of a deck, but they willingly took the opportunity to beautify the plant beds around the deck by pulling weeds and debris out in order to make the exterior even more attractive for the occupants of the home. And everyone had a good



Our Local's 2004 Day of Caring participants, pictured from L-R are Donna Harper, Kathy Hillman, Chuck Taylor, Chris Davidson, & Malika Moore

time doing it.

The day began with a Kick-Off Breakfast provided by the United Way at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. After the breakfast, all volunteers proceeded to their assigned "Day of Caring" site to perform designated tasks.

Volunteers from our Local were Chris Davidson, Donna Harper, Kathy Hillman, Malika Moore, and Byron "Chuck" Taylor. CWA Local 2202, the United Way and its' agencies thanks you!

The United Way "Day of Caring" traditionally sets the stage for the annual United Way campaigns which generally begins with various employers in the early Fall. Coincidentally, an organized United Way Campaign—"Made Simple" was to begin at most major Verizon Southside locations in the Local 2202 area during the week of September 20th. This was a collaborative effort between CWA Local 2202, the local Verizon External Affairs contact, and the United Way. Information on that campaign will be provided in the next issue of the **CWA VOICE**.

Fall Cleaning BY CHRIS DAVIDSON

Here we are now, it's September, kids are back in school, vacation is winding down, days are getting shorter, and it's *football season!* September is always a good month to take care of our *honey do's* and *can't elopes*. It's about getting your life-living in order. Clean your work area, clean your home and yard, get rid of junk and clutter. Close unnecessary credit accounts, set a budget for Christmas, get your personal vehicles back in shape, register to vote, and check in with family and friends. These are what makes America great and it may inspire your neighbors to do the same! Look for sales now that will save money on gifts. Find ways to give yourself a reverse-raise. Cut the newspaper back to Friday, Saturday, Sunday or not at all and read on-line or on TV. Cut unwatched cable channels and cut sugar intake. Replace your homes' air filters and vacuum all that lint in and around the dryer. Replace old hi-watt



light bulbs with lower-watt bulbs. Choose to keep your home a little cooler this winter and dress a little warmer. Buy what you eat and eat what you buy. Cash in your piggy banks and RUBY M make next CULLINS year an even better year! The world becomes CARTER a better place when you start with yours.

PLEASE VOTE.

**It's your right
and your
responsibility.**

CWA LOCAL 2202
Representing members at
Avaya,
Norfolk Bureau of Emergency Services,
Portsmouth Police Communications Division,
VCSI,
Virginia Beach Bureau of Emergency Services,
Verizon Communications,
Verizon Information Services (VIS),
SBC Telcom, Inc.
(757) 456-2202

Recording: (757) 499-8499

Website: www.CWA2202.org E-mail: CWA2202@exis.net

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Executive Vice President Paula Terveer
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Vice Presidents Carol Castillo
Audrey R. Collins
Kathy Hillman
Alex Long
Regina Roberts
Byron "Chuck" Taylor

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Notes From The Retired Members Council BY BETTY CARPENTER

The regular meeting was held on September 21st with coffee and delicious cakes at 10:00 a.m. It was nice to see each other after the summer break. The calendar for the balance of this year is as follows:

October 19th – 10:00 a.m. Covered Dish
November 16th - 10:00 a.m. Soup Luncheon
(club furnishes soup and
you bring sandwich)
December 21st - Luncheon (TBA)
Chesapeake Conference
Center

Margaret Becraft is planning several trips including one to Myrtle Beach on November 10-13. If you are interested in this trip or others please call Margaret Becraft on (757) 464-2595.

Don't forget bowling every Wednesday at 1:00p.m. at the Indian River Bowling Alley, \$4.05 for three games. I heard that Rudy Gordon had a score of 196 on August 25th and beat everyone bowling. COME JOIN US IN A DAY OF FUN!

The Thursday Night Dinner Group has been traveling to different restaurants including Olive Garden, Jimmy's Seafood and Steak Restaurant and many other interesting restaurants. Come and join us for a good dinner and great fellowship.

If you have news for the newsletter, contact the following: Myrtle Vick, Marie McKnight, Mary Bess, Marion Trueblood or Dorothea Klein. Thanks to Marie McKnight, Marion Trueblood and Dorothea Klein for labeling, sorting, and preparing the newsletter for the Local last month.

Straight From A Member's Kitchen

Gumboburger A RECIPE SUBMITTED BY ALMERIA GRANT

"A great back to school recipe the kids will enjoy!"

INGREDIENTS

1 pound ground beef
1 small onion chopped
1 can chicken gumbo soup
2 tablespoon ketchup
2 tablespoon prepared mustard
Salt and pepper to taste
8 hamburger buns



Brown ground beef with onion in skillet, stirring until ground beef is browned and crumbled.

Drain.

Add soup, ketchup, mustard, salt & pepper.

Simmer on low heat for approximately 45 minutes

Serve on hamburger buns.

Great with French Fries.