



CWA 67TH Annual Convention Building CWA Together

BY PAULA TERVEER

CWA's 67th Annual Convention took place in Chicago, Illinois from August 29th through 31st. In attendance as delegates from our Local were Louie Scinaldi, Paula Terveer and John Wills. Jeff Rechenbach, Vice President of District 4, welcomed everyone to the convention and introduced CWA President, Morty Bahr. Due to Morty's upcoming retirement, this was his last address to the convention. His "just a few words" turned into a lengthy history lesson of CWA and his concern for the future of the labor movement.

Morty stated the current political administration is the most "anti-union, anti-worker" he has ever seen. "Historical achievements are being dismantled and 45 decisions that were positive for workers have been reversed in the last few years." Such as the repeal of the ergonomics standards and the overtime exemption, that will prevent many workers from receiving overtime pay if they work over 40 hours. (Fortunately, our union contract ensures that we will continue to be paid overtime.) FMLA is also on the agenda. The current administration wants to restrict the amount of incremental time taken, as well as change the definition of a "serious healthy condition" so that fewer serious illnesses qualify. These are just a few of the examples. Morty also pointed out that by putting personal agendas, such as abortion, gun control, gay marriage etc. ahead of economic security at the polls will further erode our job security, safety on the job, wages, and health and pension benefits. Our economic futures are truly in jeopardy and as union activists we have our work cut out for us. On a happier note, Morty announced that in his retirement he will become a volunteer organizer for CWA. He will dedicate his time to organizing Verizon Wireless. Watch out Ivan!

The election for CWA National Officers took place. Larry Cohen, currently the Ex-

ecutive Vice President ran unopposed for the office of President. Larry takes over from Morty Bahr who is retiring after 20 years of leadership. Jeff Rechenbach, Vice President of District 4, ran unopposed for the office of Executive Vice President and Barbara Easterling, was unanimously re-elected to the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Pete Cautucci was also unopposed and re-elected as Vice President of District 2. All other Vice President of other districts and sectors were also re-elected. Congratulations to John Wills, Secretary-Treasurer of our Local who was elected to the National Defense Fund Oversight Committee.

Guest Speaker, John Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO talked about the recent AFL-CIO Convention and the importance of unions working together not apart to reach common goals. As usual the delegates heard reports from the Convention Committees. Appeals and resolutions were discussed and voted on.

Awards were given to Locals for organizing, COPE, and for newsletters. At the close of the convention, President Bahr discussed the history of CWA and his two predecessors, Joe Beirne and Glen Watts. He then announced that after 50 years of service with CWA his intention to retire at the end of his term one year from now.



CONGRATS TO JOHN WILLS
ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CWA Disaster Relief Fund Activated for Katrina Victims

With the recent Hurricane Katrina catastrophe, CWA Locals from across the country have mobilized to provide support for victims in rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of the storm. In August, delegates attending the CWA National Convention in Chicago, Ill voted to direct up to \$4 million in funds to Katrina relief efforts. Members visiting the CWA web site continue to give thousands more to the CWA Disaster Relief Fund, which provides direct aid to CWA members and retirees.

Within the Local 2202 area, our members have taken an enormous leap to aid the Katrina victims with generous monetary donations, providing shelter, and by offering other means of support. At several shops, employees have collected loose change to be contributed to designated relief organizations.

Noah Savant, CWA District 3 Vice President, said in recent correspondence that, "many of them (CWA families in the Gulf) have lost their homes, automobiles, and virtually all of their possessions." Savant also said, "however, in the true spirit of CWA families, once they had secured their families, they were asking where could they work to help restore service."

Many of our brothers and sisters have lost everything in the world that they own, but they still have their union. Through the CWA Disaster Relief Fund, you will have a tremendous impact on the lives of members and retirees who have been affected by the hurricane.

(See "Disaster Relief" next page)

CWA Customer Service Conference 2005 BY CAROL CASTILLO

The CWA National Customer Service Conference was held May 11-14 at the Sheraton Hotel in Rutherford, NJ, outside of New York City. Union members representing various land line, wireless, operator services, airline reservations and newspapers from across the country were in attendance.

Keynote speaker, CWA National President Morton Bahr updated us on rising health care costs and our employers continued attempts to shift those costs.

Workshops at the conference covered a wide range of subjects: negotiating sales incentive, commission plans, union approaches to attendance issues, curbing abusive monitoring, problem solving thru joint committees and wireless organizing.

Near the end of the conference participants held an informational picket complete with rousing union chants while inside a local Circuit City store .

Executive assistant to the President and CSC founding supporter, Dina Beaumont offered some final words of wisdom. She quoted Charles Dickens about these being "the best of times and the worst of times" with respect to: off shoring, outsourcing, AFL-CIO infighting, airline concessions etc. We have to fight... fight, and fight again. There is a new frontier and an old fight. We have a legacy before us in our contracts. We need to think, what will we pass on? To think about such issues as health care without premiums, huge pensions shortfalls, and corporate abuse. We can't stand still. We need to plan. So, what else can we do? We must take the union to the workplace. We all need to get involved. We need to organize. We can't have a country for the people (working families) without a strong labor movement. Finally, she mentioned that as leaders in the union, we do the "Lord's work" every day. It is what we do for the least of them-exploited workers, working families, and our members. It is what we do best.

The CWA Vice Presidents office energetically presented the date for Global Customer Service Professionals Week as October 2-7 2005. The celebration in the United States will be on October 6, 2005.



Retail Pharmacy Chains Leave Medco Network

The Union has been advised by Verizon that Walgreen and Wal-Mart pharmacies will no longer participate in the Medco Health retail network effective September 1. The company indicated that letters were to be mailed to all Medco participants who have used these pharmacies in 2005.

Plan participants who have additional questions should call Medco member services on (877) 877-1878 or visit them on line at www.medcohealth.com.

Force Freeze at Verizon Fiber Organization

The Union has been notified of a force freeze on laterals and downgrades in the Fiber organization under Director Walter Jones. The company indicated the following titles are affected: Cable Splicing Technician, Outside Plant Technician, Maintenance Administrator, Management Plan Clerk, Central Office Technician, General Clerk, Systems Technician, and Services Technician.

The freeze runs from September 1 through November 1.

CWA Local 2202 Women's Committee

is sponsoring a raffle to benefit two members in need

- The family of former member, Lawrence Lota, and
- Member, Isaac (Ike) Miller

Tickets now on sale!

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Get yours from any Women's Committee member or call the Union Office on (757) 456-2202 for additional information.

Your chance to win...
...restaurant gift certificates,
...music,
...a surf board,
...and more!!!

**OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH**



2005 Day of Caring

A Day of Caring is hosted annually by the United Way. It is a community-wide event that exposes 2,000 volunteers from various businesses and organizations to the mission and needs of more than a hundred local non-profit organizations. This event has always helped to provide people with a positive experience in helping others.

The 2005 Day of Caring event was held on Friday, September 9, 2005. The day began with breakfast at Mt. Trashmore Park followed by our service to this year's non-profit agency, Cerebral Palsy of Virginia.

Our Local has always participated in this annual event. This year's participants were: Chris Davidson, Charlotte Deberry, Donna Harper, Kathy Hillman, and Byron "Chuck" Taylor, Community Services Committee Chair. Please read the "Perspective from a Volunteer" as it is told by our very own, Charlotte Deberry who is a Shop Steward at the Verizon-Sewells Point Road office in Norfolk.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S DAY OF CARING VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR LOCAL!

***BYRON "CHUCK" TAYLOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR***

26th Annual TelecomPioneers Family Day at Kings Dominion

Sunday, October 2, 2005

**Discount tickets \$18.50
(ages 3 and above)**

Park closed to the public
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information call:
Carol Warburton (757) 489-8948
or
Gladys Hoversten (757) 487-0306

You may also e-mail
pcmose@msn.com if you have
additional questions.



***OUR LOCAL'S DAY OF CARING PARTICIPANTS &
FRIENDS OF THE CEREBRAL PALSY OF VIRGINIA***

A Day of Caring Perspective

BY CHARLOTTE DEBERRY

On September 9, 2005 I participated in the United Way Day of Caring event. It was a rewarding experience. About 1800 volunteers carried out various assignments for more than 100 non-profit agencies in South Hampton Roads. Our group of five CWA members was assigned to the agency, Cerebral Palsy of Virginia.

Cerebral Palsy of Virginia is a non-profit agency located in Virginia Beach that creates opportunities and promotes the advancement of independence of children and adults with cerebral palsy, down syndrome, autism, mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

My Day of Caring started at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast at Mt. Trashmore Park, by the water with hundreds of fellow volunteers throughout Hampton Roads. It was the perfect start to a day that would not only challenge my preconceived notions of people with disabilities; but also gave me an opportunity to see and appreciate life on a different level. We worked with three staff members and five adult "friends", two women and three men at the agency. We started our day assisting our new friends with making paper mache butterflies in art class. After the art project, we escorted our new friends to the

Chrysler Museum in Norfolk. It was an adventure exercising my muscles of patience and paying attention. I learned an important lesson from "my friend". I learned to stop and take part in the moment seeing the beauty of art right in front of me. By the end of the tour, "my friend" was pulling me away from the Tiffany glass exhibit!

We returned to the agency shortly after 3:00 p.m. Everyone was still excited about the museum and curious to see if the butterflies were dry and ready to be painted. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the butterflies would have to be painted at a later time. However, before departing, we had the opportunity to sing "Happy Birthday" to one of our friends.

The United Way provided the vehicle that connected me to Cerebral Palsy of Virginia for more than just one day. I now have friends that can show me how beautiful life really is. I plan to go back to see how our butterflies turned out.

If you have the opportunity, I highly recommend putting this agency on your volunteer list. It's worth the time and effort.

On October 29, the agency will have an open house to show off the artwork that our friends created. You may find that perfect Christmas gift. Pay them a visit.

Is the Company Really Ready?

BY REGINA ROBERTS

Fall is here! And along with it, comes the allergy season. Those of us who suffer with allergy-related symptoms throughout Spring and Fall know what it means to be prepared.

However; is the company really ready? As

concerned about at-you think would concerned quality buildings cleanli-of the



as they are tendance, would that they be just as about air in our and the ness carpets.

Is that why the air filters are no longer changed quarterly? Why are they only changing them once or twice a year? Also; why do we never see the carpets being cleaned? I mean really cleaned. We are lucky if our cubicles even get vacuumed!

Mold particles, mites, dust and dirt are leading causes for sinus and allergy problems. So, when the allergy season picks up and employees are being harassed at home by telephone or by home visits, maybe Verizon should consider cleaning up their own houses and less time lobbying to minimize the FMLA.

Verizon CSSC Managers Making House Calls



The Local was informed recently that the Verizon CSSC management made recent home visits to persons who were on incidental absences. Whatever the reason, management's goal is usually to visit the homes of sick employees in an effort to intimidate people into coming to work.

Please keep in mind that home visits are investigative meetings and employees are not required to allow management inside their homes. You do not have to discuss your absence with management without Union representation being present. In fact, you do not have to discuss your illness with management at all. If management visits your home, the suggestion is to not open your door and call the police on them for trespassing. JEFFREY B COTTRELL

There is a pending Executive-Level grievance against the company due to FMLA certification issues where the company perceives "suspicious patterns of absence". We will keep you posted as additional information is available.

Verizon Employees Urged to Update Beneficiary Designations

The Union was informed by several members of the possibility that their 401(k) beneficiary designations were deleted. Through contact with Fidelity Investments, we have found that there was a problem recently where some employees in FBA and FGTE areas beneficiary information on file was lost.

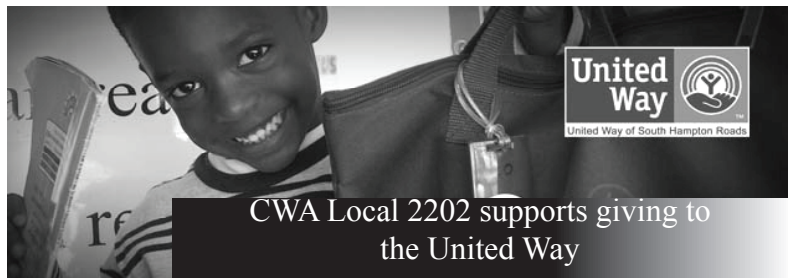
Please ensure that Fidelity has your beneficiary information up to date by calling (888) 457-9333. Employees may also visit Fidelity's web site at www.netbenefits.fidelity.com to update information.

Generally speaking, it may not be a bad idea to ensure beneficiary information for basic life and supplementary coverage and pension is up to date also.

Welcome New Members

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

Brad Medlin
Douglas Griggs
Scott Pollard
Jason Riordan
Carl Moeser
Jonathan Reynolds
Donnell Adams



CWA Local 2202 supports giving to the United Way



*Notes From The Retired
Members Council*
BY BETTY CARPENTER

The Regular meeting was held on September 20th with a Craft and Yard Sale. This event was enjoyed by everyone present. We had coffee, tea, and delicious cakes made by our own members.

FUTURE EVENTS:

October 18 Covered Dish
November 15 Soup Luncheon
December 20 Christmas Luncheon
Every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
Bowling at Indian River Bowling Alley
Come Join Us!

Every Thursday night at 5:15 p.m.
We meet at different restaurants to have dinner and fellowship

The following members have not been well:
Luther Becraft and Henry Roughton

Margaret Becraft is planning a trip to Atlantic City on February 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2006. If you are interested in going, contact Margaret at (757) 464-2595.

I saw the following bumper sticker:
“Growing old is mandatory: growing up is optional.”

**Verizon Article 32
Inclusion for Certain
Medical Procedures**

In a reply from Verizon Labor Relations to our CWA Health Benefits Coordinator, Bill Sonnik, the company made certain clarifications to what the CBA Article 32 would include. The rule states that for any medical procedure (or test) which requires that a tube be inserted into any orifice (or opening) of the body; and where it is standard medical procedure to administer sedation or anesthesia, employees would be covered under the provisions of Article 32.

To this effect, for example, colonoscopies and endoscopies would be covered under the provisions of this particular article of the agreement.

**UWSHR Designation
Code for Hurricane
Relief Fund**

With the recent devastation caused by Hurricanes in the Gulf, it will likely be an ongoing rebuilding event. The United Way of South Hampton Roads has set up a Hurricane Relief Fund to benefit the victims of the recent hurricane disasters which can be contributed to via payroll deductions by most employers. The designation code is “5087”.

Please consider this fund as one of your donations of choice when initiating or updating your giving.

Sewells Point Road Shop Seeks Help

The Local was notified that our member and brother, Dan (Mac) McNamara, has housed approximately 19 of his family members evacuated from the Gulf states due to Hurricane Katrina.

The Sewells Point Road shop (Verizon NTC) is collecting any articles of clothing, toys, and toiletry items for this family. Things that we often take for granted such as toothpaste, deodorant, etc. will likely be of great need.

If you can donate any of these items, you may get it to the Union Office, contact your shop steward, or call the Local on (757) 456-2202.

CONDOLANCES

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

Vincent Corleto	(Brother)
Lawrence “Larry” Lota	
Rene Webb	(Father-in-law)
Cecil Burkett	(Father)
Susan Bailey	(Father-in-law)
Marvene Cassidy	(Husband)

Good Signs

Truck lettering	Banners
Car Graphics	Job Site Signs
Magnetic Signs	Stake Signs

**Call Jonathan Reynolds
(757) 739-1077
10% Discount To CWA Members**



**CWA STILL WEARS RED ON THURSDAYS.
MOBILIZE AND LET THEM SEE RED!**

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

Recording: (757) 499-8499

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

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

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Labor CALENDAR

September

22 On this date in 1919, the "Great Steel Strike" began. In all, 350,000 workers walked off their jobs and crippled the industry.

October

01 The 150,000-member Insurance Workers International Union merged with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) in 1980.

03 Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Union Office

04 In 1887, the Louisiana Militia, aided by bands of "prominent citizens," shot 35 unarmed black sugar workers striking to gain a dollar-per-day wage, and lynched two strike leaders.

06 Women trade unionists held their first national conference in 1918.

07 In 1879, Industrial Workers of the World organizer, songwriter, and poet Joe Hill was born Joseph Hillstrom in Gavle, Sweden.

11 Steward's Mtg, 7:00 p.m., Union Ofc

11 Deadline for voter registration to be eligible to vote in the November 8 General Election.

18 In 1943, the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee was officially dissolved and workers were given control over their own organization -- the United Packinghouse Workers of America. The UPWA merged with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen in 1968, which merged with the Retail Clerks to become the UFCW in 1979.

21 National Mammography Day "Make Your Appointment Today!"

24 The 40-hour work week went into effect in 1940.

The stock market crashed in 1929, ushering in the 1930s Great Depression. Although it brought high unemployment and widespread misery, the Depression also led to vast social and economic reforms, including far-reaching labor legislation.

05 Labor leader and socialist Eugene V. Debs was born in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1855. "The strike is a weapon of

the oppressed, of men capable of appreciating justice and having the courage to resist wrong and contend for principle," he said.

07 Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Union Office

08 General Election "Please Take Time to Vote"

09 The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was formed in 1935 to expand industrial unionism. It merged with the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1955 to form the AFL-CIO.

11 Veteran's Day Observed

Veterans Day. World War I ended on this day in 1918.

14 General Membership Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ironworkers Hall