

NEWSLETTER

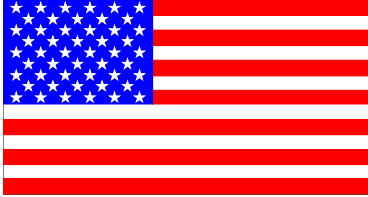
Communication Workers of America

108 West Main St.

Sun Prairie, WI 53590

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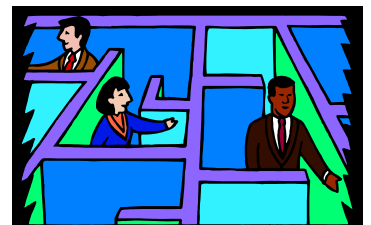
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The Assignment Center previously known as the Customer Care Center has a new Area Rep. I have been doing the position's of the Local Vice President and the Customer Care Center Area Rep. I felt to best serve our Members in the Center that someone who works in the Center should be the Area Rep, so I did not run for that position again.

At a Local Meeting nominations were held for the Area Rep position and 2 of the Assignment Center Stewards ran for the position. An election was held, ballots were mailed out, returned and counted.

Julie Henke was elected as the Assignment Center Rep. I know Julie will do a great job representing the Members of the Assignment Center, as she has been doing as a Chief Steward.

Julie and I are working on where the Assignment Center Union Meetings will be held and that information should be posted shortly on the CWA Local's website. We will no longer have the meetings at Market Street Diner in Sun Prairie due to the cost of renting the meeting room.



The Assignment Center has faced a lot of changes and challenges with the different systems, a completely new job function, training and so on. Soon the Center will be getting additional States that the Assigners will be working orders for, so I am sure that will bring on more challenges. The Members of the Center, along with the Stewards continue to work hard to make the Assignment Center successful.

Best Wishes for a Happy 2012 to all our Members and their loved ones!

Respectfully,

Jane Vander Kooy - Local 4671 Vice President

**Membership Meeting Minutes
CWA Local 4671
January 19-2012**

Call To Order

Mike Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Holiday Inn at Rothschild, WI.

President's Report

Mike Oliver turned the meeting over to Treasurer Carey Adkins to give the explanation of the 2012 budget. Steve Kotel discussed the savings the Local would have if they held the meetings in a more local area of the state. The savings would come from less miles driven by the Executive Board and fewer overnight stays. Vice President Jane Vander Kooy discussed the scholarship that the Local gives. The Local will be cutting the number of scholarships from 8 to 6. After the explanation of the budget, President Mike Oliver asked if there were any other comments. Bill Folta made a motion to accept the 2012 budget. Brian Keller seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Carey Adkins gave the monthly financial report. Bill Folta made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Dave Tollison and the motion passed.

Other Discussion

Paul Dedo asked if a lack of training is an issue in other parts of the state. There was a lot of discussion on this issue. Craig Bartz mentioned that safety concerns is another big issue throughout the state. He stated that the line crews and splicers are supposedly getting laptops and that technology progress over time has changed everyone's jobs.

Adjournment

Paul Dedo made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:25 p.m. This was seconded by Dave Tollison and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Gile,
Secretary

[Grievance Report – CWA Local 4671](#)

New Frontier

Article 19.2.1 is being violated. The Company is not notifying the union once a month of the current utilization of contractors. First formal step scheduled.

The company is using contractors to take customer repair calls. First formal step scheduled.

VERIZON

None at this time.

CenturyLink

Employee being harassed by Supervisor. Awaiting top step answer.

Frontier Communications, Rhinelander

Management employee transferring to craft wanting time bridged for seniority recognition. Arbitration approved.

Management renting equipment and forcing employees to use the equipment without any training. Second step meeting held awaiting answer.

Non union engineer working in St. Croix, Balsam Lake, and Centuria exchanges which are union. Awaiting second step answer.

CWA Helps Coordinate as Statehouse Draws Thousands of Activists Daily

With a campaign that is flooding the Indiana statehouse with thousands of activists every day, CWA and other unions are determined to stop Republican leaders from ramming an anti-union "right-to-work" bill through the legislature.

Union members with clipboards are positioned at entries in the capitol, where long lines of activists stretch down the street. Volunteers sign in visitors and direct them to the "help desk," a table staffed with activists armed with laptop computers. They help visitors identify their representative and suggest other lawmakers to visit who are wavering on the issue.

"We're really focusing on educating people about the issue and how to lobby for it," said CWA Local 4900's Angie Schritter, Legislative-Political Action Team coordinator. "We talk to them about the facts about 'right-to-work' states, the fact that wages are lower in those states, that on-the-job injuries and fatalities are significantly higher, that even infant mortality rates are higher."



As hundreds of activists visit various Indiana statehouse offices each day, "It's driving some of the office staff crazy," Schritter said. "We are sending a very strong message."

Based on the fire marshal's estimates during the first week of January, Schritter said 3,000 is the fewest number of people who came through the capitol. Typically, 5,000 to 7,000 people arrived daily, from union members and allies to people who wish they had the chance to join a union. "I had a 73-year-old grandfather here today and he said, 'I'm doing this for my grandkids,'" Schritter said.

The capitol was filled to the brim the night of Jan. 10, as Gov. Mitch Daniels gave his State of the State address. TVs were set up in overflow rooms, but it was almost impossible to hear with the huge crowd, many of whom angrily booed their governor and the Republicans for pushing "right-to-work."

Many Democrats skipped the speech, and have been refusing to show up to legislative sessions, denying the Republican majority the quorum it needs to pass the bill, which has been approved by House and Senate committees. Last year, Democrats fled Indiana for five weeks to block the bill in the 2010 session.

"After the speech, the Democrats who did attend got up and left immediately to absolutely roaring applause," Schritter said. "They came through and shook everyone's hands. It was great. Then the Republicans got up to leave and the boos were unbelievable."

Although she couldn't see inside the chamber, she heard that "quite a few Republicans" didn't stand and cheer when Daniels talked about right to work. "We are definitely having an impact," she said. "We know there are Republicans who don't want to support this bill, but they are afraid to go against their leadership. We are appealing to them to do the right thing."

Among the broad support for workers, NFL players, who are union members themselves, are calling on Republicans to kill the bill. "Right-to-work' is a political ploy designed to destroy basic workers' rights. It's not about jobs or rights, and it's the wrong priority for Indiana," [the NFL Players Association said in a statement last week](#).

Daniels and Republican leaders are anxious to pass the bill so the controversy will die down before Indianapolis hosts the Super Bowl on Feb. 5.

As the CWA Newsletter was being published Jan. 12, union activists in their favorite NFL gear were preparing for a march from the statehouse to the Colts' stadium.

NFL Players Association

NFLPA STATEMENT ON SO-CALLED "RIGHT-TO-WORK" LEGISLATION IN INDIANA

WASHINGTON – As NFL players, we know our success on the field comes from working together as a team. We're not just a team of football players – we're also the fans at games and at home, the employees who work the concession stands and the kids who wear the jerseys of our favorite football heroes. NFL players know what it means to fight for workers' rights, better pensions and health and safety in the workplace. To win, we have to work together and look out for one another.

Today, even as the city of Indianapolis is exemplifying that teamwork in preparing to host the Super Bowl, politicians are looking to destroy it trying to ram through so-called "right-to-work" legislation.

"Right-to-work" is a political ploy designed to destroy basic workers' rights. It's not about jobs or rights, and it's the wrong priority for Indiana.

The facts are clear – according to a January 2012 Economic Policy Institute briefing report ("Working Hard to Make Indiana Look Bad"), "right-to-work"

will lower wages for a worker in Indiana by \$1,500 a year because it weakens the ability of working families to work together, and it will make it less likely that working people will get health care and pensions.

So-called "right-to-work" bills divide working families at a time when communities need to stand united. We need unity – not division. We urge legislators in Indiana to oppose "right-to-work" efforts, and focus instead on job creation.

As Indianapolis proudly prepares to host the Super Bowl it should be a time to shine in the national spotlight and highlight the hard working families that make Indiana run instead of launching political attacks on their basic rights. It is important to keep in mind the plight of the average Indiana worker and not let them get lost in the ceremony and spectacle of such a special event. This Super Bowl should be about celebrating the best of what Indianapolis has to offer, not about legislation that hurts the people of Indiana.

Offshoring Bill Shows Path to Returning U.S. Call Center Jobs

Focusing on ways to return jobs to the United States, a White House forum on "insourcing" this week highlighted the return of 400 US Airways reservations jobs to Winston-Salem, N.C., Phoenix, Ariz., and Reno, Nev. CWA, which represents US Airways agents along with the Teamsters, negotiated for the return of reservations work; another 300 jobs were returned to the U.S. about 18 months earlier.

U.S. Rep. Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.), who is sponsoring bipartisan legislation to keep U.S. call center jobs from being offshored, asked President Obama to include the bill in the forum's work going forward.

In [a letter to Obama](#), Bishop noted the half-million call center jobs that have been lost over the past four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the American Teleservices Association. "These job losses are a direct consequence of corporate practices and incentives that encourage continued off-shoring and outsourcing...and also placed consumers' personal information at risk to security breaches," he wrote. He said he and other lawmakers are working with CWA and allies "to identify new incentives and expand accountability and transparency in the call center industry."



Forum participants included CWA Chief of Staff Ron Collins. "To those who say they must ship call center jobs overseas because of cost, we challenge them to look at U.S. companies that are bringing jobs back to the U.S.," he said. Collins said Bishop's bill "doesn't stop a corporation from moving jobs overseas. But it makes it clear that corporations must make a choice. Corporations that don't want to keep good jobs here in the U.S. won't be able to benefit from federal grants and guaranteed loans. No more handouts from the taxpayers for those who choose not to keep good jobs in the U.S."

CWA Legislative-Political Action Team activists are distributing and collecting postcards from CWAers that call on members of Congress to support H.R. 3596, the U.S. Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act. Activists also are sending op-eds and letters to the editor to local newspapers and are reaching out to their members of Congress to build support for the bill.