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CWA Local 4340

Mobilization 2008

August 28, 2008

So, here we are, witness to history in the making! So far we have had the opportunity to participate in a Presidential primary that has set new precedence and has shown us that our vote does count! EVERY VOTE!!! We have more elections coming up. Not only do we have the Presidential election but also there are local elections for House and Senate seats as well as Governors in 11 states. Closer to home, we have elections at Local 4340 as well. So make yourself heard. Get the information. Find out who is running and who can carry the load at the Local for three more years. YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!

There have been many ballots cast in CWA's history. Here is the scoop on our affiliation with the CIO. "*CWA History – A Brief Review*" brings us back to...

1948: CWA Debates Affiliation With the AFL or CIO

At the 1948 convention, President Beirne told the delegates, "I think the time has arrived for us to submit the question (*of affiliation*) to our members so they can establish in a free manner and by secret ballot what their thoughts are on this question."

Those who were in favor of affiliation were clearly in favor of affiliating with the CIO rather than the AFL. This was because the AFL could only offer CWA status within an existing international union for one industry. In February 1949, CWA's Executive Board recommended affiliation with the CIO and in a referendum; the membership approved the CIO affiliation.

Not all of the independents agreed to join the CWA. The AT&T Long Lines unit applied for a CIO charter that was granted as the Telephone Workers Organizing Committee-CIO (TWOC-CIO). Later, units from AT&T Manufacturing and Sales and Michigan Traffic joined the TWOC-CIO. When CWA was granted the CIO charter, TWOC was folded in.

Labor Day is right around the corner. We have arrived here though much strife and animosity between big business and working families. Over the years there have been countless sacrifices in the name of fair representation. In keeping with that heritage, we must carefully consider the choices that are presented to us. It is our responsibility to help decide our own path. Who takes over the Oval office on January 20, 2009 will have a tremendous impact on the success of our future bargaining efforts.

THINK IT THROUGH!! For any information you require, you can contact the Local 4340 office at mobilize4340@aol.com or you can call 216-635-4340. Watch the website for more exciting news as all of our critical elections draw near! There will be Labor walks and other activities during Labor Day week, please keep an eye on your email for dates and times and help out whenever possible.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee

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