

CWA Local 4340

Mobilization 2008

September 11, 2008

Welcome back, with much activity surrounding us, it is getting harder to keep track of all we must know and do. For example, those members from AT&T should have received a bargaining survey at your work location and hopefully you have filled it out and returned it to your Union rep. I can't even begin to tell you how important it is to let us know what you want in bargaining.

With all the hubbub going on, it is easy to forget. So be prepared for a few friendly reminders this month. The Local is still on an active path to upgrading the computer and phone systems, training and developing the newest Directors and Stewards and continuing to achieve and administer much needed building maintenance and improvements. The Legislative Committee has been working overtime getting the info out and making it available on the web at cwa4340.org. To get involved, call the Hall at 216-635-4340 or email at mobilize4340@aol.com.

To highlight that we are on the down side of the labor cycle again, in some regards, here is more of where we came from (and how we got here) from "CWA History – A Brief Review":

1950: U.S. Senate Condemns Bell System

In that same year, in response to charges levied by CWA, the Senate Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations held hearings to investigate the status of collective bargaining and labor-management relations in the Bell System.

During the hearings, which lasted for 11 days in August and September 1950, the subcommittee heard testimony on these issues from representatives of CWA, AT&T, and associated Bell Companies. Joseph Beirne's testimony alone lasted five days.

Following the conclusion of the hearings, a majority report of the subcommittee was issued. Its conclusions overwhelmingly supported the charges made by CWA. The subcommittee found that:

- 1. The local associated companies functioned as parts in a closely integrated corporate system completely and directly controlled by AT&T management.**
- 2. The basic cause of poor labor-management relations in the Bell System revolved around the inability of the union to bargain at a level of management which had the authority to make final decisions.**
- 3. The Bell System had actively and continuously conducted an anti-union campaign, including ads in the public press and interference in CWA affairs.**

Once again, we at CWA find ourselves in an anti-union environment. Full circle from where we started. This is part of the reason why we must be diligent and remain focused and united in our activities. A stable core at the Local, District and National levels of the CWA right now will go a long way toward achieving our goal of a labor friendly environment so that all working families can prosper and live their dreams, not just survive in an environment of worry. This stable core functions best when surrounded by animated and UNITED groups. Get involved now and be a part of history!

In Solidarity,
CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee
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