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# CWA Local 4340

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## Mobilization 2008

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September 25, 2008

Through hard times and not so hard times, CWA has been available to guide us toward our common goals and challenge “The Company” whenever necessary. However, it is the membership that gives “The Union” its power. Without the individuals, you, standing in support of the representatives chosen to bring a voice to your concerns, there is no ability to win. By showing solidarity and banding together we, THE UNION, can achieve all that we need and much of what we want.

Here in the 16<sup>th</sup> segment of “CWA History – A Brief Review” is an example Union solidarity and what can be accomplished when we are one...

### **1955: Southern Bell Strike**

**1955 was a year in which CWA undertook its most difficult task since its formation eight years earlier: a regional strike against Southern Bell lasting 72 days, encompassing nine states and affecting 50,000 workers. Throughout months of bargaining the company remained adamant that any new contract contain a ban on strikes “or other interruptions of service.” Throughout the strike, CWA expressed its willingness to resolve bargaining issues through arbitration, but Southern Bell refused.**

**Ultimately, Southern Bell’s attempt to break the union was unsuccessful. A one-year contract was signed that gave across-the-board gains to CWA members: wage increases; the right to arbitration for suspensions, discharges and job vacancy fillings; reduction of work tour hours; and most significantly, recognition of the right to strike. The 1955 strike was an early landmark for CWA because of its scope, duration and success.**

The Mobilization Committee is at the Local today to tally the AT&T bargaining surveys in order to enable us to have a voice at the bargaining table for the new contract. If anything is to be learned from the history of CWA and the trials and tribulations of our current members and those that came before, it is that as one we can achieve anything.

We must be and remain united in our efforts, with AT&T and all of our employers... The membership is entitled to it. Get involved and let us know what you want so we can strive to get it for you...

Phone 216-635-4340

email [mobilize4340@aol.com](mailto:mobilize4340@aol.com)

Website [www.cwa4340.org](http://www.cwa4340.org)

CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee

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