

Please Post

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CWA Local 4340

Mobilization 2008

October 30, 2008

Happy Halloween!!

Just a few days until the national election that will determine the next President of the United States, and just as importantly, your representatives in Washington. For those of you that may be on the fence, simply put – “We Cannot Afford Four More Years Of Failed Policies.”

For those of you more interested in the upcoming AT&T bargaining, here is a tidbit of history that I hope will interest you. Pay attention and see what works! From “CWA History – A Brief Review.”

1971: Biggest Settlement In CWA History – Task Force '71 Receives Credit
Four Hundred thousand CWA members nationwide went on strike against the Bell System in 1971 for wage increases to offset the devastating inflation of the previous three years. After a one-week strike, CWA achieved the biggest economic package ever negotiated with the Bell System and obtained, for the first time, a Cost of Living Adjustment clause (COLA) and big city allowance.

In addition, wage progression schedules were shortened to 5 years and vacation time was improved to 2 weeks after one year's service. The total wage benefit package amounted to more than 33.5% over the life of the agreement. A large share of the credit for those successful negotiations went to the Task Force '71 Mobilization Program which President Beirne set up to activate the membership in support of CWA's bargaining objectives.

Task Force '71 consisted of 50,000 local union leaders (one for every 10-15 members) who led training sessions, put up informational posters, passed out bargaining leaflets and worked to keep their members informed and activated. The Task Force '71 participants wore “small potato 71” pins to identify themselves as part of this important corps of local leaders.

While the 1971 strike lasted one week nationally – for 37,000 New York Tel plant workers it lasted 218 days. This unit achieved a breakthrough in union security by obtaining an agency shop that was later extended in 1974 to the entire Bell System.

See anything familiar? Hearing any rumors? Bargaining goals in 1971 sound good? What you see here is exactly what it takes to get the job done, and done right! Without you we cannot do it. Time to step up and take an active roll in your future. Time to take responsibility for yourself, your family and your union brothers and sisters and their families... Looking to hear from you soon.

To volunteer, call the hall at 216-635-4340 or email us at mobilize4340@aol.com. All of the previous 20 editions of this communication are available on our website at www.cwa4340.org.

Thanks for your time,
CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee

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