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# CWA Local 4340

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## Mobilization 2008

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July 10, 2008

In an effort to be true to our history and to recognize the sacrifices of others in the making of our Union, here is Part V of our continuing tribute to the CWA and its formation... from "CWA History – A Brief Review":

### **1937: Supreme Court Declares NLRA Constitutional**

Formal Severance of employee associations from the telephone companies is completed.

### **1938: Growth of Independent Telephone Unions and the Creation of NFTW**

Strengthened by new rights gained under the Wagner Act, new, independent unions began to spring up across the country. As the number of independent unions grew, their leaders recognized the desirability of joining together in an organization where they could exchange ideas and coordinate national activities.

After preliminary meetings in St. Louis and Chicago, representatives of 31 telephone organizations, representing a total combined membership of 145,000, assembled in New Orleans in November 1938, and adopted a constitution and established the National Federation of Telephone Workers (NFTW). The preamble of the NFTW constitution clearly states the reason for creating the union.

We, The telephone workers of America, mindful of the fact that many conditions necessary to our economic security and general welfare can best be effectively secured by united, cooperative and continuous action on a nationwide scale, do hereby combine and organize under the name of the National Federation of Telephone Workers."

NFTW was never a national union. Rather it was a federation of sovereign local independent unions. NFTW's lack of authority over the affiliated local unions left it at a serious disadvantage in dealing with a single-headed giant like AT&T.

Here is the beginning of AT&T's learning curve. It's ability to divide and conquer. To learn from their mistakes, and the start of the journey that will bring us to our contract negotiations now, in 2009. Pay attention to the bargaining updates, fill out your surveys and return them to your union representative as requested. Get together and get involved. We must present a united front in order to win what we need from AT&T during the next bargaining session. It has never been more important than it is now! Get involved, and get in touch!

In Solidarity,  
CWA Local 4340 Mobilization Committee  
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