



FYI – from Bonnie Murphy, CWA District 4 *Retired Members' Council Executive Board Member*

March 15, 2003

Welcome New Clubs

We are happy to announce that charters have been issued to two new clubs in District 4 – 4025 in Michigan and 4250 in Illinois.

RMC Executive Board Election Results

The following have been elected by our RMC members to the RMC Executive Board; District 1 Member Ed Creegan and Alternate Audrey Buchanan-Swan, District 2 Board Member Mike Vivirito and Alternate Robert Rickman, District 3 Board Member James Starr and Alternate Irrel "Fuzzy" Finch, District 4 Board Member Bonnie Murphy and Alternate Anne Variano Macko, District 6 Board Member Bobby Brown and Alternate Tommy Parsons, District 7 Board Member Ann Cummings and Alternate Lorraine Miller, District 9 Board Member Addie Brinkley and Alternate Charles Latimer, District 13 Board Member Jack Caldwell, Merger Partner (At Large) Board Member Joanne Bruch and Alternate Anna Maddalena.

Anna has recently resigned due to personal reasons, and Bill Metz has been appointed in her place as Alternate. The District 13 Alternate position is vacant due to the tragic death of James Carter in an auto accident during the election period. Jim was an asset to our Board and is greatly missed.

In a separate election, Ed Creegan has been elected Board Chair, James Starr Board Vice Chair and Bonnie Murphy Board S/T.

RMC Executive Board Meeting

The regular winter meeting of the Retired Members' Council Executive Board was held in Washington D.C. on February 2 & 3, 2003. New and returning Board members were sworn into office by CWA President Morton Bahr. RMC officers also took the oath of office.

Chairman Creegan laid out an impressive agenda for the RMC - which included recognition for the retirees Council equal to that of CWA special committees and locals. He strongly believes that the CWA Retired Members Council deserves to be taken more seriously by our Union.

Creegan also feels that the most important goal of the Retired Members Council should be to increase membership to the point where we have the numbers and power to protect and improve our retirees benefits and pensions.

He challenged each District Board member to take an active roll in their Districts and clubs, to promote our agenda and to keep both active and retired members up to date on our issues and concerns.

(RMC Executive Board Meeting. continued)

The Council was addressed by President Morty Bahr, S/T Barbara Easterling and EVP Larry Cohen. All three stressed the importance of all our CWA retirees being organized and active in support of the issues that affect their lives and those of their families.

The Board acted on an appeal relating to the recent RMC Board Member election. Herman Panstingel, President of CWA-IUE RMC 84801, has appealed the fact that he was not allowed to run for District 4 Alternate Board Member on the grounds that, as a merger-partner retiree, he did not qualify for that position. President Panstingel also contends that the CWA Constitution was not followed by CWA in addressing his case. In a close decision, the Board denied the appeal.

SBC Changes Concession Plan

District 4 has sent out a copy of a letter from SBC detailing a change in the concession plan for both-out-of-region and in-region retirees. If your local hasn't shared it with you, a copy is enclosed. Some of your members may already have been received a letter from SBC notifying them of the change. Please urge your members to write, email or call Ed Whitacre in protest of this erosion of our benefits. We feel it extremely uncalled for that SBC is attacking retirees, who are on a fixed income and already suffering under a reduced economy, in this manner. It is ironic that SBC closes the notification letter it is sending to retirees with the sentence. "Thank you for your dedication to our company"

District 4 Meeting, April 22-24, Fort Wayne, IN

Please read the enclosed notice from District 4 Vice President Jeff Rechenbach and seriously consider attending this important meeting. Perhaps your Local will help with the expenses of sending a retiree representative to the meeting. Remind them that there would be no lost wages for you. As Jeff notes in his memo, what happens at Verizon will have a critical impact on us all in many ways. Retirees will have a special interest in bargaining this year. They will be an easy target for company "cost-cutting" measures that threaten our healthcare and other benefits.

District 4 RMC Meeting, September 30, 2003

Don't forget to plan on attending our RMC meeting in Angola, IN on September 30th. RMC District 4 will pay up to 2 nights hotel, 2 ½ days per diem, and tolls for the club president or designee. Your per capita must be up to date in order to qualify. More information to follow.

My Alternate Anne V. Macko and I would like to visit each of our District 4 RMC clubs sometime during the next 12 months. We will be contacting club presidents to this end soon.

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