



A NEED FOR CHANGE IN 2009 AT&T BARGAINING!

July 30, 2009- Does 1986 remind you of today? In 1986, CWA lost its ability to negotiate contracts at a National table because of the breakup of AT&T through divestiture in 1984. During the time after divestiture, the “old” AT&T was split up into separate companies (RBOC’s) and CWA contracts were negotiated by separate bargaining units without any national bargaining.

AT&T chose a path of fierce competition by spinning off into new business units and went on a buying spree of new businesses to merge with. Then, AT&T lost their nerve and sold them off at bargain prices while most RBOC’s prospered. Especially, SBC who embarked on their own spending spree which eventually led to putting humpty-dumpty back together by buying and merging most of the original parts (RBOC’s **and** AT&T).

Today, AT&T is almost completely put back together with one major disadvantage to the 2009 unionized work force. **NO NATIONAL BARGAINING!** This is why all 2009 CWA -AT&T bargaining units are negotiating separate contracts and for the most part going it alone. Although CWA Bargaining Units are supporting each other, we are prohibited from negotiating national issues at one table. This should be addressed and **CHANGED IN 2009** AT&T bargaining so we can again establish real National bargaining **UNITY** for ALL CWA Members at AT&T.

CWA Recorded History For 1986: Post Divestiture Bargaining:

1986 presented CWA with its first negotiations with the post-divestiture telephone industry. Twelve years after CWA had achieved national bargaining; the union was forced back to the old multiple table way of bargaining. CWA had to bargain not only with AT&T, but with the independent RBOCs and their subsidiaries. National bargaining was replaced by 48 different bargaining tables. In 1986 AT&T negotiations, the company attempted to take back health care benefits, lower clerical wages, and eliminate cost of living adjustments obtained in earlier contracts. CWA had no choice but to strike. The strike lasted 26 days and AT&T agreed to provide wage and employment security improvements and retain health care benefits intact. Although negotiations with the RBOCs were also difficult, they were less contentious than those with AT&T. Strikes were necessary against some of these operating companies, but none lasted more than a few days.

In Unity-Strength & Solidarity:

Steve Tisza, President
CWA Local 4250

Communications Workers of America Local 4250
3055 Glenwood-Dyer Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411
Steve G. Tisza, President (708) 757-4065(Office)
stevetisza@sbcglobal.net (E-Mail)
<http://www.cwalocal4250.org> (Website)