



IBEW Local 21 Bargaining Update #32

July 19, 2009

IBEW Negotiations Continue at AT&T

Negotiations with AT&T continued at both the National and Local tables throughout last week. By week's end, we report that the parties at the National Table had reviewed in detail, the status of all articles of the contract. While limited, progress was made in some areas. We are still dealing with several regressive Company proposals on the table. Also last week, the Customer Consultant sub-committee met and reviewed all proposals that our Union had previously made to improve this job title.

Separate from the IBEW talks, CWA District 4 reached a tentative agreement with AT&T on July 15th. The tentative three-year agreement, subject to ratification, would cover approximately 18,500 CWA members working at AT&T in the five Midwest states of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, previously known as the old Ameritech region. CWA negotiations continue with AT&T in four other districts and a fifth starts on Monday, July 20, 2009. Together, the CWA-AT&T negotiations remaining cover nearly 100,000 workers.

President-Business Manager Ronald Kastner reminds all members that the IBEW is completely independent from the CWA, that our negotiations are still continuing, and that our IBEW bargaining teams are continuing to work hard, and remain committed to resolving all of the remaining issues at the IBEW - AT&T national and local tables. Other items discussed last week included Medical Benefits, which were discussed in much detail as well as our benefit contract language, and pensions. Other items discussed included Premise Technicians, Customer Consultants, and Engineering Assistants. Our IBEW Bargaining Teams are committed to bringing home a fair contract for all of the dedicated and hard-working members of our union.

Mobilization Continues!

It is important that all members continue mobilization activities throughout the IBEW jurisdiction; this reminds AT&T who does the work, who deserves respect and a why there should be a fair contract for all workers. Informational pickets are continuing every Wednesday at most work locations, while some are changing the day of the week for their activities just to keep the bosses guessing, and several worksites are adding additional days. Continue to wear blue on Thursdays, follow all company rules to the T, work safe each and every day, and on each and every job, and let us know if you hear of or recognize other creative, legal and concerted activities started by members and activists that are popping up around the local.



Public Campaign Expands

After making an appearance live on CBS2 Chicago (see photo above), the AT&T Greed traveling sign truck made a lengthy appearance outside last week's **Major League Baseball All-Star game in St. Louis**, where President Barack Obama threw out the first pitch (see photo below). Rank-n-file IBEW and CWA members and activists mobilized and hand-billed outside Busch Stadium, taking our message direct to the public, asking for their support against AT&T's Greed.



The AT&T Greed sign truck also traveled to Springfield, IL, circling the State Capital building, you should have seen it. One of AT&T's lobbyists scammed out of the building, trying to chase off the truck, and when the driver wouldn't leave, the company called the police. Just driving around with a message, not doing anything illegal, just sharing the truth (see photo below).

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Look for the AT&T Greed truck in other cities and worksites this coming week, as we continue sharing the truth with consumers throughout the Midwest.

Take Action! Make Your Voice Heard Today!

Make sure that you visit the AT&T Greed website to take action (on your personal computer, not at work), to support our IBEW bargaining teams by sending off a pre-written letter to your state legislators, and a copy to AT&T's Chief Executive Officer. Thousands and thousands of letters have already been sent. Make your voice heard today.

It only takes a couple minutes. Photos of the AT&T Greed sign truck, along with details of the public campaign, are also available on our union's website at www.ibew21.org and at www.attgreed.com.

Continue to stand strong and as always, stand together!

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