



IBEW Local Union 21 • CWA Local 4250



Illinois & NW Indiana 2009 AT&T Mobilization & Bargaining News

May 19, 2009 IBEW - AT&T Bargaining Update #1

Leadership of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and AT&T management made history today as they opened national bargaining for the first time in 25 years. AT&T is the largest telecommunication provider in the world. IBEW Chairman and Local 21 President-Business Manager Ron Kastner, System Council T-3 Chairman Peter Pusateri, and IBEW Telecommunications Department Director Martha Pultar opened today's session with a strong statement expressing the union's desire to share in the 13 billion dollar profits AT&T made last year. Our leadership presented a strong unified front for IBEW all telecommunications workers.

Not surprisingly, AT&T tried to relate themselves to the auto, truck, and airline industries, all industries negatively affected and victims of the struggling economy. We won't buy it! The facts are in the annual report. We all know that the hard work performed by IBEW members contribute strongly to AT&T's profits.

On our first full day of bargaining, our union did not shy away from the most difficult and important issue for our membership, the issue of Health Care. Our actions today made it clear to AT&T that we came to this table with viable options on healthcare rather than their expressed plan of shifting the costs onto IBEW members. We want to maintain the quality of standards our members have been promised and deserve.

During today's negotiations our union bargaining team passed a historic health care proposal to AT&T management. Our presentation of the proposal outlined the cost saving measures AT&T could realize while we maintain our current benefits levels. It is one of the most progressive benefit plans ever presented by a labor union. We are hoping management takes our proposal seriously as we are convinced it is the answer to the health care crisis AT&T management claims exists.

IBEW members mobilized in strong support of their bargain team.

IBEW Local 21 President-Business Manager Kastner and lead spokesman stated our goals in his opening statement to AT&T. He opened by stating :

"As we open bargaining with AT&T, the IBEW understands that both the union and the company must resolve many difficult issues. This contract is an important milestone in the history of AT&T and the IBEW because it will determine in what direction our future lies. AT&T is a successful and profitable company, even in these troubled economic times. We believe that it should be a leader in helping to turn the economy around and provide good middle class jobs!"

You may view his entire opening statement by visiting the AT&T Bargaining and Mobilization page on the IBEW Local 21 website by clicking [here](#).

Our International has also created a special page on their website to update IBEW members on negotiations at AT&T. On it **IBEW International President Edwin D Hill sends us his support**. Click [here](#) to view our International's AT&T bargaining page.

We must all continue our mobilization efforts. Remember **wear blue every Thursday**. To get the latest bargaining news call the union hotline, visit our website, and sign up for text messaging to get the latest bargaining news. **To order your solidarity gear** click [here](#).

The union hotline and website will be updated as needed or when there is breaking news. Text messaging and email bargaining/mobilization alerts will be issued when necessary to keep all members updated as negotiations progress.



Our solidarity will be the key to our future! Keep up the great work!

Solidarity!

www.ibew21.org

www.cwalocal4250.org

SET TO TALK – READY TO WALK