

PROUD OF OUR PAST • POISED FOR THE FUTURE • UNITED IN SOLIDARITY



IBEW Local Union 21 • CWA Local 4250



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

The Table is Set - AT&T Bargaining to Begin

Our current contract with AT&T expires in 46 days. Bargaining dates have been confirmed, and negotiations begin on Monday, May 18, 2009. All AT&T bargaining updates can be found on the IBEW Local 21 AT&T Bargaining Page on our [Local 21 website](#). To view the [bargaining page](#) [click here](#).

Because of the historic agreement on National Bargaining negotiated by President Kastner, there will be 2 bargaining tables, a National table and a local issues table.

The negotiations for both tables will take place in Hoffman Estates. The National Table will be chaired by Local 21 President Ron Kastner and includes Martha Pultar, the IBEW's Telecommunications Director, Peter Pussiteri the Chairmen of the Legacy "T" Council, along with Vice President Kevin Curran, and Recording Secretary Lynn Arwood who also heads up our Benefits Department.

The Local Issues Table will be chaired by Assistant Business Manager Jerry Gast, and includes Prem Tech Business Rep Mike McCormick, Business Reps Kurt Schmidt and Mike Sacco. Chief Steward KC Battsfore, and from IBEW Local 134, Legacy "T" Recording Secretary Dave Rayberg will also be on the team.

Our bargaining teams need your full support. Your participation in solidarity actions will be necessary to insure we reach an agreement that rewards us for the financial success AT&T gains as a result of the work we perform

Are you ready? All mobilization coordinators have received their assignments; make sure you talk to your coordinator to get the materials to carry out your mission.

Don't forget - every Thursday is WEAR BLUE DAY at AT&T!

Get your Official 2009 Solidarity Gear!

You can get your shirts, hats and visors by visiting our online store. [Click here to buy your gear.](#)

Get your gear now it's going fast!



www.ibew21.org
www.cwalocal4250.org

SET TO TALK – READY TO WALK

Stay informed

Sign up for text alerts. To receive IBEW Local 21 News and Bargaining update text alerts on your personal cell phone text the word "**ibew21**" to **69866**.

Keep checking your email for updates and by calling the **Union hotline at 630-415-2711**, or from certain area codes, at **866-423-9582**.

Local 21 Members and Retirees Attended the AT&T Shareholders Meeting

Local 21 President Ron Kastner led a delegation to the AT&T shareholders meeting in Dallas, TX. The delegation included rank and file members representing key groups affected by this year's bargaining.



The delegation was confronted by AT&T security goons who attempted to force them into an isolated area and keep them out of the main stockholder meeting. One goon objected to a CWA member who was carrying an American flag claiming the flag was **not allowed** because it was a "political symbol." It is sad to see a company whose very name includes the word American (American Telephone and Telegraph) now views our American flag as just a political symbol. It's shameful!

Our delegation made it into the meeting and AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson the corporate fat cat smiled when he shook hands with President Kastner, making for an interesting photo op. **The photos from the shareholders meeting can be found by [clicking here](#).**



Retirees Mobilize and Take Action over Health Care

IBEW Local 21 retirees have been sending letters to CEO Stephenson reminding him many retirees were encouraged to retire on the oft stated promise of premium free health care benefits. The fact is every active and retired member of IBEW Local 21 paid for their health care benefits up front. They helped AT&T become the highly profitable corporation it is today. They accepted lower wages in order to preserve their health care benefits and help the telephone company contain health care costs for decades. [The letter can be viewed here.](#)

Watch what our retirees have to say on AT&T's health care plans on our [YouTube page](#).



IBEW Local 21 retirees will be joining us in our solidarity actions. If you know a retiree who would like to get involved to help protect their benefits they can call Local 21 Retiree coordinator Larry Moeller at 630-432-3863 or email him at lmoeller@ibew21.org.

CWA Negotiations

The CWA has been working without a contract since April 4th; they can call a strike at anytime. CWA District 4 Midwest Updates can be found by visiting their [web page by clicking here](#).

We remind all IBEW Local 21 members Article 5.03 of our contract states that the no-strike clause **"IS NOT INTENDED TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYEES FROM HONORING A PICKET LINE PROVIDED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OR MAINTENANCE OF SAID PICKET LINE IS NOT A VIOLATION OF ANY LAW."**

Know your rights; The National Labor Relations Act protects your right to honor a lawful picket line. You have the right NOT to cross a lawful picket line and NOT to work behind a lawful picket line. Read Article 5 of our [AT&T Contract by clicking here](#).

Don't T-10!

We are asking all members to refrain from accepting any T-10 or temporary supervisor assignments. Anyone accepting a T-10 assignment allows AT&T to free up a manager in preparation for a CWA strike – don't do it! We will keep you updated on the status of CWA's negotiations. **We stand in Solidarity!**

In other news:

In I&M Jerry Gast will be meeting with the new general manager to discuss scheduling issues, and to get moratorium weeks for those I&M members working on details, like our members in construction have. This would allow our members to spend time with their families during holiday weeks by allowing them to work at their home garages.

In Construction a meeting with Joe Demillis is scheduled to discuss the problems with details and safety issues in the City of Chicago. Several techs in both C&E and I&M have been robbery victims. We hope to get a system in place to protect our members in both organizations.

If you find yourself in an unsafe situation leave the area, if you are being held up cooperate with all demands - don't try to be a hero. As soon as you are able, immediately contact local law enforcement and then your managers. Demand that your managers send out a safety alert notifying all technicians of the location of the unsafe situation. We are requesting that all members who know of occurrences to spread the word to other garages through your union stewards, chief steward and business representative.

In the central offices a meeting is planed to discuss the deep dive to see if the schedules are working. We know there are problems and are going to prove the company has implemented forced schedules that are not necessary.

Mike McCormick and Jerry Gast will be meeting with Labor Relations and the Prem Tech managers to address the issues associated with CWA members working in our area.

SOLIDARITY!