

STEVE TISZA, *President*



LOCAL 4250

Workers of America

(AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO)

3055 Glenwood-Dyer Road

Lynwood, IL 60411

708-757-4065

CWA D4 AT&T Midwest Bargaining Report #36 **4/27/09**

Negotiations continued throughout the weekend in the form of informal discussions. We used those discussions to express our views on all of the unresolved issues. We have communicated to AT&T that we are willing to work together with them to find solutions to the issue of health care, however, those solutions cannot mean that our members' standard of living declines under this contract. This is an extremely profitable company and we expect our members to be better off at the end of the contract, not worse off!

Further, we remain quite concerned about the retrogression that is still on the table. All of it---including eliminating our employment security commitment, unlimited mandatory overtime in all states, eliminating protections for retirees, elimination of COLA and end of card check neutrality language, "leveraged" Service Reps, and much more---are an obstacle to reaching an agreement. We also expect to make real improvement in areas like Prem Techs, Datacomm and Article 26 (employment security), that, so far, AT&T has not been willing to adequately address.

It is our hope, that as we resume talks today, AT&T is ready to start to work with us to solve these problems. Although we remain far apart on all of the key issues, we have made a little progress in the past few days. As Vice President Seth Rosen told Local Presidents on a conference call last night, "This movement was likely the result of the outstanding mobilization efforts we have seen in some places that have really ramped things up...we need everyone to step up in order to keep things moving at the table."

Mobilization News: Members took time out from the contract fight to begin an organizing drive at an Apple store in Columbus and got thrown out. The partnership with Apple over I-Phone is a big deal and if the AT&T and Apple bosses work together, why not the workers too?

CWA also struck a blow at AT&T's legislative wish list. AT&T's Ohio Telecom Deregulation Bill has been put to sleep thanks to CWA members' grassroots lobbying effort. As a leader in the Ohio House told District 4's Assistant to the Vice President,

Linda Hinton, “To now say that this is even on the bottom of the priority list would be an overstatement.”

The CWA Ohio State Council, with help from the AFL-CIO, presented a clear message to the Legislature: When AT&T is trying to cut the standard of living of middle class workers, the Legislature doesn’t need to be passing a telecom bill that helps the company! The company was clearly unhappy by the affect CWA had in the Legislature.

AT&T still doesn’t seem to get that we’ll do whatever it takes to get a good contract! Every day they delay, is one more chance to turn up the heat!

Local 4108 and other Michigan Locals are planning a rally at an AT&T location (4075 Bay Rd.) in Saginaw, MI. District 4 Vice-President Seth Rosen will be there to demand AT&T get serious about negotiating a fair contract.

Stay on top of things by joining the Ready@AT&T network: Text the word “**READY**” to 69866 for regular mobilization updates.

Quality reminder: Apparently, a group of managers from Michigan have been sent to Youngstown, Ohio to observe technicians. Perhaps this should serve as a reminder to all of us that we must continue to work safely and always perform our work to the highest standards of quality.

Please go to <http://www.standupforworkers.com> and sign our online support statement and spread the word among your family and friends.

The next report will be on Tuesday, April 28, or sooner should developments warrant.