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LOCAL 4250

Workers of America

(AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO)

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CWA D4 AT&T Midwest Bargaining Report #40

5/1/2009

Informal talks continued throughout the day yesterday and we have started to make a little progress on a range of issues. While we are still far from resolving all of the key issues, there is a better understanding of the positions of both sides which is the first step to figuring out solutions. There is no question that this small progress was the result of our militant AND disciplined mobilization efforts. We still have a long way to go, but our mobilization efforts are making a difference. The committee plans to work in caucus through the weekend and resume talks next week.

Mobilization News: More than 200 people showed up in the pouring rain to rally in Saginaw, Michigan yesterday. "AT&T clearly understands that while we remain willing to solve problems, we will not accept a contract that reduces our members' standard of living," announced District 4 Vice President, Seth Rosen. "This is a fight not just for CWA members and retirees, but for all of the Middle Class!"

Local 4900 held an informational picket yesterday morning at several sites around Indiana. Apparently, the company thought they were going to strike and had brought in contractors in from all over. However, members of the Local went into work at the appropriate time. One has to wonder how much the various contracting companies were paid to drive to AT&T locations only to turn around and go home again.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Ohio Health Department and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have all issued warnings about the threat of a Swine Flu epidemic. Now that several cases of the disease have been found in the District 4 region, we have to be careful. HSS has advised workers to: "Stay home when you are sick." **The CDC advisory states: "Do not go to work or school if ill...You will help prevent others from catching your illness."** Please, be considerate of your co-workers! If you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, don't risk yours or your co-workers' health!

Several people responded to yesterday's photo (below) by pointing out safety violations. No doubt these violations were caused by the managers' apparent concern for doing their "work" as quickly as possible, rather than safely. While we have no reason to believe that these managers will be written up for leaving the truck door open or failing to wear their vest, we *strongly* urge all employees not to follow their example! Please make absolutely certain that we fulfill all safety requirements when *we* do *our* jobs!

Also, since Managers are out there looking for things to get on our case about, we need to make sure that we are always working to the highest quality standards.

On a less serious note, many of you submitted captions for yesterday's photo as part of our Caption Contest. We selected the winner by narrowing down the possibilities to the ones that made us laugh out loud, then chose the top ten and then we were pretty much forced to pick one of those at random.

THE WINNER IS:

"I wonder if they can tell that we're drunk." –Submitted by J. P.



Here are a few honorable mentions:

"Quick, get the manual out and see if he is doing that right."

"That's right management, keep your hands in your pockets and out of ours"

"How many supervisors does it take to shut a truck door? Dunno, it must be more than two."

"But we saved a lot of money on car insurance."

"Dude, this tree branch is tickling me...no, it's attacking me...wait photo op...smile...Geez, I hope my health care will cover the hospital bills...are we getting paid for this?...awesome!"

"Do we look as pathetic as we feel?"

"He can't see me – I don't have my vest on...besides I'm behind this tree."

"Pete and Repete"

"Stupidvisors', holding up progress."

"Oh, so that's how you hook a pole"

"You tell me what's in your pocket and I'll tell you what's in mine."

"AT&T managers show support for CWA with a "Work Stoppage" of their own!"

Thanks for sending in these (and the hundreds of other) great ideas

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

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 **Monday, May 4**, or sooner should developments warrant.



Randall Stephenson
at&t Corp. CEO