

STEVE TISZA, *President*



LOCAL 4250

Workers of America

(AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO)

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Tuesday, March 24, 2009- CWA District 4 AT&T Bargaining Report #6

Negotiations continue at the Midwest Regional Table with no significant progress to report. Our Bargaining committee rejected a series of retrogressive management proposals. The details of some of these proposals will give members a sense of AT&T's attitude at the table.

The company's healthcare proposal included huge monthly premiums for family coverage and out of pocket expenses of thousands of dollars a year for both active members and future retirees. They proposed the following changes to the pension plan: Effective January 1, 2010, Lump Sum Pension accrual would cease and any Pension Benefits accrued after January 1, 2010, could be taken only in a monthly annuity. Lump Sum Pensions taken after January 1, 2010, and accrued prior to January 1, 2010, would be calculated using the Pension Protection Act which would reduce Lump Sum Pension amounts.

They proposed leveraged titles for Service Reps that put nearly half of their wages at risk -- over 40% in some cases!

They have proposed changes to Article 26, which would virtually eliminate all Employment Security.

They have refused to make any improvements to Prem Techs, Dispatchers, and others in Appendix F. In fact, they proposed making conditions worse!

The company refuses to merge DataCom and COS into the core contract. They insist on separate bargaining.

They refuse to discuss retirees, assuring the benefits of existing retirees are protected.

Mobilization News: At the DSL center in Evansville, a supervisor got very testy when members of Local 4700 had balloons with bargaining slogans tied to their positions. Today, they will be WEARING those same slogans! Local 4008 held informational pickets at the DA office in Mount Clemens, MI where AT&T was training managers on Directory Assistance from Alabama, California, Florida, New Jersey, and Virginia as well as states throughout the Midwest. Our March 21 action went very well. Locals 4008, 4100, 4103, 4108, 4217, 4302, 4309, 4310, 4320, 4321, 4322, 4326 and 4900 all got into the act. We exceeded our goal!

The next update will be Wednesday, March 25, or sooner should developments warrant.