

# **News from the Communications Workers of America The Union for the Information Age**

**Media Advisory  
For October 19, 2004**

## **For More Information**

Steve Tisza, President CWA Local 4250  
806 North Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
312-988-9177  
[stevetisza@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stevetisza@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.cwalocal4250.org/outsourcing](http://www.cwalocal4250.org/outsourcing)

**WHAT: Informational Picket line by CWA Local 4250 Members to Protest AT&T Job Cuts**

**WHEN and WHERE:) October 19, 2004 – 12 Noon 10 S. Canal St, Chicago, Ill.**

**WHY: To focus attention on AT&T's actions that is harming customers, consumers and workers**

## **CWA Workers Protest AT&T Job Cuts**

***Demonstrations in communities nationwide point out hypocrisy of AT&T's actions' AT&T wants the work...as long as it doesn't have to keep any workers'***

**Chicago --** Members of the Communications Workers of America Local 4250 will be out in force on Tuesday, October 19, alerting the public to AT&T's determination to abandon customers, communities and workers.

This is part of a nationwide protest of AT&T's decision to lay off more than 1,500 CWA members – frontline workers who provide customer service -- at locations across the country. This layoff announcement comes just a few weeks after AT&T said it will close customer service centers in Charleston, W.Va., Hawaii and Puerto Rico, eliminating nearly 400 jobs, and will cut another 130 jobs at the customer center in Fairhaven, Mass.

AT&T executives haven't disputed statements that the company plans to eliminate the jobs of at least 7,000 workers and managers this year.

CWA Local 4250 union members, retirees and activists will be leafleting at: 10 South canal Street, Chicago, Illinois at 12 Noon.

“This once proud company employed 300,000 workers just ten years ago. Now, AT&T is rapidly getting rid of workers and managers, outsourcing those jobs and sending more work overseas to India, Mexico and other low wage countries,” said Ralph Maly, CWA vice president for communications and technologies.

AT&T is jeopardizing the existing network by outsourcing technical work to less experienced contractors, said Steve Tisza, president of Chicago Local 4250. “This is a national security issue, too,” because “our military, federal and state governments, hospitals and other institutions rely on AT&T’s network to carry voice and data transmissions that are secure. How safe can AT&T’s nationwide network be in the hands of subcontractors, based overseas, with no loyalty to AT&T, or to the United States,” Tisza asked.

As AT&T fires longtime workers and managers and replaces them with contractors, it puts more pressure on our communities, Steve Tisza said. “We need good jobs in this country, but AT&T’s actions mean that communities will have fewer resources for schools, fire and police service and the other important needs of our citizens. Those resources will be further strapped when state and local government must provide unemployment benefits and health care for jobless families, Tisza said. “AT&T wants the work as long as it doesn’t have to keep any workers.”