

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

March 2009

Submitted by Stan Wylie

Not sure where to start this month... I had been ill for about 3 weeks and it really takes a toll on you when still trying to do your best at work and keep up with other obligations. I think I may have been a little short with some folks as I became a bit irritable... Sorry for that. Which actually is a good lead in to my somewhat common discussion on healthcare...? The time has come to fix the healthcare crisis that affects all of us. I don't have to remind most folks of the cuts or lack of coverage they have seen over the years. For those of us that have some coverage we are obviously better off than the 48 million who don't.

President Obama said he wants to fix it this year. He acknowledged the health care issue is intertwined with the whole economic mess and will need to address both problems simultaneously to fix. President Obama also held a health care summit that included groups all over the spectrum. Health care professionals, business leaders, insurance executives, community action groups, economists, and our very own Annie Hill (Executive Vice President of CWA) as a representative for CWA all were participants in the first meeting. Obviously with a group this diverse there will be many differing opinions and suggestions and I can only assume most will have some sort of bias towards the group they represent. What all these folks need to hear is that we the people want to be heard, that we want a solution that is practical and sustainable for the people not insurance companies. As I have asked in the past I will ask again please educate yourself and look into this problem. Find a solution you can share passion with and become involved. Speak your mind, go to community meetings, write your elected officials, call your friends... whatever it takes. Now to my little bias. CWA has 5 principles they would like to see addressed in the reform process there is also a house resolution already written (HR 676) that would go a long way towards fixing the health care crisis. Feel free to become familiar with both.

I wanted to take a minute and thank Dean Sparks. Dean has been an AVP for the local and has decided to follow his work to Phoenix as the CFS office gets ready to close. I always appreciated his level headedness and that he would take time to consider the whole issued give it some thought and work towards a reasonable solution that would be in the best interest of the membership. I sure hope Dean enjoys warm weather and wish him the best of luck during his transition to Phoenix. That said several other folks are following their work and some have left already while some are scheduled to leave soon. There are quite a few and I know if I try to name them all here that I will inadvertently forget someone. I just want to thank all the folks

that are following their work for everything they have done in support of the local over the years.

The Local did new stewards training last month and I want to thank Craig Dameron for his assistance with that. It was an action packed fun filled (ok a bit of an exaggeration) two days of training. We trained 4 folks from MV Transportation and 1 from Qwest. I want to thank them for volunteering to give up their Saturday to complete the training. All went well and they will be getting more involved with representation and meetings as time goes on. While stewards training does focus on the core of what a steward does it is practical exercise that truly will bring on the education. It is a continual learning process. I do want to thank those who attended from MV we had Rocky Sher, Anna Marie Gorman, Paul Quaintance, David Eubank, Larry Smith also came in on Saturday to take part as well. From Qwest we had Dianne Santoro. Thanks again.