

CWA LOCAL 7800 PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2009

Submitted by Michael Lynch

April is already upon us. March was a very busy month. The District 7 Conference was held in Denver Colorado from March 29th thru April 1. This conference was very different but it was one of the better conference's I have been too. They have change the format form the last conference. It's on a lower scale due to budget cuts and short falls. The contracts will be out the end of April and you will have a choice hard copy or CD-rom. There's so much going on in labor right now and no one is safe. Each local president for Qwest was given a CWA Contract Reference Guide which will be at the local at all times till the company sends everyone else there own. The contract run from October 10, 2009 thru October 6, 2012. The conference covered a lot of material. CWA National Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Rechenbach was the keynote speaker for opening session on Sunday. He's a very good speaker as well. Sharing the visions of CWA National on where we are and where we need to go. The Employee Free Choice Act and Health Care are the two majors battles right now that we as union and the world face right now. He stated the importance of calling you senator and congress persons for support. He also stated how employers are going back to union companys wanting to reopen negotiations on current contracts for lower pay and benefits, but let AIG pay out bonus from the stimlis money because its in there contract and the need to keep the high level of workers and experience. They are the ones that help put this country in the position it's in now. Jim Hightower is a Columnist, Liberal Commentator, Poulist Activist and Author. He's has a news letter called the Lowdown. It's a labor newsletter and has very interesting information in it about whats going on in the country around labor. The district is still working on appointments for the different committee's. for National, District and standing committee's. There were 3 work shops, Conflict Resolutions, FMLA and Representative/Grievance Process. The work shop were very informational and we will be sharing this in our all stewards meeting. There was a lot of discussion around the day before and after a holiday. Two of the bargaining agent handle questions around the subject. The agents stated that was not interpatation of the day before and after a holiday when they were at the bargaining table. Reed did state they brought a lot of documentation supporting why they wanted to put this in place. There's a 14-day window before and after a holiday that could effect your holiday pay. There's a advance stewards training class 4-13 and 4-14 and we have 7-stewards in that class. We really need a lot more with due to retirements, layoffs and dismissals we have lost a lot of active members, stewards and officers. We really need more to step up to the plate and help its your union too. Qwest owe a 3.2 Billion debt that due the 1st quart of next year.

The South Dakota 9 all have reached settlements with the company. None got there jobs back. There no details other than that.

There are changes to FMLA Regulations effective as of January 16, 2009. There's a copy of the changes at the local for anyone that wishes to review them. Some of changes are good and some are bad.

AT&T Legacy contract expired Saturday 4-2-2009 midnight eastern time which was 9:PM our time. Currently they are working without a contract but the bargaining agents are still at the table which is good because they are still bargaining. The union has stated they are prepared for a strike until a tentative agreement is reached. Early Warning letters in mostly residential neighborhoods continue to be had delivered to many more AT&T customers letting them know that AT&T may be forcing us to strike. The union stands is the same Benefits, Wages, Health Care and retirees benefits. More information and updates can be found on (cwa-comtech.org).

Will be meeting and negotiating with Zory Catering for there contract that expires on 5-9-2009.

M-V Transportation is going thru cut backs. For the month of April 2009 the company will be offering any occupational employee that wants time off without pay or vacation to take as much time as possible. They have to cut back 5-10 routs a day due to cut back. This was something good to do instead of layoffs at this point. This will not change any ones benefits that are currently getting benefits the company will cover that as they do today. At the end of April the company will review this process and go from there. You can take 1-day thru the entire month of April. Seniority will not be effected either.

I want to take this time to thank all the members of CFS/CMC for there hard work and support to CWA7800. It's so hard to see all of you going. For those that follow there work, they are red circle and pay will remain the same for the duration of this contract, but would not be getting the 12% raise over the next for years. New hires will be under a different pay scale. I hope and pray that you find your new beginning which ever route you take. The local and company will never be the same with your departing. It's hard for me because that was one of the places I started my career with the company. I wish all of you the best and I'm sorry I won't be there on the 15th I will be in Washington D.C for a face to face meeting with National Committee on Equity. If there's anything the local can do to help just give us a call and God Bless.