

Vice Presidents Report
February 2009

Submitted by Craig Dameron

This last month was been disappointing at best, with Qwest's decision to announce the closure of the CFS office. Many of us started our careers with Qwest in the CFS and have many personal ties in that office. The closure, will take affect on April 15th, and is affecting approximately 217 members.

I&M, Local Network Operations has started back with QJD meetings after a two-month reprieve. We will have to wait and see if they are going to return to their previous pattern or if these latest meetings are just an anomaly.

I have been working with President Lynch and the AVP's to organize and insure that we have all of the letters of agreement for the year 2009. In some areas we are still trying to work those out with Qwest local management.

We have had several members from Qwest questioning the prescription drug plan. Members are being told when the go to fill their medication either at the pharmacy or via mail order that United Healthcare or Medica is restricting the amount dispensed.

Example: Dr. writes prescription for patient to take a medication 2x a day. When the patients goes to fill the prescription the pharmacy advises them that United Healthcare or Medica has restricted the amount to only 1x per day.

This is called supply limiting.

In reviewing the Prescription Drug Plan for United Healthcare and Medica there is a clause on page 3 10 that speaks to this.

Thanks to Secretary/Treasurer Debbie Stevens, we have learned that Qwest employees can call 1 800 753-2851 and leave their doctors name and phone number. Medco will send the doctor a form to fill out stating why the need for the "overage".

In most cases this has been successful in getting the supply limit waived.

At the February E-Board meeting President Lynch asked that Paul Green and I work with MV Transportation. Paul and I will be setting up a meet and greet at both the Connector and Shuttle locations later this month or early next month. Both Paul and I are looking forward to this new assignment.

Hearings were held earlier this month on legislation in Olympia that will insure the privacy of employees. The legislation has been titled the Employee Privacy Act. CWA Local 7800 member Michael Cooper testified in front of both the House and Senate

Committees. Michael's story about United Way was compelling and showed the abuse of power that companies inflict on their employees by forcing them to attend and sit through meetings that promote their personal beliefs and have nothing to do with the company business. Michael was one of several employees that shared their stories, and we want to thank Michael for standing up and helping to get this important piece of legislation passed.