

Vice Presidents Report
October 2009

Submitted by Craig Dameron

Motor Vehicle Accidents continue to be a focus for Qwest Communications. We have grieved several of these over the past month, and the company certainly has given us the impression that any motor vehicle accident will carry a minimum of a Written Warning and a 3 day Unpaid suspension, stretched out over three weeks. In a few cases we have made some progress in resolving these issues, but many of them have had to move to the second step of the grievance process.

I had the opportunity to attend the Seattle Safety Rodeo this year. It was a great learning experience. I was able to ask lots of questions, not only of the techs, but of management as well. It was interesting to see the different stations and how they worked. I found the rodeo to be a great exercise in safety, as I witnessed lots of equipment being removed from company vehicles because it was out dated or did not meet code. If any of the techs had equipment removed and has not had it replaced by the company, please let us know, so that we can work to get that equipment replaced. There was also one vehicle that was red tagged, as the brakes ceased up in the test.

Stan Wylie and I met with Myla Kratzke last month, in a meeting that generated from our members displeasure in being forced to attend United Way meetings. During our meeting Stan once again broached the subject of the CIP and separating out Performance and Attendance. It has been a long time coming, but Myla really seemed to get it. Myla has agreed to separate Attendance and Performance in the BMG – SDC job title. This will mean that an employee can be satisfactory in one category and unsatisfactory in the other.

Michael, Stan and I met with MV Transportation at the beginning of the month. This was our second bargaining unit meeting with them this year. It was nice to see so many of the members attend. We had good meeting, and were able to communicate issues, that are affecting the drivers. Again, Michael, Stan and I left with a laundry list of issues to look into. I want to thank Ann Marie, who was very helpful in coordinating the meeting.

Stan Wylie and Jeanine Maury were recently selected by CWA International, SIF (Strategic Industry Fund) in a call for action to lobby for Health Care Reform.

CWA International, SIF recognized the important contributions that both Stan and Jeanine have made in the ongoing debate over Health Care Reform in America. Both Stan and Jeanine have been actively involved in getting our message out to our members, along with members of Congress and Senate, through meetings, personal letters and other communications.

Stan and Jeanine are joined with 100's of CWA members from around the country in Washington D.C., where they worked along side the AFLCIO and CWA International meeting with and engaging senators who are the key players in reconciling differences in the various legislative proposals on health care reform.

I also want to thank Cathy Sterbens and Stan for all of their assistance in helping to get the storage room cleaned out. We had a small leak last month, and with the potential of moving, I felt that it would be a great time to clean out the storage room. My daughter and her boyfriend came in on the weekend and helped to empty the storage room out. Cathy, Stan and I have been working on it as we could. I was finally able to get the last of it moved to the garage this past weekend.

The budget committee also met this last month. I just want to close by thanking all of the members of the committee, Debbie, Michael, Stan, and Kathy Barker, for all of their hard work in what was a tough job. We had to cut several thousands of dollars from the budget to remain fiscally responsible and operate within our means. The budget committee did an excellent job in working together in balancing those cuts while still meeting our obligations.