

Communications Workers of America
Local Leaders List

August 13, 2008

To: CWA Telecom Vice Presidents
All AT&T Local Presidents

Subject: A Message to AT&T Members from CWA

Dear Colleagues:

Following is our response to the recent remarks by AT&T Vice President Mark Royce. A flyer with the same message is attached. Please make sure all your members see it -- it should be posted in work sites, on local websites, and distributed as widely as possible.

The message reads:

A Message to CWA Members from Your Union

Recently, we heard Mark Royce, vice president of labor relations at AT&T, talk about the recent contract that CWA negotiated with Verizon Communications.

In just a couple of minutes, we heard that AT&T is not Verizon, that AT&T faces competition from the non-union cable industry and that AT&T has worked to make its union workforce a partner in operations.

Was that news to anyone?

Let us be clear: CWA isn't interested in bargaining over the Internet. We'll be bringing our members' critical issues to the bargaining table next year and we'll focus on the need for quality, permanent jobs, opportunity in the jobs of the future, and all our other goals --health care and retirement security, all the issues that matter to working families.

CWA members are determined to gain a fair contract when negotiations get underway next year, a contract that reflects AT&T's profitability as the number one telecom company in local phone and long distance, broadband and wireless services and the value that we bring to AT&T.

We recognize the fact that AT&T doesn't deny employees their bargaining rights; we know that many companies do. But that also means that AT&T reaps the benefit of union members who are committed to providing the quality service that has made AT&T one of the most successful companies in the world.

We know that competition exists in our industry, whether from cable companies or other telecom companies. AT&T isn't alone in that.

Communications Workers of America members are looking ahead to 2009. Mobilization is gearing up in all our districts. Members are wearing red on Thursdays with renewed determination and participating in our mobilization programs. We are 170,000 CWA-strong and together we will win the contract we deserve.

In Solidarity,
Bill Bates
CWA Telecom Director
Attachment
c: CWA Telecom Staff