CWA City Council Picnic

By Jim Kolve Executive Vice President

I want to thank the many volunteers who helped make the picnic a success. The team work that all the members showed helped to make this one of the best picnics I have ever been too. Starting with Mike Smith and Tony Roth they did all the cooking. Dave Hoyt, Eric Watson, Mike Barban, Mark Crawshaw and Nellie Girouard delivered the food, drinks and supplies to the park. Earline Jones bought all the plates, napkins and utensils and served food all day long along with Clara shoals, Nellie Girouard, Nora Nickels and Bradley Harmon. Jimmy Metz picked up the chicken from Hodaks and delivered it out to the park. Vanessa Besser picked up all the kids drinks. Ron Munford, John Ebeling and Mike Songer helped clean up after the picnic was over. All of our volunteers did a great job. Mark Kennon and his daughter handed out tickets all day long along with help from Mary Skaggs. We sent more people into the swimming pool than ever before. Our vendors helped to offset the cost of the picnic starting with Net worth Financial who paid for part of the swimming expense. Keystone financial picked up the cost for the snow cones. Ameriprise financial picked up the cost for the music and Principal Financial bought all the water melons and picked up the cost for part of the entertainment. We had our own CWA union member Brian Kios play the guitar and sing songs for the crowd. We had special guests this year including Claire McCaskil, Sue Schoemel and our very own Karla May who are all running for reelection. Claire stated she was the only candidate running for U.S. Senate that knew what the minimum wage is and did not think it was too high. All her opponents believe the minimum wage is too high. Claire already had my vote but it was nice to see her mingle with the crowd and give so many of our members her attention. We served over 800 pieces of chicken 400 hamburgers and 500 hotdogs 16 cases of beer 60 cases of soda along with 800 kid’s drinks and we drank 29 cases of water and if you didn’t get a snow cone it was because the line was too long. We also had 25 water melons and guess what it was all gone at the end of the day. I would like to again thank all of the union members and city council for all their hard work in making this picnic a great success. Thank you all.

Claire McCaskill- U.S. Senator Missouri and Karla May- 57th District Missouri House Representative attend CWA’s annual picnic to support working families.

Right: Sue Schoemehl, running for Missouri state senate, speaking at CWA Annual Picnic.

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Officers Report

Mark Crawshaw, Vice President

Persistence Pays Off

I just wanted to let you all know that we at the Union are battling daily to get the Company to make MSOC more fair than it has been since it was rolled out. We get numerous calls regarding MSOC and its fairness or lack there of. Sometimes the grievance process can take longer than we hope for. I know that whenever I get a call from a Member, their issue is the most important issue to them. Usually by the time the Member talks to me, they have talked to several other Members regarding their issue and they always think that it should be a slam dunk to win their grievance, at least that is what they are told from other Members. We sympathize with the Members that are being “persecuted” by the Company. We care about each and every one of our Members, and WE WILL do whatever it takes to try to help EVERY Member. We may not be able to get every Member everything that they want or “deserve” but it is not because I didn’t try to the best of my ability. I work for the Members. This company and Corporate America are neither one the same as they were in years past. This current leadership of AT&T came up through the Accounting Ranks and all they know how to do is to save a dime by any means possible. They seemed to have lost their hearts filled with compassion a while back.

One of the points that I wanted to inform the Members about is in the process of taking place. Through the Members filing Grievances and the Union standing up for the Members, the Company has finally decided to get new data for the MSOC times for the Technicians. The Company will be putting people in the trucks with the technician and doing new time studies. We have been fighting for this justice for quite a while now and OUR persistence is finally paying off. The Union demanded changes to this MSOC Tool and the Company finally saw the light. With that being said, I am asking each and every one of the Members that end up participating in this new Time Study, to do EXACTLY what the Safety Procedures say that you are supposed to do. DO NOT skip any steps. Skipping steps is what got technicians the bogus parameters that the Company has been using with this MSOC system. I know that Members 1st priority is their safety and it should always be “Safety First.” You need to go home to your family and loved ones every single night. Along with your personal safety; your family and loved ones also are affected by your Performance Rating at the New AT&T. If you don’t perform up to “their” standards, they have no problem walking you out the door. With this being said, that is why it is so very important that these new time studies need to be real time studies. Each and every one of us can play an important role in getting these numbers closer to where they really need to be. For the record, I am not asking anyone to intentionally slow down when you have a “Time Stamper” with you, I am asking that you follow exactly what the Technician Expectations say that each Technician should do on a daily basis.

This can really be a big step forward for us and it is because of the Members that cared enough to take the time to file a grievance or picked up the phone and voiced their concerns to the Union. The Union really does care about the Members, and this should be some proof of that. Without U, there would be no Union. We need to stick together and remember that our battle is not with each other but with the Evil Empire. The holidays, cooler weather, snow, and contract talks are right around the corner, so lets put our differences aside and talk with the Evil Empire. The holidays, cooler weather, snow, and contract talks are right around the corner, so lets put our differences aside and get on the same page and stand up for what is right not for what is left. United we stand, divided we beg. Don’t forget to wear the Red Shirts and skirts on Thursday and the black shirts and skirts on Friday.
Well it has finally happened. I was informed last week that the Second Injury Fund is officially broke and will no longer pay out any further benefits to individuals who are not already receiving monthly payments at the present time. What this means is that anyone who is awarded money from the State under the law for either permanent total disability or permanent partial disability will not be paid. It is simply a matter of time until the payments that are already being provided to all individuals are discontinued. This means for individuals who have been receiving payments for years and need the money just to survive are at risk to be cut off in the near future.

These individuals are the ones who by Court order have been determined to be disabled from working and are going to be one step closer to losing everything they own. This is simply the harshest result intentionally put into place by Matt Blunt and his Republican dominated House and Senate in 2005. The law change was made with the knowledge that the benefits would run out and they would be hurting the people that have a hard time fighting back, that being the disabled workers of this State. What are you asking has the legislature been doing since 2005 on this issue? Nothing!

You see, not much has changed as the Republican dominated House and Senate still will not fix the problem. This could cause severe hardship for thousands of working men and women.

However, the House and Senate take their marching orders from the employer lobby groups and quite frankly most employers could care less about helping out a disabled worker, even if they are the company that helped cause the disabilities through a work accident. The simple truth is that the companies are not willing to pay the taxes needed to fund the Second Injury Fund. All that would require is to put back the same amount that was cut to cause this problem. However, I would not hold my breath. The legislators know that even if you are not going to vote for them, they will get re-elected anyway. The way the State is so anti-labor and anti-Union makes it difficult to really get many of the people out of office who clearly only represent big business and insurance companies. They often forget about the actual people they are supposed to represent.

If you are receiving benefits or know someone who is getting benefits or if you are an active worker that could get hurt and need these benefits down the road, you might want to consider raising a big fuss over the issue. I would call or write my legislator and let them know that you need these benefits to survive. This is a safety net set up 100 years ago to protect people and now the people in control are simply letting it run out of money. This can be fixed easily but will not happen without a fight. I would certainly encourage everyone to consider this request as it is a benefit you may need at some point. If enough people call, maybe someone will actually do something positive instead of assuming that other welfare programs might be available to help someone who cannot work. By the way, there are no other programs like this one set up specifically for injured workers and the legislators know that to be true. It is just easier in their minds to walk away from the issue and collect big donations from people who simply want to replace workers that are hurt.

The Time is ALWAYS…..

By Gordon Smith, Steward/Mobilization Committee

I hear it said “The time is now!” for us to make our voice heard strong and show that we are one. I do not fully agree, I believe “The Time Is ALWAYS!” As our contract is coming to an end, I know that this is a crucial time for Union Brothers and Sisters to come together and make our battle cry so loud that it can be heard across the nation. Although we should never let the sound of CWA Local 6300 go unheard.

In order to do this, Members must understand that they are not alone in the battle. For every issue that one feels, thousands more feel the same way. The voice of one may not be heard but the voice of many as one can not and will not be ignored. CWA Local 6300 has over 3,800 Members, if half of that number were to stand up and say “NO MORE!” from the top of there voice all at once, how loud would that be? How strong would that be? How strong would you feel to see that many of your brothers and sisters standing and fighting for your cause? How would you feel if you knew that the issue that they just chanted for does not affect them directly, but they chant because they have your back?

You can’t smell a pie that is not baking. No one will know our issues if we don’t make them heard. I am ready to go to battle for you the time is ALWAYS and FOREVER. I have my issues but I want to know yours so I can fight for them as though they are mine, because they are mine.

All I ask is that YOU JOIN ME AND WE WILL STAND TOGETHER AS ONE AND WIN.
The DO’s and DON'Ts of AT&T Mobility

By Jim Kolve, Executive Vice President

Here are some issues I would like for our CWA Union AT&T Mobility Members to be aware of to help you with your career with AT&T. We have had several disciplines over the issue of using a company provided cell phone for personal use. I would suggest refraining from using a company provided cell phone for any personal business. The company can and has taken cell phones from employees and viewed every single picture and text message they have sent and used that against the employee in discipline cases. Please refrain from sending any personal text messages that you do not want the company to see. Sometimes the best way for your Union to represent you is to help you understand what you should not be doing.

The other major issue we have been dealing with in the AT&T Mobility world is the issue of employees looking at their own account without management’s approval. Please remember do not review your account at any time or use your own account to train other employees. Always have a manager assist you when you want to view your account. Remember the company can and will pull reports that show every time you have accessed your own account. Making a change to your own account is considered a violation of the Code of Business Conduct and is a very serious offense which can result in termination of employment. If management gives you permission to access your account, please be certain to get it in writing because they might accidentally forget they gave you permission when asset protection starts knocking on their door.

ACCTT in Jeopardy

By Ron Munford, Chief Steward

ACCTT (Accelerated Technical Training) solicitation has began if you would like to take this company paid instructor led course please contact me as soon as possible and right away at ronmun@swbell.net. This course has many benefits, college credit, A TKT. (Technical Knowledge Test) waiver, tuition reimbursement, a good education to help build your resume for future employment opportunities. The ACCTT course has existed for many years due to our union going to arbitration and forcing the company the company to provide paid training for the TKT (Technical Knowledge Test). There has been a class in St Louis for over 25 years. This year the class is in jeopardy due to not having enough participation, please don’t let that happen. If you are interested email me at ronmun@swbell.net We will hold an orientation August 27th at Florissant Valley Community College. if we have sufficient interest.
I would like to take this time to thank all of our members who support C.O.P.E COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION. We at CWA local 6300 take great pride in our legislative accomplishments and in supporting the legislators who follow through when they tell us they will stand with labor. Without the members donations these politicians might never be able to run for any positions due to the cost. The politicians that oppose workers’ rights and wages have a lot more financial support from corporations, we can not compete solely with monetary donations; we also offer and assist these candidates by doing the hard work for them. This means going to the streets and knocking on doors asking our brothers and sisters in the labor movement to support these candidates or taking the time to call people and let them know why their votes are so important to our cause. It’s as plain as this “we the working class” are going to outwork the rich corporations and millionaires to keep what we have fought for year after year. We may lose some ground but never without a battle. You are the ones keeping this going by supporting our cause with donations of money and time. We at local 6300 are well regarded by most of the politicians in Missouri and federal government positions due to the hard work of our legislative committee and our members commitment of support AGAIN THANK YOU. Now as always we will be phone banking and door knocking for some of these candidates soon. Please contact the legislative committee or local if you can help. It is up to us to get the right candidates in office then it is up to the candidates to follow through on their promises made.

Thank You! Lets Keep it Going!

By Mike Mehringer, President

Left: Mike Mehringer, President, Presents John Ebeling with 60yr pin

Left: Joseph Kupferer, recieving 50yr pin from John Ebeling, Vice President
The meeting was called to order by President Bob Huss. Bob said a prayer and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Bob asked for a moment of silence for former member Bill Machir. There were no new members in attendance. Secretary Nancy Jinkerson read the minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes. Treasurer Nellie Girouard read the Treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

Vice-President Earline Jones introduced the guest speaker Diane Justice who is from the Mid-East Agency on Aging. She discussed the programs offered by the agency for seniors. They offer a meal delivery program similar to “Meals on Wheels.” The programs and services are offered at no charge and are for individuals who are 60 or older and their spouses. She said there is always a need for volunteers. She distributed a brochure that describes all of the services. They work closely with state programs.

Bob Huss discussed the importance of letting people know about these programs. He discussed the Affordable Care Act. Vice President Earline Jones spoke briefly about the Affordable Care Act and shared statistics about how it has already helped people.

A video from the AFL-CIO called “Labor 2012” was shown. It emphasized the reasons we should not vote for Mitt Romney for President and showed several examples of quotes that indicate he is not friendly to labor. A plea was made for people to sign up for the “Labor 2012” campaign.

Shirley Lahey was the only July birthday in attendance and therefore won the monthly cake. Drawings were held and monies were given out as prizes. “White Elephant” items were also awarded as prizes. Bob told a joke. Motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

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CWA 6300 Community Services Cardinals Game Night Out on July 15

BY: Mark Crawshaw, Vice President/Community Service Committee Liaison

On Friday, July 15, 2012 Communications Workers of America Local 6300 Community Services Committee had a night at the ballpark. In an effort to raise additional funds for charitable contribution, the CWA Local 6300 Community Services Committee chose to partner with the St. Louis Cardinals for a group outing at Busch Stadium.

The Committee sold 442 tickets and raised almost $900. This was a great success and a fun night out and we plan to do it again. Thank you so much for your support.

Retirement

BY: Ken Bates, Vice President

On March 30, 2012 Pam Fagan along with several others, retired after being offered a VSP from AT&T. Pam has been a very passionate member of CWA. I have had the pleasure of working with Pam as a Steward for as long as I can remember. In 2009 Pam took over my role as Chief Steward for Local 6300 and we have worked together until the day she retired. She has set an example of what every CWA member should be, and I’m honored to have been able work with her. Congratulations on your retirement.

Called into a meeting with Management?
Could it be Disciplinary?
Are they asking questions that might get someone else in trouble?
Did it start out ok, then turn bad?

STOP the Meeting

Ask for a STEWARD

You are protected by a Federal Law know as the Weingarten Act.
Know your rights... ASK!

Women’s Committee Car Wash

Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Beginning at 4pm at the CWA6300 Local before the General Membership Meeting.
prices are $10 for cars and $20 for trucks or vans.
2012 Labor Day Parade

September 3rd-8:30 AM

We Invite all CWA Members and Family to walk with us in the Labor Day Parade, Downtown St. Louis

This year’s theme is “We are the 99% vote”
Greater St. Louis CWA Council will provide hot dogs and refreshments. First 200 participants receive a free T-shirt
A live band will play on the steps of the Soldiers Memorial immediately following the parade.

Visit www.cwa6300.org for more information and line-up location

Community Services Golf Tournament

September 22

$70 per person
4 person team

Food & Beverages Provided!
Door Prizes and Awards!

Country Lakes Gold Course
Warrenton, Mo
www.countrylakegc.com

11:00 Registration
12:30 Shotgun Start

Contact Jim Kolve to sign up or for more information
314-991-0200
jkolve@cwa6300.org