



Local 6300



Volume 09/No. 02

United We Bargain, Divided We Fail

2016

AT&T Mobility Bargaining - Welcome to the Future of the AT&T

By Jeff Spraul, Chief Steward

“Welcome to the Future” was an advertising tactic that we all heard a million times on our TV’s and radios. Every business was hawking some new product or service that would make us modern and sophisticated somehow. The future was bright and exciting and full of promise when I saw those slick ads. I was pumped up and excited..... I wondered what I was missing out on. What was out there that would make me better looking, make me the life of the party, and best of all make my quality of life better than ever.

I have worked at AT&T for over 15 years now and I have said that slogan to our customers so many times that I have lost count. The difference now is that the future is now longer bright and shiny but is murky with storm clouds on the horizon. Instead of putting on sunglasses to protect me from the shine, I am thinking about closing all the doors and windows and heading down to the basement with the kids and the dog.

This is not something unique to my employer, but is a trend across our entire U.S. economy. We all hear about the need to give back as workers. We are constantly told not to ask for anything more and to be flexible to give back due to “Needs of the Business”. We are told that the most important person in the world is not anyone that works for or uses the services of our

business, but the faceless and nameless stockholders. It is time for workers to take back our rightful place in our businesses and our U.S. economy. We are not “along for the ride”, but are partners in the success of our businesses and our national economy. Workers provide the sweat equity that make any business successful. Businesses are successful because of our time and labor, not in spite of it.

Why is any of this important to any of us as Members of



CWA Local 6300? Some of our Members are in the midst of a crucial contract negotiation. The 2012 Labor Agreement for our members at AT&T Mobility expired February 26. The CWA District 6 Bargaining Committee began meeting with the Company on February 8th. This is the first contract negotiation for AT&T Mobility in this round of contracts. The wireless industry is one of the few that is growing rapidly. AT&T and fellow telecommunication industries have put all of their eggs into the wireless basket.

This contract bargaining is being closely watched by all workers at AT&T and across the entire telecommunication industry. AT&T is well-noted for pattern bargaining. Pattern bargaining means that the same concepts are put forth in every subsequent round of bargaining. What is gained or lost in this round sets the pattern for all subsequent bargaining. The Telecommunications industry is a copycat industry in many ways.

We need to support the AT&T Mobility Contract Bargaining Committee in any way that we can. Mobilization activities have begun in earnest in our retail stores. We encourage all CWA 6300 Members to participate in supporting our fellow Members and the Bargaining Committee by wearing red on Mondays and Thursdays. Please follow the bargaining reports on the CWA Local 6300 Facebook page. The retrogressive proposals made at the current table will make their way to all subsequent bargaining tables if they are successful. We are all completing our “net Promoter Survey” forms at ATT – please indicate that you only will shop at a CWA represented AT&T mobility store and will not shop at an Authorized Retail Store. Lets stand up for our fellow Members at AT&T Mobility !!

United We Bargain Divided We Beg

CWA Scholarship Applications Due by March 31, 2016

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Revealing the Paycheck Deception

By Michael Paplanus, Steward/Legislative Committee

We have arrived at another session where the hard working Missourians are set to endure the merciless and infringing attacks on our freedoms. HB 1891 has gone through its third reading in the House and passed with 110 votes on Thursday, February 18th making it “veto proof”. While this appears to be a devastating blow to the workers, it still has to go thru committee and survive the filibuster. Luckily there are men and women working diligently to thwart the aggressive attacks from those seeking to oppress us. Let us take a quick step back and look at why the Paycheck bill is an affliction the workers and why “paycheck protection” is so aptly dubbed “paycheck deception”.

The Paycheck bills are introduced as a means to “protect” your paycheck by requiring Union Members to actively re-enroll into their Union to pay dues. Each year they would have to visit every member and sign them up for their contributions. The cost would be covered by the Unions. Because Unions exist to protect the working class they are a Not-For-Profit Organization, so this cost would have to come from the dues. This, in turn, limits the funds available to represent the Members in their workplace against unfair or unjust

treatment towards employees. So the resources currently being used to protect and strengthen our workers will be depleted because of increased logistics and administration costs. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Paycheck bills are used as a catalyst and pave the way to Right-to-Work which statistically has proven to benefit the “one percenters” and subjugate hard working Americans.

So I will leave the choice up to the fervently working Union Members to decide on Paycheck Protection or Paycheck Deception with a little help from Dictionary.com.

Paycheck: salary or wages.

Protection: the act of protecting or the state of being protected; preservation from injury or harm.

Deception: something that deceives or is intended to deceive; fraud; artifice.

Personally, with HB 1891 I feel my paycheck will stop going towards the benefits I receive from my Union representation and be forcibly shifted to cover unnecessary and burdensome costs. This bill is deceptive and is a cleverly disguised attack on my Paycheck.



Short Term Disability

By Michael C. Goldberg, Attorney

This month I want to again talk about short term disability. It seems that I receive at least a call or two a week in regard to the denial of short term disability. The way it works is first you apply for disability leave when you are off work due to an illness or injury. That usually requires you to call a disability number and they will send you paperwork. You sign everything and send it in. You of course assume that they will follow up with your doctor to get information but most of the time they will inform you that you are responsible to make sure all the proper medical is submitted. Seems easy enough at that point.

You have your doctor fill out the forms provided and then ask them to submit their records to the disability people for their review. You are thinking it is all good at this point until you notice you are not getting paid and decide to call disability. That is when you are informed that none of the paperwork needed to be sent to them by the doctor has been received. You question the disability people about this as you are pretty certain that the doctor sent them your records explaining your condition and why you are off. The next step is to contact the doctor's office and confirm they sent the records. You call and they in fact tell you it was done. You ask that they resubmit the papers so that the disability provider has a new set. They agree to send it that day. What happens next? You call the next day and the disability person advises you that nothing has been sent. You are upset at your doctor and call them back. They tell you that they sent it again and have the confirmation number. You immediately call your disability group and they swear they do not have anything and that your doctor is sending to the wrong place. You are going crazy at this

point and reconfirm the number and call your doctor's office, who are sick of hearing from you! You beg them to do it again. They agree. You call the disability group. They know tell you they have finally received the records. You think the nightmare is over. Think again.



The disability group having received the records tells you that the records are not sufficient to grant you the disability. They assure you that they will now have one of their doctors' call to talk to your doctor. That will occur in the next 48 hours. So you wait and wait and wait but never hear back. The next thing you get is a denial letter in the mail. The letter states that your doctor never returned the call of the disability doctor and your claim is denied. Then you finally call the Union or someone like me to help. The problem is that there is very little that can be done by the time it gets to that point. The disability group will tell you that you have a right to sue them in Federal Court and good luck with that! So what can you do to increase your odds?

First in dealing with the "we never received anything" issue from the disability people, try your

best to confirm early on when it was sent and to whom. If you can get a copy of your records, do that and tell the nice disability people that you are sending them records yourself. Take the responsibility yourself to get it sent to the right place. In regard to the "we do not have enough information" response, try your best to pin the disability people down as to exactly what is needed. Ask for written confirmation of what is missing so you can get that specifically answered by the doctor. If the adjuster will not provide that, ask for a supervisor. Explain to them that you are gathering everything they want but someone must tell you what is needed. This is not a guessing game. Finally in regard to the doctor to doctor review, let your doctor's office know this is going to happen and that it is important that they respond in a timely manner. Ask the disability people how long your doctor has to respond. Let the office know these guidelines so that they can help you.

In the end, if you do not help yourself and do what disability is supposed to do, you run the risk of a denial. Do not assume they will do their jobs. Their jobs are to deny as many cases as possible and save money.

Next month, I will try and discuss the level of appeals you have in regard to the denial. I hope that you do not reach this point and can fix the issue before you appeal. If you have any questions in regard to this issue or any of the other articles, please feel free to call or send me an email.

Michael C. Goldberg

Attorney at Law

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The AFL-CIO Labor Commission on Racial and Economic Justice

By Sonja Gholston-Byrd, Vice President and CLUW President – St. Louis Chapter

The AFL-CIO Labor Commission on Racial and Economic Justice was held on February 1, 2016 in Saint Louis, Missouri at UFCW Local 655. AFL-CIO International President Richard Trumka and his staff spearheaded the critical collective dialogues between invited Local Union Leaders, rank and file members and the five recognized AFL-CIO minority constituency groups. The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), A. Philip Randolph (APRI), Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU), Pride at Work (PAW) and Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) worked jointly with the commission ensuring that the diversity of each group was equally represented at the table.

As delicate as this topic may be, labor acknowledges that it has to be willing to listen and then address the demands for improvements. The commission's primary objective was to seek solutions for improving and strengthening relationships in the minority communities, expanding leadership roles and growing minority participation in the political arena.

Ensuring that all voices of the community were heard, a public town hall meeting was held for activists and nonunion members to provide an opportunity to speak. It was an honor to be selected as one of six host cities to hold this

special engagement and valued our time spent with President Trumka. We hope for progress and change that will bond us in our forward movement of our renewed friendship.



Pictured above from left to right Keith Robinson, CWA Local 6300 Retiree (President APRI-Saint Louis Chapter), Natasha Pickens, CWA Local 6355 Vice President (CBTU Youth Leader Chair), Floyd Bell, Jr., CWA Local 6300 Vice President, Gordon Smith, Jr., CWA Local 6300 Vice President, (Saint Louis Labor Council Chair/Emerging Labor Leaders), Sonja Gholston-Byrd, CWA Local 6300 (President CLUW-Saint Louis Chapter) and Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO International President.

Safety & Health Committee Updates

By the Safety and Health Committee

CWA Local 6300 has recently had a Health and Safety Committee Meeting, at the Committee Meeting the floor plans were reviewed and evacuation plans will be placed throughout the building as required as well as all fire extinguishers will be labels as well as first aid kits.

After several complaints and some research the building is a "smoke-free workplace" as required in Saint Louis County Department of Public Health Chapter 605 Indoor Clean Code (O-No. 24105) which went into effect in 2011. We hope to be able to rent the hall more since there will not be a smoke smell when Members come to look at the hall and we will see savings in the cost of heating and cooling the building. We are getting signs as required by the ordinance.



ANNUAL CWA LOCAL 6300 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Each year, Local 6300 will offer three (3) college scholarships, each for \$1,500.00 per school year, \$750.00 per semester.

Scholarship eligibility and award criteria are as follows:

- Active CWA Local 6300 Members in good standing, spouse of Member or dependent child who is graduating high school or is currently enrolled full time (minimum of 12 credit hours) in a trade or technical school, college, university or private school.
- Verification of enrollment will be required.
- Money will be held in a trust at the winner's choice of school.
- Only one scholarship will be awarded to a family per year.
- Previous winners of CWA Local 6310, 6320 or 6300's scholarships are ineligible.
- Limit one entry per student.
- Include with the application, an essay of no less than 500 words depicting your personal view on the History of Union and Why Unions are So Critical (parental assistance encouraged).
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Plagiarism will disqualify entry.
- Winners will be determined by merit of qualified applications, judged by the Local's Scholarship Committee and announced at the June 2016 General Membership Meeting.
- Completed application with attached essay on the History of Union and Why Unions are So Critical must be postmarked by March 31, 2016 and mailed to CWA Local 6300, 2258 Grissom Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63146.

CWA Local 6300 Scholarship Official Application for the 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring Semesters

Applicant Information (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

College _____

Member's Information (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

I am an active dues – paying Member in good standing of CWA Local 6300 and the above applicant is either myself, my spouse or my dependent child, who is graduating high school by June 2014 or is currently enrolled full time (minimum of 12 credit hours) in a trade or technical school, college, university or private school.

Member's Signature _____

Next Meetings:

March 16
April 20

Motions January 20

Motion: Motion Jeff Spraul, second Erin Gagnon to send President Meh-ringer to the CWA Telecommunication and Technologies Conference Orlando, Florida from January 31 through February 2, 2016. Estimated cost is \$1,758.60. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Motion Joe Klenc, second Erin Gagnon to purchase a ¼ page ad in the program for \$125 and two tick-ets at \$35 each for The Missouri Al-liance of Retired Americans Annual Luncheon to remember Robert Kort-kamp will be held on March 24, 2016 at The Christy's. Cost is \$195. **Motion carried.**

Motions February 17

Motion: Motion Earline Jones, sec-ond Joe Stout to purchase a full page ad for \$150 for the CLUW Brunch at CWA Local 6300 on Saturday, March 19, 2016. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Motion Jeff Spraul, second David Wilkerson to send Mike Meh-ringer, Tori Pratt and Mike Lavoie to the 2016 Missouri Joint Legisla-tive Conference – Jefferson City, MO – meeting on evening of Sunday, 4/2/2016; Conference is 4/3/2016 through 4/6/2016. Approximate cost is \$3,318.00. Mike is going up for the MPLC meeting because Bard Harmon, the President is stepping down and Mark Crawshaw the Vice President will be appointed and is out of town at that time. **Motion carried.**

Motion: Motion Doug Hull, second Mike Hensel to do a \$125 sponsorship in honor of Bill Morton, 2016 Labor/ United Way Fundraiser Trap Shoot & Barbecue. **Motion carried.**



Please see your Union Steward to submit notices of deaths, retirements, disabilities, or other announcements within your office.

New Members January 20

AT&T Telephone

Travis Aleridge	James Lucchesi
Brian Armstrong	Luke Mayes
Henry Bauer	Andrew McKim
Thomas Benson	Jordan McNeil
Reginald Bond	Bryan Mojaamad
Richard Brian	Marion Mondaine
Josh Briscoe	Luis Pine
James Cooper	Kevin Pothetos
Hiawatha Davis	Christopher
Jared Dietrich	Ray Brett
Micah Draper	Robertson
Jeremy Ferguson	Jsutin Robison
Tranasha Fields	Andrew Roth
Kirk Gibson	Justin Schneider
Tehodore Hankins	Ronald Schwartz
Chad Harrell	Jeffrey Shorman
Ali Ibn	Richard Stokes
Christopher Kenski	Brandon Stone
Scott King	Joshua Stone
Daniel Kish	Darren Thompson
Jesse Komero	Jonatha Wilkerson
James Lackland	Alexander Wolf

AT&T Mobility

Jessica Bowers	Dillon Lloyd
Joseph Brajdich	Kayu Lui
Alyssa Casucci	Gregg Sanford
Justyn Gerson	Timothy Slaughter
Robert Inkler	Krystal Theison
Tijon Jones	Brittney Walsh
Ashley Lawson	

YP Holding LLC

David Humm

Verizon

Joseph Best	Steven Langley
William Cummings	Steven McNeal
Jacquelyn Davis	John Rombakas
Ryan Jones	Hope Royston

Members' Losses

Jeff Allan	Mother
Holly Debard	Mother
Pamela Everton	Mother
Erin Gagnon	Grandmother-in-law
Klynetta Hayes	Mother
Michael Musgraves	Mother
Susan Terry	Father
Earline Thomas	Sister
Rachel Washinton	Grandmother
Andrew Weinstein	Mother
Kimberly Wiles	Father
Carla Wingbermuehle	Father
Jerry Withers	Father

New Members February 17

AT&T Telephone

Justin Cavins	Carl Merriwether
Zach Eikermann	Ryan Moss
Steven Evans	Clifford Nolle
Curtis Friedmann	Todd Otto
Zach Kendrick	Eddy Samariego
Philip Lemus	Jason Schrepp
Salvador Lopez	Jaron Theissen
Jose Ollarzabal	Judd Weible

AT&T Mobility

Brittany Boyce	Angela Rudolphi
Ryan O'Hearn	

Retiring

Michael McGuire	10/9/2015
Timothy Dwiggin	1/22/2016
Gary Green	1/28/2016
Tracy Dickherber	1/29/2016
Lee Dunn	1/29/2016
Rhonda Mendel	1/29/2016
John Pasch	1/29/2016
Michael Walgate	2/1/2016
Linda Inman	2/8/2016
Patricia Vaughan	2/8/2016
James Panteleo	2/10/2016
George Cremer	2/12/2016
Gene Becker	2/13/2016
Linda Elliott	2/13/2016
Melanie Graymire	2/13/2016
Constance Speer	2/13/2016
Della Lee	2/18/2016
Paulette O'Brien	2/19/2016
Carrol Southall	2/19/2016
Karen Stovall	2/19/2016
Rosemary Thomas-Simmons	2/19/2016
Katherine Ayers	2/20/2016
Kim Fearn	2/20/2016
Erika Galligani	2/20/2016
Roemary Demitroff	2/26/2016
Jo Wise	2/26/2016
Leanne Garrison	2/29/2016
Kevin Bowdoin	3/4/2016
John Hoesch	3/16/2016

In Sympathy

Victor Cooper	Retiree
Gary Depriest	Retiree
Jacquelyn Gansmann	Retiree
Wilson Mann	Retiree
Greg Varchetti	Retiree

Retiree Meetings

March 14
& April 11

Meeting 11:30 / Lunch 12:00

Meeting Location
2258 Grissom Dr.

***\$12 charge per person.
Bring a guest but make
reservations:***

Bob Huss - 636-947-4299

BHuss6350@sbcglobal.net

Earline Jones 355-6860

Nellie Girouard

314-739-0317

Nancy Jinkerson

314-809-3264

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Huss. He said a prayer and led everyone in the Pledge of

Retirees Meeting January 11, 2016

Allegiance to our flag. He asked for a moment of silence for the deceased: Brian Fletcher and Esther Greer. Bob Huss shared a few thoughts about Brian Fletcher and Nancy Jinkerson spoke about Esther Greer. There were no new members present.

Secretary Nancy Jinkerson read the minutes of the December meeting and announced the menu for the lunch. A motion was made seconded and passed to approve the minutes as read. Nellie Girouard read the Treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the report. One of the members pointed out that the calendar in the CWA newsletter showed the February retirees meeting as February 15th. As the chapter meets on the second Monday that date should read February 8th.

Bob introduced State Representative Bill Otto who is running for the 2nd District US Congressional seat currently held by Ann Wagner. Mr. Otto spoke about where he stands on several issues including being courted by lobbyists. He talked about the need for Democrats

in office as they are the most friendly to labor Unions and seniors. He will be holding a Trivia Night on February 27th in Lemay to raise money for his campaign.

Earline Jones gave the Vice President's report. She talked about the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the adverse effect it would have on everyone, particularly with regard to prescription costs, even generics. She announced there would be a rally at 12 Noon at the Thomas Eagleton Building, protesting the agreement.

Bob expanded on Earline's remarks and further outlined their effects of the TPP. He stressed the importance of staying informed on the issues and supporting candidates who have our best interests at heart.

The monthly drawing for the birthday cake was won by Ron Zimmerman. Drawings were held and monies were given out as prizes.

Bob told a joke and a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Bingo was played afterwards.

Retirees Meeting February 8, 2016

Retirees Meeting February 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Huss. He said a prayer and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

A moment of silence was done for the deceased: Jackie Gansmann. Bob Huss and Nancy Jinkerson both spoke about her. Bob read a note from Carol Schmidt about Jackie. Also deceased: Carl Roy, Larry Kiefer, Rich Terry and Katie Marcus. He also asked for prayers for Members who are ill.

Secretary Nancy Jinkerson announced the lunch menu and read the minutes of the January meeting. With no corrections or additions offered a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as read. Nellie Girouard gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the report as presented.

Bob shared a note from Ray Kramer regarding the passing of Laura Lynn who was originally from St. Louis but moved to Houston Texas and became President of the Retirees Chapter there.

Bob introduced Tony Hill who in turn introduced Keith Robinson. Mr. Robinson is the Chairman of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute Chapter in St. Louis. In honor of Black History Month he shared information about A. Phillip Randolph who was an early pioneer of the civil rights movement as well as a labor leader. Tony Hill was a former President of the St. Louis Chapter. Among his many other accomplishments he was the organizer of the March on Washington in 1963 which was the scene of Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" speech. The A. Phillip Randolph Institute is a politically active organization. Among the issues they are active with is the proposed legislation which would require a state issued photo ID in order to vote. Ron Munford showed a short video of an interview with Mr. Randolph.

Bob Huss spoke about how greed affects the actions of people with regard to where they make purchases and with how they feel about health care. He talked about the continued attacks on

labor unions and on universal health care. He urged everyone to stay aware of the fight and contact their legislators both state and national. He discussed the negative stigma against the term "socialist".

Bob shared that the chapter received a thank you letter from the USO for the \$300 donation from the chapter.

The monthly drawing for the birthday cake was won by Mike Mueller.

Drawings were held and monies were given out as prizes. Bob reminded everyone that it was call in day as sponsored by the AFL-CIO. It is a day to call your Senator and tell them to vote no on any further trade agreements.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women will be celebrating women's history in March.

They will be having a brunch at the CWA Union Hall on March 19th. Tickets will be \$25 each.

Bob told a joke and a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Bingo was played afterwards.

6300



Communications Workers of America
Local 6300

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St. Louis, MO 63146-3309

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**The Annual
CWA 6300 Kids
Easter Egg Hunt!**


Visit from the Easter Bunny
Magic Show at 12:30pm
Face Painting
Balloon Sculptor
Age Limit 10
Saturday, March 26
12:00 noon to 2:00pm
Call 314-991-0200 to RSVP
by March 18, Leave Members
Name, Contact # & Childs Name



Location: CWA Local 6300 Membership Hall
2258 Grissom Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63146
in house printing: lmm/apeiu#13

**CWA Local 6300
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
Day at the Ballpark**
to Benefit Community Services Committee
June 5th, 2016 1:15pm

**St. Louis
Cardinals
vs.
San Francisco
Giants**



Sections 127, 128, 129, 130 & 131
\$35 per ticket
(\$63 @ the box office)

For tickets please contact Tori Pratt at
CWA Local 6300
314.991.0200 ext. 245