

### Retire or Not \$\$\$

The Local office has contacted Harford Financial Group to assist our members with this decision. There are 2 Free workshops scheduled for members to attend to get a better understanding of retirement issues, processes and investment planning. Even if you are not eligible to retire any time soon they can assist you

in looking at your current investments and advising you on a better strategy for you to have enough in your 'nest egg' when the time finally comes. This is not an issue you can put off until later. You need to be planning and investing in your future. Every member should be taking advantage of the 401K the company offers.

Workshops are; Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at the Residence Inn, Arundel Mills Blvd, Hanover. or Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at Country Inns and Suites, Bel Air.

Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call 410-838-2992 or 1-800-452-2992.

Both workshops begin at 5:00

### Verizon/Comcast Cable Deal

Currently the Department of Justice, Federal Communications Commission and the Attorney General are reviewing a tentative deal between the 2 companies. Make sure you understand, this is not a good deal for our members. This would stop any future build-outs of Fiber in areas that currently aren't scheduled for deployment. It gives Comcast the ability to sell our wireless service to their customers and Verizon can sell Comcast where fiber is not deployed. This is especially not good for

consumers. What happened to fair competition?

This is only one of the issues that CWA has been in the forefront fighting on a political basis. We see the looks every time politics are mentioned. We all need to be aware that elections need to take a back seat to other issues that come up in this arena. We need to take a hard look at issues that affect our jobs, our families and our future. There is also an 'Off Shoring' bill that is coming up to keep our call centers in America and not be sent to a 3rd world country

so that corporations can't cut good jobs in the USA. Were you aware that every year on the MD State level a 'Right to Work' bill is discussed in Annapolis?

Again, these are just a few issues that WE need to be aware of and what is being proposed as legislation. So, when we ask you for help in contacting your Representative on an issue, by phone or mail, it is to benefit the membership and not always on an election candidate!

### What You and Others Can Do To Help...

Leave a Message:  
Fight the Verizon/Cable Deal!  
Call Congress now at 888-516-5820.

(Call the 888 number first. If that number stops working, call the Congressional switchboard directly at 202-225-3121.)

[www.verigreedy.com](http://www.verigreedy.com)



Official quarterly newsletter of the Communications Workers of America Local 2100

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# The Sentinel

Communications Workers of America  
Local 2100  
Box F, Chase, MD 21027

### 2012 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DATES

#### Bel Air

Monday, September 10, 2012

Door Open 7:00 PM

Knights of Columbus 4714 23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, MD

#### Baltimore

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Doors Open 5:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall 1010 Frederick Rd.—Catonsville

#### Westminster/Frederick

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Doors Open 6:00 PM

VFW Post #467 519 Poole Rd., Westminster, MD

### When We Get a Contract

As we get closer to securing a contract with Verizon we need to prepare for our role as members moving forward. Once CWA has a 'tentative agreement' the membership has to vote on the proposed contract. If we have the information prior to the 'General Membership' meetings we will cover it at that time. In the

event that we do not have the information prior at those meetings the Local will schedule a separate contract explanation meeting. The contract information will also be posted on the Local's website.

The next step will be for the Local to send out ballots to members in good standing to vote on the contract to ratify

it or decline it. This vote tally will be part of the overall count in Dist 1 and 2-13. We will post the results of the vote count on the website when it is done along with the overall count from the other areas.

This will be your opportunity to voice your opinion on your contract for the future.

President's Corner.....

Kevin Miller



As we look to the end of Summer with the Labor Day holiday upon us and await the change of the seasons Fall and Winter are just around the corner. I want to look toward the future and let the past be the past. I know a lot of you have been wondering what has happened in this round of bargaining? Why did we come back off of strike 12 months ago? What has changed in negotiations that 14 months in we still don't have an agreement? All of which are good questions and many answers could be discussed as to the solutions. That was then and this is now.

In the past few weeks we have had Denise Burns and Les Evans doing garage visits with us. They had spent the last 14 months in Rye, N.Y. negotiating with the company trying to get all of us an agreement. They brought information about bargaining up to the point of mediation. If you have seen the web site it is clear that a 'gag order' was placed on the Union and the company and no further information is available. Denise and Les discussed what the company was asking the members to 'give back' from previous contracts. They tried to answer everyone's questions so that we all would understand the battle that was waged by the company. I would like to thank Denise and Les in attending the garages and educating our members that cared to listen.

In an effort to get information to the membership in a more direct and timely fashion we have just completed an e-mail program that will help us tremendously. We had tried the mass text messaging, Facebook, Twitter and word of mouth. None of these seemed to work the way we wanted. So, with direct e-mail, if we have your personal address, we will send you information directly. We will keep these to quality information and not inundate you

with junk. If you have received the information then you have the option—you can read it or delete it. Either way the information will be going out. If you would rather not have the information sent to you all you need to do is contact the Local and we will remove you from the mailing list. Again, it's your choice. If we don't have your e-mail address and you would like to receive the alerts please call the hall and give us your personal address.

By the time we get to the next round of General Membership meetings a couple of committees will be completing some unfinished business. Gary Kelso and the Community Services Committee will have selected the next candidate for our Annual Scholarship Award. They will also be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to local families in need. Look for the boxes in a work site and make a donation to a worthy cause. Chuck Dobry and the Budget and Finance committee have met previously to review vouchers at the Local and will meet again to set the Budget for 2012-2013 fiscal year. We could always use help on committees and a few members have been contacted to see if they would step up and help out. We still have openings on the Legislative Committee and other positions and always need good ideas at the Local.

In closing, I would like to thank Tim Gordon, our EVP, and Chuck Dobry, our Sect/Treasurer, for running the last quarters General Membership meetings in my absence. Thanks Tim and Chuck for your help.

Kevin Miller  
President  
Local 2100

Retirees Corner

by Tom Thomson

- Retirees Crab feast is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 1:00 pm—?? It will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1010 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, Md. Tickets will be \$20.00 per person so if you are interested please contact Ginny at the Union hall at 410-335-2100.
- A group of 5—8 Retirees have been 'Informational Picketing' in front of the Wireless store at Festival Mall in Bel Air every Friday from 12—2. This group has been out there for a year and will continue this activity until we get a contract. If you happen to be in the area stop by, if you can't stop beep your horn as you go by, let them know we appreciate what they are doing to assist us with our contract.

The Local would like to thank this group of retirees for their dedication and perseverance.

Tom Thomson  
President of CWA 2100 Retirees' Club  
410-925-3759 (Cell Phone)

First Place to No Place for FiOS

As we approach our Labor Day Weekend we are still without a contract and the City of Baltimore doesn't have FiOS, yet Verizon has the audacity to sponsor an Indy Car in the Baltimore Grand Prix. Being a corporate sponsor doesn't come cheap either. According to an article in CNN Money it costs more than \$200 Million to be a corporate sponsor. Last year the #12 Verizon Wireless car won the Baltimore Grand Prix, but the citizens of Baltimore are still on the losing end as they have no consumer choice in who can provide them with a "Triple Play" other than Comcast.

According to census data approx. 650,000 people live in Baltimore City. In a recent conference call on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 our beloved CFO Francis Shammo brags about our increase in FiOS ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) to \$149 per month, but Verizon would rather participate in a spectator sport that costs them more than \$200 million rather than rake in approx. \$96,850,000 per month in FiOS revenue. CFO Shammo even stated in the same conference call "We estimate that about 65% of the overall Wireline revenue decline this quarter was a result of our own deliberate actions....." (<http://seekingalpha.com/article/732401>).

"Before YOU BUY the BULL ask Where's the Beef"