



Official quarterly newsletter of the Communications Workers of America Local 2100

410-335-2100

410-335-0414 (fax)

mail@cwa2100

www.cwa2100.org

The Sentinel

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

2012 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DATES

Bel Air

Monday, June 3, 2013

Door Open 7:00 PM

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

Baltimore

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Doors Open 5:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall 1010 Frederick Rd.—Catonsville

Westminster/Frederick

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Doors Open 6:00 PM

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

WE would like to discuss the proposed by-laws changes at each meeting in June.

For the Members

We are currently looking to hold more events that our members and possibly their families could come together and interact together.

We are looking at the Gunpowder State Park Hammerman area for a cook-out and also the Bengies Drive-In theater in the Spring of 2014 for a full day event that could include activities for the children, sponsor vendors and of course a movie. This may be one of

the last drive-in theaters in the state and there is no telling how long it will be in operation.

All these events will be at little or no cost to our members in good standing. As we can get things scheduled and details worked out we will get the information out to you.

If you have any additional ideas or would care to assist us with the plans and events please let us know.

The intent is to get Local 2100 members together and give each of us the opportunity to get to know the other members that maybe we only talk to each other on the phone or get to meet on rare occasions.

If you have additional ideas for events like the cook-out or drive-in please contact the hall and give us your ideas or to volunteer to assist with the planning or coordination of an event.

Family Picnic Scheduled

On Saturday, September 28th, 2013 Local 2100 will sponsor a picnic for our members in good standing at the Hammerman Area State Park. The cost will be \$5.00 per member in good standing for

them and their family. Please call the hall and talk to Ginny for the details and any questions you may have or to order your ticket. This is an outside event with a pavilion but come prepared to be outside. The flyer with your ticket attached

will have some additional details. Come out and bring your family and let's have some fun, dunking booth, moon bounce, activities for the kids.

USA Trap Shoot Cont.....



Event Trailer for the day of the shoot.



Chuck Dobry, Tom Baumer, Chris Ward and Dirk Schepplmann (not pictured Mike Arcscott)



Doug McKenzie, Gary Kelso, Neil Thomas, Brian Pritt and Kevin Miller

Officers

President

Kevin Miller

Ex. Vice President

Tim Gordon

Sec./Treasurer

Charles Dobry

District 1 VP

Mike Somers

District 2 VP

Nick Riddle

District 3 VP

Bryan Wholey

Local 2100 Scholarship

Members, keep in mind that the Local 2100 Scholarship is approaching again this year. If you are a current scholarship winner all you need to do is submit your G.P.A. and enrollment qualifications. New applicants must submit an essay on your Major and career goals for the future.

Information can be found at cwa2100.org, look in Forms

and Contracts and then in Member Forms and click on Scholarship guide. Currently there is the 2012 version but we will post the 2013 as soon as it becomes available.

All information should be sent directly to the hall and please call after you have sent it to confirm that it was received or place a note inside and we will contact you when

we receive the information. This Scholarship is designated at \$1,000.00 per year for up to 4 years. Get your information submitted and good luck in this endeavor and all of your future plans.

If you have any questions please contact the hall at 410-335-2100 or email at mail@cwa2100.org.

President's Corner.....

Kevin Miller



Many changes are occurring under the Verizon footprint and with a new contract in place Verizon has every intent on using language they got through bargaining. One of the first things they have accomplished is to remove folks from the payroll if they have been on (restricted duty) light duty for 150 days. On day 151 the company has seen fit to place these folks on an unpaid leave of absence for up to 52 weeks then they will be completely removed from payroll if they can't resume full duty at their current job position.

The company had also tried to divide us further on the Home Garaging Trial. With the Home Garaging Trial we (the Union) want this available to everyone that drives a fleet vehicle and not just the select few the company has determined this would apply too. It was not offered to construction, specific garages for I & M, or based on your home location.

The company must have also found in the lint of their pockets some money they didn't know they had because they are in the process of installing advanced GPS units on fleet vehicles and have stated that they will be on every vehicle by the end of the year including managers vehicles. These units don't just track the vehicle's location they are also used to monitor the vehicle for any type of mechanical issues that could be arising and also to assist with scheduling maintenance for vehicles. These units can also be equipped with a forward facing camera and the unit is in constant record mode by recording over itself. But it will lock in video if there is any abrupt action of the vehicle - sudden stop, jerk of the steering wheel, etc. It will save the 10 seconds of prior video and also 5 additional seconds of video after the incident along with an angled camera to view the drivers actions during the incident.

According to the LOU (letter of understanding) the company should not use the gps unit by itself for discipline including detour and frolic. It would have to be used in cooperation with another form of discovery for discipline.

Another issue that we were made aware of is that the company plans on recording the pre and post calls that technicians are required to do from the field.. They want to push everything to the limit.

One of the positive things coming around is the trial of an HSI Call center to bring work back to bargained for members and take the work away from the contractors currently doing the work. This

would employ approx. 60 additional full-time Fiber Support analysts. Applicants for these jobs would have to pass testing and be qualified for the work. The company may also hire from the outside for these positions.

One of the biggest obstacle that we face in our Union, I believe, is communication. Members need to communicate with the stewards, stewards need to communicate with the D.V.P.s and the D.V.P.s need to communicate with the Hall, the hall with the district office and information must flow back to the membership. Without getting a feel overall of what the company is doing it makes everyone's job harder. We have to figure out is it an isolated incident in a garage with a specific manager or could this issue be across the whole district or state involving everyone or even a company wide initiative? The other half of this is divulging the whole truth of a situation and not leaving some of the important facts out of the story. Without the complete story it may as well be a lie and it really becomes hard to help folks when we don't get the full story. This would apply to everything from filing a grievance, to seeing a contractor doing our work, to inappropriate things at work centers. If you see something you aren't sure of, please contact the Hall and see if we can help you. Communicate with each other.

Another obstacle or a concept that has been neglected lately is a respect issue. This goes from the field to the hall. We should all respect what the other people are doing and what it might take to do their job. The grass isn't always greener on the other side, and one job is not more important than another. We all need to work together with each other through-out the Union structure. A Fios tech is not more important than a copper tech and a splicer is not more important than a service tech. Sometimes we think that we are or should be - but without the other the circle would never be complete. We need to focus on how our actions may effect another job title or organization. It shouldn't be just what's in it for me - it should be what would be good for everyone. Let's work together and help each other and lets get out of the ME and I mentality and go to the we and US.

I would like to close this article with my deepest thanks to a couple of groups of members that have finally had enough of the bullying tactics of this company and actually stood up for themselves. I must say that I couldn't be prouder of them. I'm sure most of you heard me say things don't usually get fixed over the phone anymore with this company. If the bully keeps pushing eventually you have to push back. Talk is cheap and when you are ready to put the rubber on the road we can make this company respect the members again. Some things could be painless for us to do you just need to be willing to take a stand.

Retirees Corner

by Tom Thomson

If you are a recent retiree and interested in joining the club please contact Tommy Thomson at 410-925-3759 (cell)

Enjoy your summer!!!!!!

USA Trap Shoot

On Saturday April 27th the Local sponsored 2 teams to attend the U.S.A. shooting event that was held at Carney Rod and Gun Club in the Parkville area. A total of 10 shooters attended this event from our Local. The shooters were Gary Kelso, Chris Ward, Neil Thomas Brian Pritt, Doug McKenzie, Tom Baummer, Mike Arscott, Chuck Dobry, Dirk Scheppelmann, and Kevin Miller. The weather was excellent for the shoot. Your Local teams won 1st and 2nd place in the 'B' class category. This was a 5 man team, 5 station trap shoot with 25 targets per round and 2 rounds were shot that day for scores. Special thanks to to Dave Murphy and LuAnne Miller for coming out and supporting the shooters even though they didn't shoot that day.. U.S.A. is the Union Sportsman Alliance and they promote hunting, fishing and outdoor activities through television in co-operation with other Unions, Union related products and supplies.

There are a couple of upcoming events that we would like our members to participate in or if you have an event that the Local could sponsor some folks please contact the Hall or your DVP with the information. There will be a Golf tournament sponsored by the AFL-CIO in the future and it will be played at Rocky Point Golf Course on Back River Neck Rd in Essex. We are looking for 2 teams of 4 persons that would consist of members that enjoy playing golf and can take the time to come out and spend the day with fellow Union members. More details will be out or you can contact the Hall at 410-335-2100.