

### Take me out to the Ball Game....



On Friday, June 22nd the Baltimore Orioles take on the Washington Nationals. The Local only has about 30 tickets

left that members can purchase for only \$6.00 a seat. If you are interested in attending the game with your Union brothers and sisters and their families please call the hall to get your tickets.

The tickets are part of the AFL-CIO Union night at the Yard. With each ticket purchased \$1.00 goes toward the Commu-

nity Services Committee for the AFL-CIO.

Come out at watch the Birds battle the Nats with your family or grab a few co-workers and enjoy the festivities at the Yard. The game starts at 7:05. You will also be helping the less fortunate families in the area with your ticket purchase.

### Summertime is Vacation Time... Union Style

As summer approaches, many of us are look forward to spending a much needed relaxing vacation with our families. However, with tight budgets and ever rising fuel costs we all are looking for the biggest bang for our bucks. Well look no further, because being a union member allows you access too many money saving ideas. For example @ <http://unionplus.tradingplaces.com/> here's a deal for you and your family. (click on Hot Deals)

**Lakeview Manor Club** - Freeport, Bahamas, **Dates:** Jul 20, 2012 - Jul 27, 2012 **Retail: \$693.00** **Size:** 1 Bedroom Sleeps 4 **Special: \$416.00** **Occupancy:** 4



Or if you want to enjoy your vacation stateside there's the [Workingadvantage.com](http://Workingadvantage.com) to view such deals as:

**Six Flags America (UpperMarlboro,MD)**  
**Member Price: \$31.99** (Regular price\*: \$56.99, including tax)

**Ripley's Aquarium (Myrtle Beach, SC): Adult 2 Attraction Combo Pass**  
**Member Price: \$25.00** (Regular

price: \$32.24)

**Ripley's Aquarium (Myrtle Beach, SC): Child 2 Attraction Combo Pass**  
**Member Price: \$14.34** (Regular price: \$19.34)

For more money saving ideas check-out [Union Plus.org](http://Union Plus.org)

Check out their website for additional savings and ideas for members to get away with their families and enjoy a relaxing vacation.

Union Plus also has additional deals on everyday items from companies that offer Union members discounts.

### Know Your Rights...

With the added pressure that being placed on every member you should know some of your rights. Anytime you are asked to have a discussion with management, and YOU feel that this could lead to discipline, it is your Federal Right under 'Weingarten' to have a Union rep present. Remember,

you must ask for a rep, the company doesn't have to inform you. This applies to any discussion or announced investigatory meeting. **Do not let the company appoint a steward for you, call the hall immediately.** Your answer should be that you are not refusing to answer

their question but you will do so with a steward present. Also, don't sign any document or fill out a statement until a steward has had a chance to review it.

Contact your steward or the hall if you have any questions.



Official quarterly newsletter of the Communications Workers of America Local 2100

410-335-2100

410-335-0414 (fax)

mail@cwa2100

www.cwa2100.org

#### Officers

##### President

Kevin Miller

##### Ex. Vice President

Tim Gordon

##### Sec./Treasurer

Charles Dobry

##### District 1 VP

Mike Somers

##### District 2 VP

Dave Whilden

##### District 3 VP

Nick Riddle

##### District 4 VP

Bryan Wholey

##### District 5 VP

Vacant

# The Sentinel

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

### 2012 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DATES

#### Bel Air

Monday, June 4, 2012

Door Open 7:00 PM

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

#### Baltimore

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Doors Open 5:30 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall 1010 Frederick Rd.—Catonsville

#### Westminster/Frederick

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Doors Open 6:30 PM

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

### Membership Meetings

Information for these meetings should be getting to our membership in many ways. Everyone is sent a newsletter, postings should be on bulletin boards, it is posted on the web site and you should be hearing through word of mouth. I even know of a few individuals in the local that send the information to mem-

bers on their own email list. So it becomes very difficult to hear someone say they didn't hear about the meetings.

A lot of topics are discussed at the meetings and it's a good time to voice your opinion. It is also hard to ask your co-worker what went on since a lot of information goes out and a lot of topics are dis-

cussed. So, if you plan on attending please invite someone to come with you. So don't be surprised if you get that special tap on the shoulder to come to the meeting from someone!

Come to a meeting, it's your meeting, for your Local, for your issues!

## President's Corner.....

Kevin Miller



Changes, changes and more changes. That is really the only thing that seems to be consistent in Verizon. I would agree that some of these seem to be positive but so many of these changes have everyone scratching their heads going 'what were they thinking?'. Let me give you a few examples. The decision to stop the fiber build and get more customers on the existing fiber network...(wvtt?). The forced migration of customers to the 'fiber network' if they have called in a trouble or happen to be in an area that had a lot troubles in the past...(wvtt?). Are they trying to get these migrated customers on a non-regulated network (VOIP) to get out from under the PSC or MD lawmakers? The decision to out bid themselves on large business customers to get out of the contracts they had secured...(wvtt?). How about all of the service that Verizon Wireless offers to get customers to do away with their landlines and go strictly to a mobile phone? Hey Lowell, what is the current asking price for the landline business that you are trying to sell or are you hoping for a merge with someone like Comcast? The constant shuffle of technicians from one organization to another. Now, this isn't an all bad idea. Moving the VCSI technicians to the core company. Realizing their error in moving technicians that worked in construction to copper or FIOS and now moving them back to their original assignments. These are just a few of the changes, good and bad, and I am sure each member can think of a lot more that they have experienced themselves. The saying was 'if you didn't like Maryland weather just wait 5 minutes and it will change' doesn't seem to apply to Verizon...they have a 1 minute clock!

Now let's talk about bargaining. I am sure this is something that is on everyone's mind. All of the

Bargaining reports that we receive at the Local for core or VCSI is posted to the Local's website. Any information that the Local receives is put out through the DVPs. There was a meeting scheduled with Ed Mooney, who is the EVP for District 2-13 and is involved with this round of bargaining, and the Bargaining committee for D 2-13. We were informed on how the bargaining was progressing and a few thoughts from the committee. The shocking part from them was the company was informing them that there was no activity from the membership and couldn't figure out why the committee was bargaining so hard. "Your members don't mind paying for their benefits" is what they were told. I don't know about you, but why should we pay for anything when this company (in the wired business) is making money. I could understand if the company was going broke but they're not. They gave the CEO \$23.1 million for whatever it is that he does! You are the ones that make this company what it is, not him. SO if you don't mind paying for benefits keep doing nothing. If you are ready to keep what we have and not lose in this round of bargaining then we better start standing together to secure the future for ourselves and for our families. The Bargaining team is looking at ways to put pressure on the company and force them to give us a contract that we deserve. More information will be discussed at the membership meetings. I have heard from our members that maybe we should have stayed on strike a little longer or done other things. I am not saying I disagree with some of the ideas I heard, but that is the past, it was decided at a higher level than me and we need to move forward and help get a contract that we can all live with.

Kevin Miller

President Local 2100

## Retirees Corner

by Tom Thomson

Every Friday from 12pm to 2pm the Retirees have been picketing the Verizon Wireless store near the Festival Mall in Bel Air. We have been diligent with this, since the strike ended. If you happen to be in the area and would like to stop by please do so and show the Retirees some thanks for keeping the fight.

The Retirees had a spring luncheon on May 16th and 25 retirees attended. Sue Anderson, CWA Healthcare Coordinator, came to the luncheon and answered some health care questions and even talked on how retiree health care could be effected in this round of bargaining. Thanks Sue!

If you would like to join the Retiree Club, find out the next event to attend or help in some way please contact me.

Tom Thomson

President of CWA 2100 Retirees' Club

The Union Fisherman

*A union guy was enjoying his long weekend off, enjoying a relaxing time fishing on a local lake when he hears someone call out to him, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised my golfing buddies I would meet them at the country club in half an hour, but I don't know where I am."*

*The union guy says: "Yes I can help. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering approximately five meters above this water. You are between 27 and 28 degrees latitude South, and between 24 and 25 degrees longitude East."*

*" You must be a union guy," says the balloonist.*

*"I am," replies the man. "How did you know?"*

*"Well," says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but I have no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I am still lost."*

*"The union guy says, "You must be a manager."*

*"I am," replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"*

*"Well," says the man, "you don't know where you are, or where you are going. You have made a promise which you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. The fact is you are in the exact same position you were in before we met, but now it is somehow my fault."*