



LOCAL 7901 The Grapevine

November/December 2010

Serving Oregon & Southwest Washington—Serving You!

November/December 2010

Communications Workers of America Local 7901

2950 SE Stark Street, Suite 100

Portland, OR 97214

Office: 503.238.6666

Com Line: 503.238.7901

www.cwa7901.org

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CALENDAR

December

2nd—Executive Board

6:30 p.m.

**9th—Combined November/
December Membership Mtg**

7:00 p.m.

6401 SE Foster Rd.

January

20th—Executive Board

6:30 p.m.

10011 SE Division St.,
Suite 302, Portland, OR

27th—Membership Mtg

7:00 p.m.

10011 SE Division St.,
Suite 302, Portland, OR

LOCAL BUSINESS

Our Local office is moving on January 7-8, 2011, to a new larger location at 10011 SE Division St., Suite 302, just east of the 205 interchange. We are looking for help in the move—please call Madelyn at the Local for more information on packing, loading, unloading, unpacking and snacks for volunteers opportunities. The new space includes spacious meeting rooms for committees, the Executive Board, and for Membership. We will have an Open House on January 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. before the January Membership Meeting. There will be refreshments, door prizes and free t-shirts for all members who participate.

PERU

GOTV is over and Kitzhaber won! Although not all of our targets in the mid-term elections were successful in gaining or retaining seats, every PERUvian put in a ton of hard work during this season to elect good candidates and keep SEIU running smoothly during this time. We all deserve some time off and your Executive Team hopes that you're planning some vacation, comp, or other leave soon to take a rest.

Our Labor-Management Committee will be holding elections to fill an upcoming vacancy and to elect a set of alternates in case of future vacancies. Please consider running! Nominations and election date(s) will be announced soon.

Enjoy the holidays !

STEWARDS APPLICATIONS

- Tami Campbell, at&t Mobility
- Movis Romain, DexOne

AT&T MOBILITY - CALL CENTER

Did you know that there is a rumor that the Portland call center has the highest attendance issues nationally? Hum... that says something. I wonder if it is a morale issue. What are your suggestions on how to improve morale? Your union is interested in what you think. We need more stewards!! Contact Cynthia Carpenter at 503-453-2387.

RECRUITING & DEVELOPING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS - LERC TRAINING

CYNTHIA CARPENTER

&

JEANETTE TURNER

There are two main triggers for people to take action: Self-Interest (motivation for gain or loss) and issue-based, which will remain in management's hands unless it's resolved. The other is a vision based on the issues to have a collective voice with respect, dignity, fairness and equality when the job is done. Local mobilizers use this vision to identify issues in each work location, plan with coworkers a strategy for resolving these issues, and sharing the work.

This starts with mapping and charting our existing membership. In order to map our locations successfully I propose that activists in each location take a picture with cell phones or portable cameras of the fire escape routes at the work sites. The goal is to find out where we have opportunity to grow membership support and stewards.

Taking care of the members' issues will help organize the membership around them and to physically visualize where to expect to gain momentum on those issues. Each site needs to create a member action team. Each mobilizer could be interested in profiling members, tracking various information such as each location search for support, feelings about the union, the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the membership, who is a member and who is not a member; shifts; department; title; relationships; interests; capacity to volunteer; action participation; medical issues; and their family dynamic to know how much support we have. This will help us find out who works well as a team, can include diversity, and be able to reflect the members with a good representation. This will help us influence leadership qualities. To gain the known barriers, finding out why they are resisting the union, getting to know what will hook the member, and have issue specific hot button issues to talk about and resolve, and build a communication strategy for a diverse group for the commitment of knowing how much work is involved and where the work is.

This information should not be made public and it is recommended that the union use Google docs and online access can be granted from our stewards. This requires that we create a Gmail account and a password. Gmail.com is a free email account that has the ability to be open or closed depending how the union wishes to use the account features. Google documents are accessible for Mac or PC computers and are universal to work with. It can update calendar events and share specific details with the stewards that we choose to allow the usage.

This may also help answer questions the stewards propose and be able to track their learning potential to be able to assess what role of leadership they may play. Then we can be a sounding board, able to schedule meetings, go to meetings for organizing a location, give ideas, offer agenda items, help with logistical information, provide a history or background, provide moral support confidence or trust in their own ability; inoculations to managements tactics and best practices of the union. We can then work with the union member, give them time to wait out the problem with patience and ask what we could have done differently and have an honest forum. This may also be a good way to roll out a message, help develop messages, create committee members in this technology age.

LEGISLATIVE

This was not a good election for working people. Most of us were nauseated by the carpet bombing attack adds most of which paid were purchased by anti worker corporate interests. There was no tracking much of the money thanks to the Roberts Supreme Court who pulled off the caps and earlier ruled that truth not be required in political advertising since it is still free speech. We lost our Voter Owned Elections in Portland and with our anti worker media almost insures that community activists like Amanda Fritz cannot afford the visibility necessary to compete for an office. In the long term it almost guarantees that every time you receive correspondence from an elected official [good or bad] there will be a plea for donations. It is a reality. There is no way an empty suit like Chris Dudley should have made a plausible run at John Kitzhaber. Thanks to all who volunteered for this election and a special mention for Linda Rasmussen and Gradine Storms for their every election phone banks. Also, thanks to the Retirees who helped stuff envelopes. Also volunteers Jeanette Turner and Cynthia Carpenter for phone banking. We will all need to step up to keep from losing more ground these next 2 years.

In Solidarity, Mark Sturbois

QWEST TECH

The GPS system, supported by Trimble, Inc., has enhanced features that the company is likely to now use. GPS maps are supported by Bing Map Support, which allows additional satellite, birds-eye, and traffic views of most mapped areas. It has a Point of Interest feature which facilitates locating the closest technician to a customer address or a specific landmark (for example, police locations, hospitals, or garages) and can be used to map driving directions—but not for the actual tech in the truck! It has the ability to more easily set location filters for members of a crew or technicians in a certain geographic area, etc. GPS information is available on the Trimble website for 90 days which is increased from 35 days on the former @Road website. Additional historical GPS information continues to be available upon request. The same reporting capabilities previously available through the @Road GPS website continue to be available through Trimble including: Out of Garage – Identifies the number of minutes a technician leaves the garage beyond 30 minutes or the Company established threshold. Excess Speed – Provides notification that a vehicle has exceeded the established speed threshold. Stationary Point – Identifies the number of times a vehicle is stationary beyond a threshold level (2 hours). Back to Garage – Identifies the number of minutes a vehicle returns to the garage earlier than 30 minutes or the Company established threshold. Collocation (Congregation) – Provides the number of vehicles and time duration at the same or nearby locations beyond 30 minutes or the Company established threshold. Idle time – Identifies idle time greater than 5 minutes or the Company established threshold. Trimble continues to provide management reports in following areas: Total techs out of garage > 20 minutes – Identifies the number of technicians that left the garage beyond 20 minutes from the beginning of their work shift. Out of garage > 20 minutes – Identifies the amount of time in minutes that the technician remains in the garage beyond 20 minutes from the beginning of their work shift. Stops in Yard – Identifies technicians that stopped at a Qwest garage location during the work day. Time spent in Yard – Identifies the amount of time that the technician spent at a Qwest garage location during the work day. Stops in CO – Identifies technicians that stopped at a Qwest Central Office location during the work day. Time spent in CO – Identifies the amount of time that a technician spent at a Qwest Central Office location during the work day. Now you know.

AT&T MOBILITY - RETAIL

The customer feed back tool is still causing a lot of trouble for representatives, when the customer is just not happy with the company itself they are not likely to recommend at&t and that hits us right in the CFT! Are you being disciplined unfairly? Don't wait call your steward right away.

More and more reports are coming in regarding the problems that are revolving around scheduling. The last known information that CWA District leaders provided was that the Schedule Arbitration would be on November 23, 2010. We should be getting an update very soon. Jeanette Turner at 503-887-3156.

JOBS NOW! STRENGTHEN OUR SAFETY NET PETITION

On December 1, the Obama Commission on the Debt and Deficit <http://strengthen-social-security.org/commission-watch> will make recommendations to Congress that could have a profound effect on you and all working and low income Americans by severely weakening or eliminating the safety net including Social Security and Medicare. Already, the co-chairs of the commission have floated a proposal to make drastic cuts to Social Security and Medicare and at the same time to reduce tax rates on the rich.

You can let our Congressional delegation know in no uncertain terms that you want them to pledge to strengthen the safety net, not weaken it. Just go to this link right now and sign the online petition for Jobs Now - No Safety Net Cuts petition https://afl.salsalabs.com/o/4023/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=637.

The commission recommendations could also prevent job creation initiatives like the Local Jobs for America Act. Job creation initiatives are crucial to get Americans working again in the face of high unemployment and an apparent unwillingness of corporate America to invest in job creating activities despite sitting on trillions in cash. <http://tiny.cc/xn1u8>

The 1500 signatures we have gathered so far have already yielded results. Representative Earl Blumenauer sent union locals, community organizations and Jobs with Justice a very positive letter in direct response to the petition. We need to continue the pressure to get commitments from all members of our congressional delegation. So please sign the Jobs Now - No Safety Net Cuts petition today before the December 1 deadline. And you can help by letting friends and family members know about this petition.

A new Congress is coming to Washington in January. This Congress will be much less friendly to the interests of working people than the previous one. We must make it clear that we will not stand for weakening programs like Social Security - something that working Americans across the country in 2005 successfully protected in response to Bush's effort to privatize Social Security. Take action today and sign the Jobs Now - No Safety Net Cuts petition.

The Grapevine is distributed by your Mobilization Committee and other dedicated volunteers.
Editor: Donna Allen Thanks to all who contributed articles!

The Grapevine

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