

CWA Local 3106 Retired Members Club
August 2009 Newsletter

Well it is another hot month for workers and retirees. The old Bellsouth, now AT&T Southeast bargaining is definitely hot, hot and extremely hot. The contract expired at midnight on Saturday, August 8th with no agreement. The union members are working without a contract.

Little progress has been made at this publication. We have been told of some health care costs but have more questions than answers. It shows premiums for retirees and higher costs. Some guarantees depending when you retired. However, these have NOT been agreed to as of this date.

It is apparent that AT&T has no regard for workers or retirees. They have no concern for all the years of dedication that has made them the company they are. AT&T informed the union that their modifications would save them money!! AT&T wants to make their changes to current retirees and only bargain for future retirees. The premiums they have stated so far go from \$13.46 for a single coverage to \$34.86 for a single retiree plus two or more.

We will go over all information that we have for retirees at our meeting so please be there if possible. If not, you can call any officer and we will let you know what we do know if anything.

We look forward to seeing many of you back this month that have been traveling or had some illness going on. We always miss you when you are not there.

CWA has also been very involved in the Employee Free Choice act that congress has been discussing and the Health Care reform. If some form of Health Care reform is not done than you can expect our costs to continue to go up. Be careful who you listen to for your information on the proposals. As you can see by AT&T's attitude towards healthcare, we will continue to pay more and get less. Congress must make some reforms that will help all have affordable healthcare and put some pressure on the insurance industry to do the right things. If nothing is done, expect more problems.

We have had several retirees recently encounter problems due to late sign ups for Medicare. Remember that when you are 64 start getting your questions answered before it is too late. If you or someone on your plan is on disability, Medicare will come in for you as well. We can not fix the problems like we used to when someone overlooks a sign up time.

Are you having problems with prescriptions or other insurance issues? If so, call Gwen or June and they will get you an answer. How your doctor writes your prescription or files a claim can make the difference of what you pay. So be sure that it is being done properly.

Have you been sick or in the hospital? Do you know of a retiree who needs help? Call Dorothy Laws at

Lyn DeLoach is working on a solution for a new wheel chair ramp in the front of our building. We look forward to his report at the meeting. If anyone wishes to help Lyn please call him at

If you have questions on your dues or any other financial question, please contact Lou Eva Washington at

We hope to see all of you at the next retiree luncheon on Thursday, August 27th at noon. Bring your favorite covered dish and a retiree friend.

In Unity,

Shelba Williams, President, 504-1740
June Oberdorfer, Vice President, 398-0352
Gwen Knowles, Secretary, 215-4004
Lou Eva Washington,