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CWA

news



WHAT DO WORKING FAMILIES WANT?



By CWA President Chris Shelton

More than a hundred years ago, Samuel Gompers declared, “What does labor want? We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; more leisure and less greed; more justice and less revenge; in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures.”

This issue of the CWA News focuses on what working families want today: Good jobs in our communities, health care, safe workplaces, retirement security and the right to join together in a union.

How do we accomplish this? By doing what we’ve always done. That means staying true to our values and our mission to improve the lives of working families. It means keeping up the fight, no matter who’s in the White House, to improve the standard of living of CWAers and all working families, to ensure dignity and respect on the job, to enable our children and grandchildren to have better lives and opportunities than we have had.

Our labor movement is more important than ever.

If Members of Congress, CEOs, governors and other elected officials now are emboldened to go after workers’ rights and protections, and critical programs like Medicare and Social Security, it is the labor

movement that will stand in the way and stand up for millions of working families.

Together with our allies, we will resist.

In Missouri, we’re ready to stand strong with our public worker members who face an attack on their right to a voice on the job.

We’re ready for the “right-to-work for less” assault that is likely to come in Missouri, Kentucky and other states, and maybe on the federal level as well.

We’re standing together in tough bargaining across our union, at AT&T West, the Orange contract at AT&T Mobility, DIRECTV, Envoy, Piedmont, Frontier and other employers that want to roll back the gains that working people have made. We won’t let that happen.

We’re standing with CWA members in New Jersey who won’t give in to a governor who wants to cut pensions and the services that so many residents count on.

Together with our allies, we will resist.

We’re taking on Wall Street and banks that see an opportunity to eliminate regulations and consumer

protections, and to guarantee even higher returns for the 1 percent.

We’re ready to fight back, whether against attacks on voting rights, pay equity and laws banning discrimination or our very right to exist as the voice of working people.

Together, we will resist.

Right-wing think tanks like the Heritage Foundation have outlined an aggressive agenda to roll back safety and health protections, wage laws, collective bargaining rights and more.

Big corporations can’t wait to roll back changes made by the National Labor Relations Board and to make it harder for workers to get to a union election and allow corporations even more leeway to intimidate and scare workers who want a union.

Together, we will resist.

Generations of workers before us have fought for the protections and rights we now enjoy. It is our turn to resist all attempts to turn back the clock. Our families matter, our safety matters, our jobs matter, our retirement security matters. We will not give them up without a fight.



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WHAT DO WORKING FAMILIES WANT?

A Fair Shake

CORPORATIONS ARE PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON WORKING FAMILIES

From tax breaks to soaring compensation packages, corporations are looking forward to another “Gilded Age,” where they call the shots and control the economy.

The Trump tax plan proposes giving the top 1 percent of earners 47 percent of the total tax cuts and would set a new 15 percent top corporate tax rate. The Trump plan even would cut the rate that hedge fund managers pay from 23.8 percent to 15 percent.

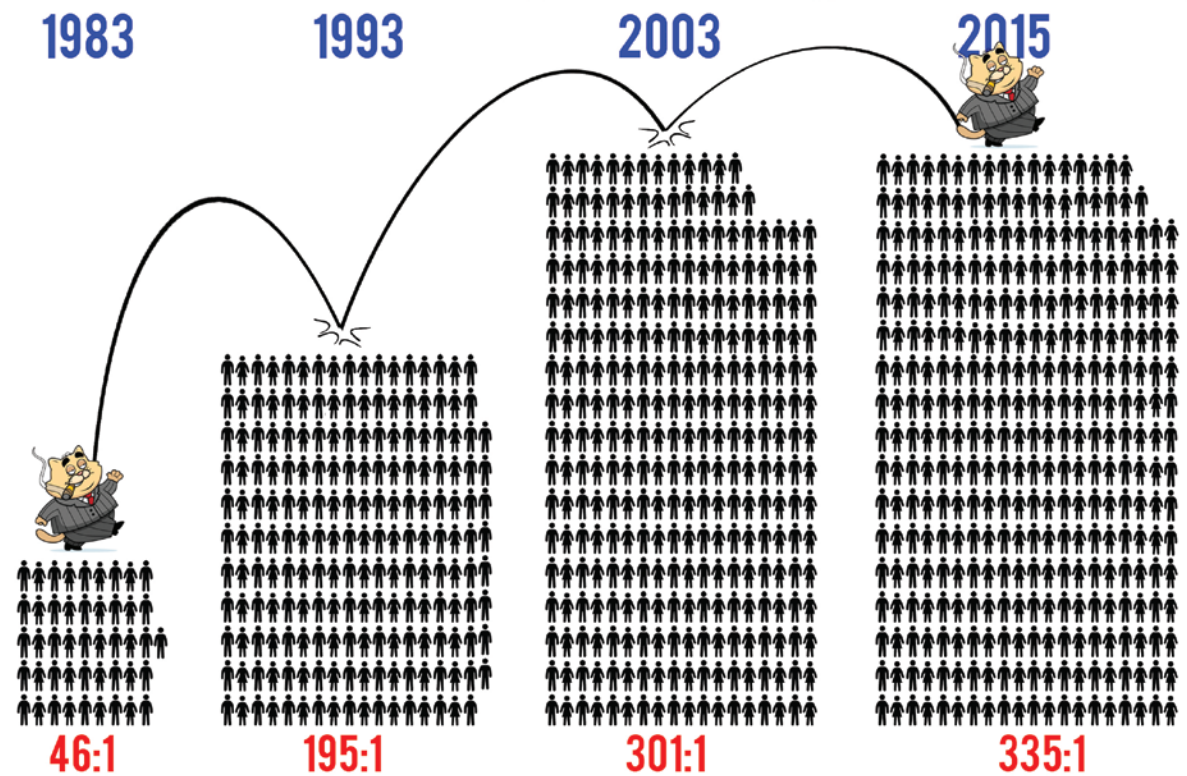
House Speaker Paul Ryan is trying to do one better. He wants to give 76 percent of total tax cuts to the 1 percent, 47 percent of that going to the richest one-tenth of 1 percent. That’s an average tax cut of at least \$1.1 million to the richest one-tenth of 1 percent.

Other pledges help Wall Street at the expense of the rest of us, including getting rid of the Dodd-Frank law that reined in the Big Banks following the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

Other items on the Wall Street wish list that would hurt working families: the privatization of Medicare, a rollback of overtime pay rules, and a stepped up attack on public and private sector workers’ bargaining rights.

We won’t let everything we’ve worked for be taken away. We’re fighting back, for our jobs and our communities.

The Ratio of CEO Pay to Average Worker Pay



CEOs Versus Everyone Else

The pay chart shows how CEO compensation in the United States has skyrocketed over the past three decades, especially compared to the wages of average workers. That’s not the case in nearly every other industrial democracy. Compare the pay chart (right) with the earnings of U.S. CEOs.

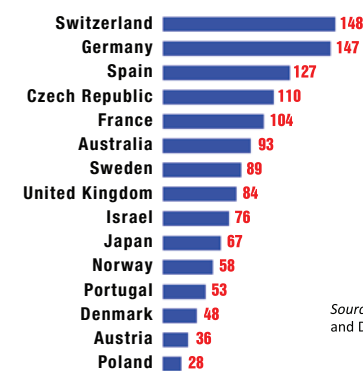
The “financialization” strategy that corporate and wealthy interests use to keep their earnings up and push workers’ pay down has meant that that CEO compensation is up nearly 1000 percent above its 1978 level. Despite the 2000 fall in the stock market and the 2007-2008 Great Recession, CEO pay remains off the charts, even when compared to the earnings of the top one-tenth of 1 percent.

From 1978-2014:

- ▶ Growth of CEO compensation – 1000 percent
- ▶ Growth of the stock market – 542.9 percent
- ▶ Growth in earnings of the top one-tenth of 1 percent – 320.5 percent

What about workers’ pay? The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that average wages rose 2.8 percent from October 2015 to October 2016. That’s a start. It’s the first improvement in real wages – wages adjusted for inflation – that workers have seen in decades.

In most of the 35 OECD countries, CEO pay is closer to the pay of the average worker.



Source: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Data for 2012.

CWA MEMBERS TAKE ON WALL STREET

CWA’s national campaign to fight back against Wall Street greed is heating up, and activists and allies are pushing to close the “carried interest” loophole that allows hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than other working Americans.

This tax break for the richest of the 1 percent means that working people – customer service workers, nurses, telecom technicians, our members – pay a much greater percentage of income in taxes than these Wall Street traders. It enables about 2,000 hedge fund managers and venture capitalists to save themselves between \$10 and \$12 billion a year, according to one private equity investor who testified before Congress.

CWA activists already began training to expand our Take on Wall Street campaign, and more training sessions will be held early this year.

This election season has made clear that Americans are frustrated by a rigged system that rewards the billionaire class over working families. Wall Street destroyed the economy in 2008, and while many families still haven’t recovered from the effects of that recession, Wall Street is now doing fine.

The campaign goals also include:

- ▶ **End Too-Big-To-Fail.** Break up the big banks and protect working Americans’ investments.
- ▶ **End Tax Exemption for Huge CEO Bonuses.** End the CEO Bonus Loophole, which allows corporations to write off a large share of CEO pay as a tax deduction.
- ▶ **End Predatory Lending.** End banks’ predatory lending and other damaging practices by enacting tough new regulations against payday lending, sky-high interest rates, and huge fees.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AND TAKE ACTION AT

www.takeonwallstreet.org



WHAT DO WORKING

Good Union Jobs



BARGAINING Update



at&t west

CWA President Chris Shelton met with AT&T West premises technicians in San Ramon, Calif., for a demonstration of the different jobs these technicians perform every day. Job classification, pay, health care and forced overtime are among the issues still to be resolved in CWA bargaining with AT&T West.

Shelton has held two face-to-face meetings with AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson to help break the logjam in bargaining. CWAers at AT&T are working without a contract while negotiations continue.

Get the latest at district9cwa.cwa-union.org/D9ATT/att-west.



Above: President Shelton gets a hands-on demonstration from premises technicians Edwin Convento, center, and Joe Thorne, members of CWA Local 9412.



Left: Shelton, center, meets with CWA's bargaining team for the AT&T West contract. To Shelton's left is CWA D9 Vice President Tom Runnion.



at&t internet

CWA members covered by the AT&T National Internet Contract ratified a three-year agreement that provides substantial wage increases, especially for workers in the two lowest paid job titles, maintains health care benefits, and provides improvements in job security, scheduling and other working conditions.

The agreement covers about 2,000 workers and "is a huge victory for our members who fought hard and mobilized for a fair deal," said CWA Vice President for Telecommunications & Technologies Lisa Bolton. The wage and benefit increases are life-changing



Members of CWA Local 9413 in Sparks, Nev., put AT&T Internet on notice: "We're standing strong for a fair contract." .. ing for workers who have struggled to keep up, especially in higher cost areas like Las Vegas.



at&t mobility

Bargaining will start in the next few weeks for 20,000 AT&T Mobility workers in Districts 1, 2-13, 4, 7 and 9, covered by the Orange contract.

Members have been returning their bargaining surveys, weighing in on their top issues for the negotiations. Join Unity at AT&T Mobility on Facebook or go to www.cwa-union.org/unitymobility to keep up with the latest.

At the November wireless conference, CWA District 1 Vice President Dennis Trainor said Mobility workers are going into negotiations with a clear message for AT&T: "We want good jobs in our communities and in this country. We want jobs at AT&T. That means an end to closing AT&T stores and cutting good union jobs. That means an end to sending our jobs to resellers."

Want more bargaining updates? Sign up for the CWA Newsletter at www.cwa-union.org.

BIG FAMILIES WANT?

and Just Wages



DIRECTV

DIRECTV technicians, warehouse and administrative workers in Districts 3, 4 and 6 ratified their first union contracts.

Effective Dec. 25, 2016, the 2,100 DIRECTV workers will be covered by the wage progression schedules covering CWA members at AT&T in those districts, depending on job titles. The DIRECTV workers also will receive wage increases every six months until they achieve the top of the wage progression scale.

The agreements also provide for health care coverage; disability, savings, and pension benefits; a grievance and arbitration process; coverage under the national transfer plan and other benefits.

Bargaining for a first contract covering 2,500 DIRECTV customer care call center workers began in December, with CWAers taking a stand for keeping good jobs in our communities.

More than 10,000 DIRECTV workers, including technicians, customer service representatives, and administrative workers have joined CWA in the past year.



Members of CWA Locals 1133 and 1168 ratified contracts covering 2,500 registered nurses, service, technical and clerical workers at three hospitals in upstate New York – Mercy Hospital, Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus; and Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

The contracts provide improvements in wages, staffing, and pension contributions; maintain quality health benefits; and address critical patient care issues.



CWA members at Catholic Health successfully bargained improvements in patient care.



Contract negotiations are underway in Harrisburg, PA, covering 4,000 customer service workers at Piedmont Airlines.

CWA's Piedmont bargaining team presented initial proposals to management, and members are mobilizing "for a better future." Piedmont is a subsidiary of American Airlines Group.

Read more on Facebook, search PiedmontAgentsConnected.



AFA-CWA Flight Attendants at Chicago O'Hare International Airport and other locations held an informational picket for "better pay and a better way," joined by colleagues from Envoy, Spirit and United.



Passenger service agents at Envoy Airlines are rallying for a fair contract as negotiations continue.

Nearly 5,000 Envoy agents voted for CWA representation last November, with agents determined to have the ability to negotiate for better wages and improve their jobs. Agents at Envoy, which feeds flights to American and other mainline carriers, are cross-trained and cross-utilized to carry out many different jobs. Most agents earn less than \$12 an hour for what is a stressful and demanding job. So far, more than 75 agents have become union stewards with more signing up for training.

Shana Shaw, a gate agent at Dallas-Fort-Worth International Airport, says, Envoy agents should be paid fairly for the time and work they do on the job. "We're responsible for getting the flights out on time, for making sure the weight and balance is right, for dealing with all kinds of passengers, there's a lot of work that goes into getting the aircraft in the air and to its destination on time and in a safe manner," Shaw said.



CWA Envoy agents in Santa Fe, NM, like their colleagues nationwide, are asking management, "What's Our Worth."



AFA-CWA Flight Attendants and supporters are protesting outside Frontier Airlines at several major airports, calling on the airline to invest in workers as contract negotiations continue.

"Frontier must invest in its people to ensure the future success of our airline. Customer service and safety start with Flight Attendants. We are committed to achieving an agreement that recognizes our contributions as aviation's first responders and that make Frontier Airlines a success," said AFA-CWA Frontier President Angie Piller.

Negotiations began over a year ago. Frontier recently announced its plan to hire 800 flight attendants and 300 pilots by the end of next year in order to expand to new destinations. Even as the airline grows, the operation has been plagued by operational issues, stemming from its January 2015 decision to outsource thousands of jobs. The message is clear: Frontier must invest in its employees.

WHAT DO WORKING FAMILIES WANT?

Good Jobs in Our Communities

TPP TRADE DEAL DEFEATED

After five years of grassroots activism, including protests in nearly every state, lobbying members of Congress on Capitol Hill and in home districts, and generating tens of thousands of calls, emails and letters, CWA activists and our broad coalition defeated the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

Many economists, pundits and congressional voices said we couldn't do it, especially after Fast-Track Authority was passed. Our historic campaign proved them wrong.

CWA made the TPP a major issue in the 2016 presidential election campaign, with both candidates declaring their opposition to the deal. This long effort to defeat the TPP shows us that when we mobilize and join with allies we can win, and we can ensure that the needs and interests of working families' are addressed. Defeating the TPP will help keep good jobs here in the U.S., keep our food safe, ensure that the laws we support, like "Buy American" and others, remain in force, and remove the threat that international tribunals can overturn the will of the people.

CWA President Chris Shelton said, "For more than five years, CWA members, allies, and working families mobilized to expose this corporate-friendly, job-killing trade deal and the serious consequences for working families and communities if it was put in place. Our members long have been ahead of Washington on the issue of the TPP and fair trade,

and our work built a strong base of voters who rejected what they clearly recognized as a bad deal, no matter their political party."

"The very same forces that lined up to pass the TPP will not rest, however, and we should consider everything we have done as good practice for the next four years. We are ready to fight."

It was former CWA President Larry Cohen who pushed the labor movement to fight the TPP, and who built the diverse coalition that stood against the deal. That led to the historic ban adopted by all AFL-CIO unions on political contributions to candidates who support Fast-Track for the trade deal.

Cohen was convinced that every meeting with a Member of Congress and every event needed the participation of workers, environmental activists, people of faith, community and civil rights leaders, everyone who had a stake in making sure that the TPP didn't pass. CWA activists reported that this made a big difference, especially in meetings with senators and representatives who realized that they faced united opposition to the deal.

The significance of this victory is huge. This is one of the few times that a trade deal sought by multinational corporations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the President and key administration trade officials has been defeated.

On Capitol Hill, Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), who led the fight in Congress against

the TPP, and other Democratic Members of Congress held a news conference, stressing that the defeat of TPP marked "the end of an era for trade agreements that are drafted hidden from the public view."



TECH WORKERS CHALLENGE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA OFFSHORING

Information technology employees at the University of California, San Francisco, confronted members of the UC Board of Regents over a plan to offshore their jobs to lower-wage workers from India. This is just the beginning of an offshoring scheme that could affect hundreds of IT workers in a public university system that receives taxpayer funding.

"The day I received a bill for my daughter's education at UC is the same day I received a lay-off notice from UC. My daughter asked me, 'Dad, should I continue my engineering education?' I didn't know how to respond to my daughter or any other kids who are pursuing STEM degrees," said Hank Nguyen, who spoke at the Board of Regents' meeting today.

In February, Nguyen and 78 of his coworkers in UCSF's IT department will lose their jobs, but only after they train their foreign replacements as a condition of their severance. Members of UPTe-CWA Local 9119 have been mobilizing against the move for several months, building public support for the IT workers.

UPTe-CWA Local 9119 President Jelger Kalmijn told the Board of Regents: "We're not

going to participate in a race-to-the-bottom, where working people are fighting each other all across the world to see who can be exploited the most. I urge you to take leadership and stop this outrageous outsourcing. It's going to save you a couple pennies for massive political cost, for massive financial costs in the long run and for massive security costs. It makes absolutely no sense."

Some Indian workers are being brought to campus on H-1B visas, which are temporary work permits. Congress originally created the visa program to help employers to fill talent gaps in their workforces — not displace US workers. But the law has loopholes and employers like UC are unscrupulously exploiting them.

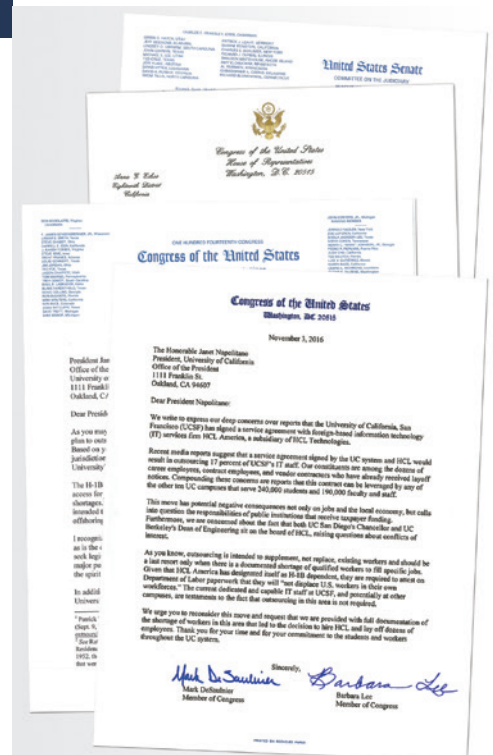
In September, UC awarded HCL, a staffing company based in India, a \$50 million contract to manage IT infrastructure and networking-related services. Soon outsourcing could spread beyond UCSF, as the HCL contract can be utilized by any of the 10 campuses in the UC system.

Troublingly, both UC San Diego Chancellor Pradeep Khosla and UC Berkeley Dean of Engineering S. Shankar Sastry sit on the board of HCL.

"Congress did not design the program to replace — or outsource — American jobs, or to lower domestic wages," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) wrote in a letter to UC President Janet Napolitano. "Using the H-1B visa program for these purposes run contrary to Congress' original intent, particularly given that the employees subject to the layoffs are highly skilled."

California Democratic Reps. Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, Mark DeSaulnier, Barbara Lee, and Eric Swalwell, along with Iowa Sen. Charles Grassley (R), also have called on Napolitano to reverse course.

"UC follows in the footsteps of many private companies that have been abusing the H-1B visa program. But as a public institution, the University of California's action "is even more of a slap in the face to the tech workers, their families and the UC community," Kalmijn said. "We will continue to fight back against this shameful attack on good, family-supporting jobs."



House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and many legislators want UC President Napolitano to stop the layoffs.



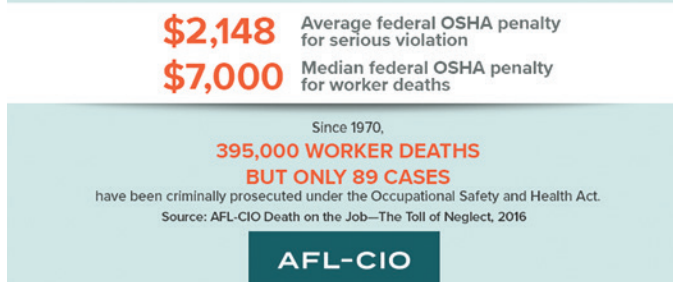
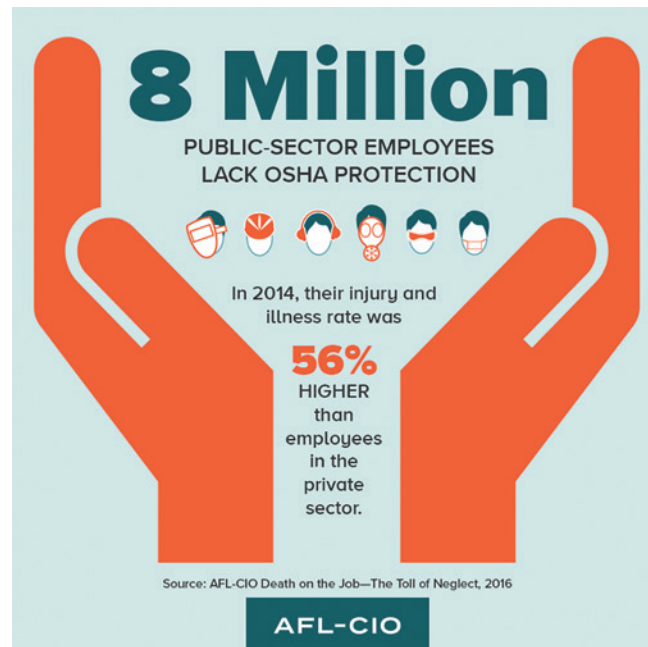
WHAT DO WORKING FAMILIES WANT?

Safe Workplaces

Working people depend on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to keep their workplaces safe. Safety laws should be expanded, to provide coverage for public sector workers who don't have OSHA protections.

But we'll likely see a new assault on OSHA protections in the coming years, led by corporations and right wing groups like the Heritage Foundation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Heritage Foundation even has recommended that OSHA reports of workplace injuries not be made public. That's in addition to "redirecting resources" toward "consultation" with employers, instead of penalizing employers and pursuing targeted inspections.

Working families know that we need stronger workplace safety and health protections, not watered down regulations that are almost meaningless. We will continue the fight for safe jobs for all workers.



Bargaining for Better Health and Safety

Across our sectors, CWA is making real progress on improving workplace safety and health issues.

- ▶ **Safe staffing levels at Catholic Health and Kaleida Health.** This year CWA Locals 1133 and 1168 called on the Upstate New York hospitals to stop putting profits before patients. Because executives wouldn't hire enough registered nurses, patients weren't getting the care they needed. Under new contracts, Catholic committed to work aggressively to fill all vacant positions and add 45 full-time registered nurse positions at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo. Kaleida agreed to add a total of 134 full-time registered nurse and ancillary positions by 2019.
- ▶ **Comprehensive lead training at Verizon.** In the wake of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Verizon technicians rebuilding the telecommunication system discovered lead-encased cables that had been damaged in the storm. Lead is a carcinogen, reproductive hazard, affects development of the central nervous system, and causes brain disorders. Together, CWA and Verizon developed a comprehensive lead training program so that all employees have the appropriate equipment and instruction to perform this dangerous work. After a lengthy collective bargaining process, the program is expanding throughout Verizon's Northeast footprint.

Flight Attendants Continue to Push for 10 Hours Rest

Flight Attendants are exhausted. Under current federal regulation, Flight Attendants get 8 hours of "rest" after a 14-hour day. But those 8 hours don't exactly add up to 8 hours of sleep. As soon as the plane lands, the clock starts ticking. Flight Attendants' rest time includes passenger deplaning, exiting the airport, checking into a hotel, preparing for the next day, traveling back to the airport, transiting security, crew briefing, safety checks, passenger boarding, and finally releasing the aircraft from the gate. This means workers only get 4 to 5 hours of sleep before another long day — if everything goes as planned. It usually doesn't.

Airline pilots and other flight deck crew are currently covered by a 10-hour minimum rest requirement. Urging Congress to mandate the same 10-hours of rest between shifts for Flight Attendants is critical.

Flight Attendants are doing more than serving snacks and coffee. These workers are entrusted with the safety, health, and security of passengers. They're the ones dealing with medical emergencies, from heart attacks to fainting passengers. They've been called upon to identify and stop potential attackers during flights. They're responsible for mediating disputes among unruly passengers. In a worse-case scenario, they're expected to evacuate air travelers in a matter of seconds.

Moreover, as carriers crowd more passengers onto planes and cut staffing, their jobs have become even more difficult.

Ample rest is vital for Flight Attendants to do their jobs as aviation's first responders.

Assaulting Airline Employees Must Have SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

Airline Passenger Service Agents are continuing to fight for protections against assault by passengers.

"We need to stop the abuse from customers," said Ingrid Peredes, an Agent at Envoy. "We're getting bags thrown at us. People are getting punched and slapped. Miami is a busy airport, and a lot of things are happening there. I'm a front-line employee at the curbside. Passengers are getting upset because we're trying to charge for the bags, and they throw things at us and curse at us."

CWA members have collected more than 2,000 petition signatures, calling on Congress to pass a national standard to protect airport customer service agents from "airport rage." Agents from Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas so far have delivered petitions to members of Congress.

While it is a felony under federal law to assault or interfere with the duties of a flight crew member, including Flight Attendants and pilots, currently there are no such protections for agents. CWA member agents from American, Piedmont and Envoy have been collecting members' stories that illustrate the dangers they face for elected officials.

The airlines offer no training on dealing with violent passengers, so agents are forced to rely on intervention from other agents, employees, and even passengers. Sometimes the airport police get involved, but in most cases, passengers face no consequences and are simply escorted to their flights by airline supervisors.

De Anna Davis, an Agent at Envoy in Beaumont, Tex. said: "We're a small Category 4 airport, which means we don't have police officers on duty. If an incident occurs and we can't control the passenger or the situation, we have to dial 911. By the time they show up, it can escalate. Sometimes you have to walk away and close the door and wait for the police to knock on the door. I don't like anyone to know where I park, because I've had people follow me outside, even when I'm helping a handicapped passenger get in their vehicle."

The 2002 Aviation and Transportation Security Act did include provisions intended to protect ramp personnel, gate agents and others from this kind of abuse, but these protections have not been put in force.

WHAT DO WORKING FAMILIES WANT?

A Democracy That Works for All



In 2016, the 14 states in red had new or expanded voting restrictions in place.

Source: Brennan Center for Justice.

In the 2016 elections, despite successful court challenges to the most extreme state restrictions on voting, most voters still faced a tough time at the polls, many experiencing long waits in line because polling places had been shut down, or state officials who illegally refused to register voters, or simply the lack of an “acceptable” photo ID, even when a federal court ruled that action illegal.

Federal judges ordered changes in many states’ overly restrictive requirements. But that didn’t stop legislators in North Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin and others from continuing to attack the right of ordinary citizens to vote. Since 2010, a total of 10 states have more restrictive voter ID laws in place (and six states have strict photo ID requirements) seven have laws making it harder for citizens to register, six cut back on early voting days and hours, and three made it harder to restore voting rights for people with past criminal convictions.

Wisconsin is a prime example of how some state officials are defying court orders. Last July, a federal court judge called the state’s proposed plan to “help” voters get the documents they needed “a disaster” and ordered the state to provide voters with temporary IDs so they could vote in the November election.

It didn’t happen. The Department of Motor Vehicles admitted to giving voters incorrect information, and many employees who were responsible for helping voters get their temporary IDs simply refused to issue them. When again ordered to fix the problems and get voters the photo IDs they needed, the state said it didn’t have the money to do so.

The federal judge who heard the case against North Carolina’s voting restrictions said the state’s process targeted African-Americans “with almost surgical precision.” Still, counties cut polling sites and hours and engaged in a wholesale purge of thousands of mostly African-American voters from the voting lists just days before Election Day.

CWA and allies are pressing for legislation to restore and strengthen the Voting Rights Act, so that every American knows that her or his vote counts.

READ MORE AT:

www.brennancenter.org

Democracy Success Stories in the 2016 Elections

CWA activists and allies were at the heart of these campaigns to restore the voice of working people to our democracy:

Alaska

Voters passed a ballot measure calling for the automatic voter registration of citizens when they apply for the Personal Dividend Fund. The PDF is paid annually to Alaskans.

Howard County, Maryland

Voters passed Question A, establishing the Citizens’ Election Fund and creating a small donor matching program for county council and county executive races.

California and Washington

Citizens in both states voted to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* decision and other decisions that allow big money to flood our politics.

Colorado

The voters defeated Initiative 71 that would have made it very expensive and very difficult to get an initiative on the ballot, restricting the right of ordinary people to hold referenda on critical issues.

Missouri

Voters passed Amendment 2, reinstating campaign donation limits for individual candidates for state and local elections, and for political parties.

South Dakota

Voters approved Initiative Measure 22 to stop unlimited gifts from lobbyists to politicians and strengthen the ability of ethics law enforcement to investigate lobbyists and politicians for breaking the rules.

Berkeley, California

Voters said yes to Measure X1, a voluntary system to publicly fund elections. Candidates who refuse money from special-interest PACs and accept only contributions of \$50 or less receive a limited amount of matching funds.

Multnomah County, Oregon

Voters passed limits on contributions and expenditures and required disclosure of donors for county candidate elections.

How to Make Politicians *LISTEN* to Us

The 2016 election cycle was the most expensive election cycle in history with more than \$6.6 billion dollars spent in the Presidential election. As of early November, more than \$557 million has been spent in just 10 key Senate races. The majority of these funds came not from candidates or even the Democratic or Republican Party, but from outside organizations that don’t have any contribution limits, thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon* decisions.

The dollar amount of spending by third-party organizations that are required to identify their donors was \$87 million, likely to increase when all the spending is counted.

Does this flood of money really matter? Absolutely. The voices of ordinary Americans, of working families are drowned out by these billions of dollars. Our voices are ignored by politicians who spend upwards of 50 percent of their time searching out and talking to big donors who can write the big checks.

The more politicians talk to the 1 percent, the less time they even think about the issues that are important to us, like keeping good jobs in our communities, workers’ rights, paid sick time and family leave, health care, and more.

We must change the way campaigns are financed and require politicians to engage with us, the voters in their states and congressional districts.

Since 2015, members of
Congress have spent

1,000,000

HOURS

raising money.



CWA and allies are pushing to advance small-donor campaign financing, like those already in place in New York City, Montgomery County, Md., Connecticut, Maine, and Seattle, among others. Small donor financing amplifies the voices of working men and women by matching their small contributions six times over.

That will change the way that candidates will respond to voters and to the issues we raise, because individual voter-contributors will make a difference in the campaign’s bottom line.

At the federal level, this will take a longer term effort.

This change already is happening at the city, county and state level (see Democracy Success Stories) and we will keep the pressure on as we restore a democracy that works for all of us.

Below: In Texas, CWA members and retirees rally on the first day of early voting for the 2016 elections.

