
CWA. *Your voice in the workplace.*

Facts At a Glance

HEADQUARTERS:

501 Third St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

WEBSITE:

www.cwa-union.org

PHONE:

202-434-1100

SIZE:

CWA, the largest telecommunications union in the world, represents more than 700,000 workers in private and public sector occupations in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. More than 1,200 chartered CWA local unions are affiliated. CWA members live and work in some 10,000 communities.

MEMBERSHIP:

CWA members are employed in telecommunications and information technology, printing and the news media, broadcast and cable television, law enforcement, higher education, health care and public service, the airline industry, manufacturing, and other fields.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:

CWA holds more than 2,000 collective bargaining agreements

establishing wages, benefits and working conditions for its members. Among major private sector employers are AT&T, Verizon, Qwest and other telecom companies; General Electric; the New York Times and Wall Street Journal; NBC and ABC television networks; the Canadian Broadcasting Co.; United, US Airways and two dozen other airlines. CWA represents, and or bargains on behalf of, more than 100,000 members across the U.S. working for local, state, and community government in the areas of health care, higher education, government service, and law enforcement.

ON THE JOB:

CWA membership means representation on the job every single day. Union stewards are trained to deal with members' workplace issues and handle individual grievances at the job site. In addition, CWA local officers and professional staff are trained and experienced in such areas as workplace health and safety, handling arbitration cases and other legal concerns, economic research, education and employment counseling, contract negotiation and more.

MEMBERS DETERMINE BARGAINING ISSUES:

Collective bargaining is led by officials and bargaining committee members elected by CWA bargaining unit members. Collective bargaining is supported by CWA staff with training and expertise in financial and data analysis, mobilization, communications, and more. CWA has broken new ground in contract bargaining, winning greater job security protections, flexibility in working conditions, and steadily improving income and benefit coverage for its members.

CWA members discuss, determine and vote on their bargaining goals, elect their own negotiating committees, and vote to ratify the terms of their negotiated agreements.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

CWA members and their families live and work in 10,000 communities across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico, and have made community-based organizing and mobilization an important part of the union's mission. CWA leaders and members participate in countless community and civic projects,

CWA

The Union for

Workers in the Information Age

earning CWA a widely-respected reputation as one of “the Community-Minded Union.” CWA’s charity of choice is the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and CWA is among the largest contributors to PAF, raising millions for pediatric HIV/AIDS research and education.

CWA’s legislative and political program supports the election of worker-friendly politicians and the passage of laws that benefit workers and their families. CWA is in the forefront of legislative initiatives to maintain fair wage laws, improve workplace safety and health, strengthen workers’ rights, and retain good-paying, high-skilled jobs in America, and to improve the lives of working families. To promote these and other interests, CWA is an active part of the Jobs with Justice coalition.

AROUND THE WORLD:

CWA maintains close relations with counterpart unions and their members in Asia, the United Kingdom, Europe and Latin America, both individually and through the 15 million members Union Network International. CWA has taken a leading role in organizing worldwide activities and conferences to monitor global development as it affects workers and their job rights, and developments in telecommunications and other industries.

LEADERSHIP:

CWA’s Executive Committee of top officers includes President Larry Cohen, Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Rechenbach, and Executive Vice President Annie Hill. Other members of CWA’s executive board, which governs CWA between the union’s annual

conventions, are: Vice Presidents Chris Shelton of District 1 (headquartered in New York); Ronald Collins of District 2 (Silver Spring, Md.); Judy Dennis of District 3 (Atlanta); Seth Rosen of District 4 (Cleveland); Andy Milburn of District 6 (Austin, Texas.); Mary Taylor of District 7 (Denver); Jim Weitkamp of District 9 (Sacramento, Calif.); and Edward Mooney of District 13 (Philadelphia). The board also includes the eight vice presidents who head sectors representing CWA members in different industries and occupational groups: Ralph V. Maly, Communications and Technologies (AT&T, Lucent and Avaya); Jimmy Gurganus, Telecommunications; Brooks Sunkett, Public, Health Care and Education Workers; William Boarman, Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector; Jim Joyce, Broadcast and Cable Television Workers Sector; Bernie Lunzer, The Newspaper Guild-CWA; Jim Clark, IUE-CWA Industrial Division; and Pat Friend, Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.

HISTORY:

CWA was founded in 1938 and was first known as the National Federation of Telephone Workers. The union became the Communications Workers of America in 1947. CWA joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1949 and has been an AFL-CIO affiliate ever since the 1955 merger of the two labor organizations. CWA got its start representing workers in the telephone industry, yet has grown to represent workers in both public and private sectors of the economy as jobs and workers’ needs have changed. CWA continues to be one of America’s

fastest growing unions. A number of unions have chosen to affiliate with CWA, because of its reputation for service to its members and affiliates.

Recent affiliations include the 40,000-member Association of Flight Attendants, which merged with CWA in 2003, adding its professionalism and expertise on airline industry issues. CWA has represented airline passenger service employees since 1999. The 110,000-member International Union of Electronic Workers merged with CWA in 2000. In 1997, the 30,000-member Newspaper Guild merged with CWA, as did the 2,500-member Independent Association of Publishers’ Employees, which represents workers at the Wall Street Journal and other Dow Jones publications. The former National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians (NABET), representing some 12,000 workers, became the CWA Broadcast and Cable Television Workers Sector in 1994, and in 1987, the International Typographical Union, America’s oldest labor union, merged with CWA, and represents some 14,000 workers.

Larry Cohen became the fourth president of CWA with his election on August 29, 2005, after serving 7 years as Executive Vice President. The late Joseph A. Beirne was CWA’s founding president. Beirne was succeeded by the late Glenn E. Watts, who served from 1974 until his retirement in 1985 and by Morton Bahr, who served as president from 1985 to 2005.