

Communication Workers of America – Region 9

CARA Resolution in Support of AT&T Mobility employees fighting for a fair contract

Whereas, 21,000 AT&T wireless workers, represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), throughout the United States are fighting for a new contract. Their contract expired February 11, 2017 and a rolling extension was terminated by the union on May 1, 2017; and

Whereas, AT&T has eliminated 12,000 call center jobs since 2011, outsourcing this work to low-wage contractors around the world, and AT&T has also outsourced more than 60% of their branded retail stores to contractors known as “authorized retailers” that pay low wages and reportedly engage in practices harmful to customers; and

Whereas, on May 19th, after nearly four months of negotiations, these workers went on strike for the first time in the company’s history. They returned to work on May 21st with the hope of renewed bargaining. Unfortunately, since then, no progress has been made; and

Whereas, despite bringing in \$1 billion in monthly profits, AT&T refuses to meet the fair and reasonable demands of CWA members. These demands include:

- Wage increases that cover rising healthcare costs and increased cost of living;
- Protections for retail worker compensation preventing management from unilaterally changing commission plans, resulting in wages cut by thousands of dollars each year.
- Basic job security in the face of rampant outsourcing;
- Affordable health care for all employees, including new hires;
- A fair scheduling policy that allows workers to use their earned sick time. AT&T wants to add “wait days” before employees can be paid when they call in sick. The company also wants to drastically reduce sick days for new employees; and

Whereas, AT&T’s unwillingness to meet CWA’s fair demands not only hurts the 21,000 employees affected, it hurts our communities by reducing disposable income that flows back into the community and eliminating good paying jobs altogether by outsourcing. Families in our community and across the country need successful corporations like AT&T to be just as mindful of their treatment of our community as they are of their bottom line.

Now, therefore, be it resolved,

That the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) fully supports the demands of the 21,000 AT&T wireless workers represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA); and

Be it further resolved,

That CARA urges AT&T to reconsider its bargaining position and to work with the Union bargaining team to achieve a reasonable agreement that protects good jobs and ensures continued high quality service to the public; and

Be it finally resolved,

That CARA forward a copy of this resolution to Randall Stephenson, CEO of AT&T Corporation (208 South Akard Street, Dallas, TX 75202) and CWA President Christopher M. Shelton (501 3rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20001).