

Winter Conditions and You...

Getting ready the cold and flu season there are things that could help each member and their family.

Most doctors would recommend that the elderly and young should get a flu shot before the flu season gets into the full swing. These shots can be given at pharmacies and a doctors visit is not always necessary. Keeping your hands clean and the use of hand sanitizer often helps as well.

Around the house make sure that you have your heating system serviced to make sure it is efficient and ready for the chilly season ahead. Stock up on 'ice melt' and bring a snow shovel into your garage so you can get to it from the house. If you need to purchase a generator do it before the storm hits. Purchase some extra can goods and non-perishables in the event you are stuck inside for a while. Having extra flashlights and batteries on

hand couldn't hurt either.

For your auto keep a small or folding shovel, small container of 'ice melt', blanket and maybe a set of snow chains to fit your tires in the trunk. A set of flares or reflectors could be helpful. Check your windshield washer fluid, tire pressure and all mechanical fluids. If your vehicle is older have a mechanic check your belts and hoses for wear or dry rot. Don't get caught by 'Old Man Winter'.

Family Values & Family Fun

As the holiday season approaches every family is looking for good deals in order to stretch every dollar, but still provide exceptional gifts for our Family & Friends. Well we have a "Deal" for you. In the spirit of giving Local #2100 will be dispersing Entertainment books once again this year by stewards, local officers & DVPs. Your local is receiving a disbursement from the international union that was voted on at the 2011 CWA

Convention. Each local decides how & what to do with the money, but your Local Officers & Board members agreed we would continue the tradition of purchasing Entertainment Books for our membership as long as we receive this disbursement.

There are over \$19,800 worth of savings in the book; however, if you register and set up your account online you will receive daily deals emailed directly to you. In addition, you can visit the site



to print out coupons for local merchants such as: "Old Navy, Qdoba Grill, Pizza Hut..... Your account activation card is inside the book. (Below is a sample)

Community Services Committee

The Community Services Committee has been busy with activities. They recently concluded their Annual Food Drive and all of the food and money collected went to the AFL-CIO Food Bank.

Their next event will be a Coat

and Hat drive. Every garage should have a collection box set-up to deposit new or slightly used winter clothing for young and old alike. Please make a material donation or a cash donation is also accepted. This drive will end Dec 14th.

Local 2100 has a direct connection to the 'big' man at the North Pole. If you know of a child that would like to have a personal call from Santa we will post the information on our web site so that we can have him contact the child.



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The Sentinel



Communications Workers of America
Local 2100
Box F, Chase, MD 21027

2012 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS DATES

Bel Air

Monday, December 3, 2012

Door Open 7:00 PM

Knights of Columbus 4714 23 Newport Drive, Forest Hill, MD

Baltimore

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Doors Open 5:00 PM

Knights of Columbus Hall 1010 Frederick Rd.—Catonsville

Westminster/Frederick

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Doors Open 6:00 PM

VFW Post #467 519 Poole Rd., Westminster, MD

We Got a Contract

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, Locals 2100 and 2101 held a joint explanation meeting to review the proposed contract from Verizon. We appreciate everyone that attended that meeting.

On Thursday, October 18, the ballots that were returned to the Local were counted by the Election Committee. The final count from our Local and the

District was to ratify the proposed contract.

On our web site is a copy of the agreement under 'Forms and Contracts'. If you haven't done so, please take the time to review the contract. If you have any questions please call the hall. There are changes that could effect you in the future.

By the time you get this news-

letter you should have already received your signing bonus, hourly increase and deductions should have started for the Health Care premium.

Open enrollment for the new health care will be Nov 7th to 21st. Please look over the information to chose your new plan. This would also be a good time to verify beneficiaries.

President's Corner.....

Kevin Miller



We are getting closer to closing out 2012 and looking to open 2013 in a very short time. This will also bring a chill to the air and with the holidays looming just around the corner a time to share with friends and family. For

at least the next month or so we should be thinking about keeping this time a 'safe' one. Bad weather is surely on its way and folks need to prepare for what 'mother nature' might throw our way. Most of us avoided any serious damage from hurricane 'Sandy' and hopefully that was due to your preparedness. If you decided to chance the storm and got lucky maybe you should consider a trip to Vegas. New York and New Jersey weren't as lucky and have sustained some serious damage and destruction. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that have headed North to help the folks up there. This is also a good time to look at the future in the 'New Year' and also reflect back on what we might have been able to change to achieve a better outcome for ourselves and our families.

As the leadership of your Local we too are tasked with looking back and seeing what could have been done for the betterment of the membership. So, as we are already into our fiscal year we are making plans. We have looked back to see what could have been done differently and what will be on the agenda for the upcoming year. A lot of different things effect the operations in Chase, (what other Locals are doing, the direction of the District office, the National Union, plans the company may have in mind, the economy, the willingness of our membership, etc.) and need to be considered for the direction that we take. We know that not every decision that is made will suit each and every member, but we must look at the majority and the outcome it will have on them.

Let me share some of the changes you should be seeing for the future. By now you should have seen more officers from our Local at more (not all) work locations than ever before. This is your chance to ask your question, voice your opinion or hear what may be coming soon. We will continue to do location visits. You will continue to get the email blasts that we send around once a week to keep you informed. We want to make sure you are as current as possible on issues that happen in the company or the Union. We have restructured the web site and hopefully it is more user friendly and provides the information that our members want and need. If you have filed a grievance then you should be seeing a quicker turnaround time in processing that request. We are looking at making the membership meetings something that 'members' want to attend. We are also planning some activities that include family style outings that will take place in the spring and fall. We would also like to do more member education activities as we did under the 'Steward's Army' program.

Looking ahead to 2013 there should be improvements to make the Local more efficient, more member concerns addressed and better interaction between the members, the Local and the National. If you have ideas that you feel should be considered please contact the Hall. We are here for you, the member, and need to do what the overall memberships needs. Stay informed, stay in touch and together we can make positive achievements ahead.

Kevin Miller
President
Local 2100

Retirees Corner

by Tom Thomson

CWA Retirees are holding their Annual 'Holiday Social' on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1010 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD.

Retirees, Spouses and Friends are welcome at a minimal cost of \$14.00 per person. The cost covers lunch, beer, wine and soda.

If you are interested in attending this social please contact Ginny at the Local on 410-335-2100. Deadline to reply will be November 30.



Tom Thomson
President of CWA 2100 Retirees' Club
410-925-3759 (Cell Phone)

Working Families & Legislation

The election season has concluded for our country, but there's no time to sit back and hope for positive change. All of us need to be involved in every step of the legislative process or we'll end up not having our issues addressed. For example, Corporate Downsizing, Companies Exporting jobs, Tax Fairness, Healthcare, regulation and even deregulation.

Last year members from Maryland CWA Locals 2100, 2101, 2106, 2107, 2108 and other labor coalition supporters such as AARP traveled to Annapolis to oppose SB 813. This bill would have allowed Verizon sell the Landlines without any oversight by the Maryland PSC (Public Service Commission). We were successful in stopping this bill. What could have happened had we not gotten involved? We could all be working at a telecom such as Windstream or Centurylink that more than likely doesn't have the resources to pay us our current salary or even have our pension options eliminated. Imagine only making \$17.00 an hour with no Health benefits and no pension plan. This was just one of the bills that were introduced by Verizon that could have had **MAJOR** implications to every working family. In the end, it is every member's responsibility to his or her family to be informed & involved, otherwise our jobs and standard of living will be a thing of the past.

"We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." [Benjamin Franklin](#)