

CWA Local 9410

BULLETIN

January 2013



Message from the President

Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to welcome in the New Year by thanking each of you for your patience and support throughout 2012.

We had an eventful year and were able to finalize good contracts in our Palcare and SEIU Local 1021 units. Major props go out to our bargainers Maria Mc Kenna and Letitia Dang from our Palcare unit, and Kathryn Ballard from our SEIU unit. All worked extremely hard to secure good agreements. A very big thank you goes out to Diana Kane for assisting and keeping things organized throughout, and to our former president Gayle Crawley for all her hard work leading up to ratification of these agreements as well.

I can truly say on behalf of all leadership here in the Local, 2012 was a great learning experience and we look forward to building off of what was accomplished last year to make things even better in 2013.

Wishing a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to all!

In Unity, Orange

**Thank You
For Supporting
Your
Union**

Mobility Contract Coming Up

In the coming months, CWA/AT&T Mobility contract will come up. AT&T wireless revenues are up 6.6% with the strongest postpaid wireless subscribers, sales of 6.1 million smartphone, etc... so where is our worker's share of the profits? It's about time to ask for our fair share and collect on all of our members hard work in making AT&T profitable. Members be informed and stay prepared to strike if necessary.

What's New for 2013

There are hundreds if not thousands of new rules, law and changes in our government. For example, San Francisco's low wage workers will see more in their paycheck for 2013. The annual increase in the minimum wage kicks in on January 1, 2013 to the amount of \$10.55 an hour making the city's minimum wages the highest in the country. BUT, in the telecommunication field, **SB 1161** has an adverse affect on us in the telecommunication field. SB1161 bars the state Public Utilities Commission from regulating the Internet-based voice industry until January 2020 courtesy of **Senator Alex Padilla**, Los Angeles. *"Carriers are sweeping the country with bills like SB 1161, gutting legislative and regulatory authority wherever they can. Without this oversight, none of the online companies in California would have been founded. The speech of three hundred million citizens in America is what's important, not that of a handful of network owners."* said Susan Crawford of WIRED 8-27-12.

See website for what's new in 2013:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/01/01/5085605/new-california-laws.html>

Fiscal Cliff Hanger

The last second Fiscal Cliff Hanger deal settled the revenue side but did not address the Debt Ceiling debate that is due in couple of months in 2013. Here is what we do know about the fiscal cliff deal:

1. Personal income tax rate for families with income over \$450,000 (individual income of \$400,000 and head of household of \$425,000) will increase at 39.6%.

2. Capital gains and dividends will go from 15% to 20% with income listed above. Any income below these thresholds will remain at 15%.
3. Estate tax will increase from a top rate of 35% to 40% with a \$5 million exemption and indexed to inflation.
4. Alternative Minimum Tax was “patched” to avoid raising taxes on more middle-class American by raising the income exemption from \$33,750 for individuals and \$45,000 for married couples filing jointly. The schedule amount would be for 2012 \$50,600 for individuals and \$78,750 for married couples that will be indexed.
5. Payroll taxes will increase from 4.2% (which was in place for the previous two tax years) to 6.2% that approximately 77% of American households will face higher federal taxes in 2013.

The next Cliff Hanger will need to address spending cuts in the next two months. When they reach Debt Ceiling Hanger, it will be Déjà vu all over again. Just don't burn the country and lock congress in the capitol until they have the answer to the Federal balance sheet. It will probably come down to the wire again.

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Fix the Senate Now

CWA Activists are keeping the heat on their senators to “Fix the Senate Now,” with another Day of Action and phone calls to Capitol Hill and we need your help as well. **Please call your Senator right now at 1-888 966-9836 and ask them to vote for a meaningful rules reform that includes talking filibuster:**

- Ending the filibuster on the motion to proceed. Currently ONE Senator can block all discussion of any issue.
- Requiring a “talking filibuster” so Senators actually have to hold the floor and speak to the measure.
- Requiring that 41 Senators show they support the filibuster instead of having the majority to get 60 votes to stop a filibuster.
- Streamlining the process for approving judicial nominations and executive branch appointments.

Changes to the rules can be made using the “constitutional option” which requires 51 votes to change the rules for the new session of the Senate.

Martin Luther King Day

San Francisco Labor Council will hold its annual MLK breakfast on January 21, 2013 at the West Bay Conference Center on Fillmore Street. Many of the elected officials attend the event to talk about economic justice.

Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of two movements, “the labor movement and the civil rights movement as the pillars of the just society that should follow the recognition of the equality of all men and women.”

The Civil Rights movement tore down the barriers that kept African Americans from entering the middle class. The Labor movement built the concept and reality of the middle class members that are part of the 98% that are the core of this nation. Together, the two movements showed the way out of poverty and anonymous isolation.

Ear Hears

AT&T Mobility contract will settle sooner rather than later. New Debt Ceiling will go to the last second before settling.

AT&T rolls out new service policies and will focus on customer satisfaction. U.S. economy grows at 3.5% rate in 2013 and unemployment at its lowest in five years. Finally, CWA/AT&T will sign a TA for four years.



Respectfully submitted,

Larry Yee
Secretary-Treasurer

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