

**Communications Workers of America  
Local 2201**



Brothers and Sisters:

It's day two of our strike with Verizon. I want to start by thanking everyone for their solidarity, hard work and desire to truly make a difference. In the last two days we have hit this company hard all across their entire footprint.

A strike is scary. This is my fourth strike and every single time it's exciting but also filled with apprehension because we don't know how long it will take and we have families to feed and bills to pay. But we do it because we know that, at the end of the day, we will be better off. We do it because we know that respect is not given but demanded and taken. And I can personally tell you that this company does not respect us at this bargaining table. This is my first time as a member of this committee and I volunteered because I knew, as the leader of this local, that it was the place I needed to be. We have spent ten months trying to get a contract and did not want a strike but time after time we would go into meetings with the company and come away with nothing. Just in the past two weeks I have heard, from the company's bargaining team, that there are NO contractors in our Central Offices (we all know that is a lie) and that our consultants are treated the best in the industry and work in stress free environment. (REALLY???)

Since the strike began we have not met with the company even though we have sent them a message on a regular basis to notify them we are available to bargain so they can't lie as they have about so many things. We hope to meet tomorrow and if so an official report should be issued.

I have personally witnessed the support from the community and I can tell you it is more than I have ever seen. Not only have we gotten numerous offers of help from unions and organizations that are normally friendly to us but the public has embraced our fight for jobs. We have had many politicians out on our picket lines and have had both Hilary Clinton and Bernie Sanders walking with CWA members. Just a short time ago, Bernie Sanders called out Verizon on national tv to bargain fairly with CWA, during the debate. Lowell McAdam has also been stupid enough to publicly pick a fight with Bernie Sanders over his support. No matter who you politically support this coverage is good for us in this fight.

Across our local the photos and media coverage has been great. I am including some links at the bottom of this and a few photos. Again, thank you for everything that you are doing. Together we can win this and get a good contract.

In Solidarity,

Richard Hatch, President

Norfolk

<http://wavy.com/2016/04/13/verizon-workers-go-on-strike-amid-contract-dispute/>

Richmond

[http://www.richmond.com/ap/business/article\\_7f8e905f-2f1b-5194-9a2c-b19177188546.html](http://www.richmond.com/ap/business/article_7f8e905f-2f1b-5194-9a2c-b19177188546.html)

<http://wtvr.com/2016/04/13/40000-verizon-workers-plan-to-strike/>

Warsaw

<http://www.northernnecknews.com/verizon-workers-picket-to-save-office/>

Harrisonburg

[http://www.dnronline.com/article/valley\\_workers\\_picket\\_verizon](http://www.dnronline.com/article/valley_workers_picket_verizon)





