



the unity



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AT&T to Return 650 Outsourced Jobs Back to United States

from CWA News

AT&T recently announced that it will be bringing back from overseas nearly 650 Tier I DSL technical support jobs and locating them in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, later this year. The jobs are coming back to the United States as part of the agreement CWA reached with AT&T last fall to return the tech support work that had been contracted overseas.

It was the third announcement this year of the return of AT&T Tier I customer support jobs. In El Paso, Texas, a new center is now up and running with more than 400 CWA-represented workers, and another 400 are expected to be on the job at a new call center scheduled to open in Indianapolis, Indiana, this July.

Overall, more than 2,000 new jobs are expected to be created as a result of CWA's 2005 National Internet agreement with AT&T, reported Executive Vice President Jeff Rechenbach, who heads the Telecom Office.

Warning: Be Sure You Are Checking Your Pay Stubs

By David A. Hildebrand
Shop Steward, ANS

Late last month, several representatives at AT&T were given notice by Human Resources that their employment with the company was threatened due to their dues not being automatically deducted out of their paychecks.

In light of this situation, it is strongly recommended that all employees are checking their pay stubs in PeopleSoft to ensure that their dues are being properly deducted, as per Sections 4 and 5 of the 2005 Labor Agreement.

Should you find that dues are not being debited from your checks, please contact a Shop Steward as soon as possible so they can assist in rectifying the situation.

Planning Council Positions Available

The Planning Council is the governing board of the local. It meets every month on the second Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 PM at the union hall. The following planning council positions are available:

- Communications Chair
- Legislative Chair
- Secretary

If you are interested in learning more about any of these position please contact Marcus Courtney at 206.726.8580 or courtney@washtech.org.

Watch Out For Those Points!

By Bill Montgomery
Vice-President, ANS

We continue to see the shocked expression on our members' faces when they are disciplined for accumulating attendance points and we want to caution against taking too casual an approach to good time management.

Being late from lunch and just a minute or two slow in getting logged in can hurt when the total gets too high; 5 points for a counseling notice, 6 points for a written warning, 7 points for a final written warning and at 8 points, the ugly can happen: termination.

If you are not sure where you stand, please ask for a review to include a copy of your attendance tracker from your Team Manager. If there are errors, bring it to their attention quickly.

It is the responsibility of the employee to be aware of point accumulation and the accuracy of points assessed. There are resources to help you do this, so reach out to those; your TM, attendance tracker, H/R where there are policy interpretations and of course, your Shop Stewards will be happy to review your situation as well. Above all else, try to keep a cushion of at least 1.25 points between you and termination.

WashTech/CWA General Membership Meeting

If you have always wondered about the inner workings of what the Union is doing for you to protect your rights at AT&T, here is your chance. There will be a general membership meeting at 6pm on Thursday, July 26, located at the WashTech office, 2900 Eastlake Ave E #200 in Seattle. Anyone that is available is encouraged to attend.

WashTech Annual Picnic!

Come out and enjoy fun in the sun with your fellow employees from all departments in the Seattle area! Go for a swim, toss a frisbee, hit the volleyball or just hang out and relax. There is also a playground for children as well. Get a opportunity to meet your local's officers, stewards and CAT members!

The fun happens Saturday, July 28 at Martha Lake Park from noon-4pm, 16300 E Shore Drive in Lynnwood, just north of Canyon Park.

There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, boca burgers, tofu pups, potluck salad and desert bar. Soda and water will be provided. Please, no alcoholic beverages.

Did You Know..?

Pet Insurance

Think about it: How much money do you spend on your pet? Union Plus Pet Insurance can help you out with the big expenses. If your pet is ill or has an accident, the last thing you want to think about is money. Union Plus Pet Insurance is the answer.

Union Plus Pet Insurance offers head-to-tail accident and illness pet insurance for your dog or cat. If your pet was in a car accident or had a serious illness, it could cost you thousands of dollars. For as low as \$9.95/mo, Union Plus Pet Insurance can guard you against large, unexpected veterinary expenses.

Union Plus' pet insurance program policies pay 70% of the payable claim after the fixed deductible up to the policy limit. The program pays a higher percentage of your claim than competitors.

With Union Plus Pet Insurance Programs, you can use the veterinarian of your choice. Deductibles do not automatically increase as your pet ages. You pay a \$100 deductible (unless otherwise noted) for each incident claimed, as long as your policy is in force. All breeds of cats and dogs are accepted in the Union Plus Pet Insurance Program.

As a Union Plus Pet Insurance participant, you may take either 10% off the price of enrollment or get your first month free. To get a free quote, visit <http://www.union-plus.org/pets> or call 866.473.7387.

Your Union Representation

See these folks on your front lines at AT&T as the first step to getting any questions answered in regards to your Union or if you need representation.

Want to do more for your peers and see your name on this list as well? Do not hesitate to contact any of the individuals below and join their ranks.

Shop Stewards are designated in bold, while CATs (Community Action Team) members are non-bolded.

Check out the Union Bulletin Boards in all break rooms for an updated flyer with everyone's picture and WashTech e-mail address if you need to contact one of them.

Bothell 1

Jim Burdick (NBS)
Mitch McMurry (NBS)
Donna DePuy (NBS)
Kale Nostrand (NBS)
Gary McGahey (ETS)

Bothell 2

Rich Atherton (BEUC)
Tiffany Cole (BEUC)
Les French (BEUC)
Sharon Kent (BEUC)
Kevin King (ETS)
Jake Larsen (BEUC)
Jim McHale (BEUC)
Doug Mount (BEUC)

Bothell 5

Curt Eidem (ANS)
Scott Ellestad (ANS)
Mindi Hart (ANS)
David Hildebrand (ANS)
Bill Montgomery (ANS)
Tony Patterson (ETS)
Ben Schlechty (ANS)
Jolene Thomas (NBS)
Nancy Wright (ANS)
David Waterbury (NBS)
James Ho (ANS)

WashTech President Testifies in Washington, DC

By David Martin

CWA Legislative Department

Washington, DC -- The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing entitled Promoting Worker Competitiveness on June 14th. The focus of the hearing was what must be done to make the Trade Adjustment Assistance program (TAA) more relevant to the 21st century workforce. TAA is a federal program that helps workers who are displaced by trade by providing financial, healthcare and education assistance.

CWA Local 37083 (WashTech) president Marcus Courtney was invited by Congress to testify on this subject. Courtney identified several key areas where the TAA program must be improved so service sector workers are treated fairly. Presently, service sector workers do not qualify for TAA in most cases.

"American service sector workers are experiencing unprecedented economic changes brought on by a globalization model that trumpets offshoring and the information age," said Courtney. "Jobs, once thought safe from unfair foreign competition such as computer programmers, lawyers, medical specialists, call center workers, accountants and Wall Street analysts are now all facing threats similar to those faced by manufacturing workers."

Among the important points Courtney made regarding unfair treatment under the current TAA program, Courtney called for service sector employees to be eligible for TAA benefits. He pointed out some of the government policies that lead to job loss. Courtney noted that H1 B visas, offshoring and a tax code which rewards corporations that offshore are other major causes of job loss in addition to that of our flawed trade policy.

The idea of extending TAA benefits to service sector workers has gained considerable traction in the Democratic-led Congress. With Democrats controlling both chambers of Congress, the prospect of improving the TAA program to our liking has greatly improved.

