



CWA members at AT&T Mobility rally for fair contract

Union members and community supporters joined AT&T Mobility workers in Seattle March 9 to rally for a fair contract.

Communications Workers of America (CWA) represents about 21,000 AT&T Mobility workers (formerly Cingular) who work in customer service, telesales, retail, technical support and other positions in 37 states — including Washington and Oregon. They are covered under an “orange contract” that expired Feb. 11.

[CWA represents about 45,000 AT&T Mobility employees throughout the country who are covered by different collective bargaining agreements, based on their location.]

The Mobility workers covered under the orange contract voted by a 97 percent margin to authorize a strike if a fair contract isn't reached.

The last round of talks was held March 8.

Key issues include company takeback demands. One would cut paid sick days from 10 to five. Another would increase worker share of health insurance costs by 32 percent. The com-

pany also wants to change the commission structure of sales reps in order to cut their pay, and outsource call-center jobs to other countries.

While AT&T brings in more than \$1 billion a month, it has shifted more than 60 percent of retail jobs to third party dealers, while cutting more than 12,000 call center jobs and sending thousands more to Mexico, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and other countries, CWA said.

Kim Anderson, vice president of CWA Local 7803 in Seattle, said in her seven years at the company, she has witnessed AT&T downsize locations.

“Everyone is nervous about losing their jobs. There's a lot of worry out there and that's why we're fighting for a fair contract,” she said.

The company is facing growing opposition for its actions. More than 50,000 customers, workers and community members recently signed a petition calling on AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson to support good jobs. Stephenson reportedly made \$25 million in 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

LON IMEL

Nov. 4, 1929 - Feb. 13, 2017

Lon Imel, a retired executive secretary treasurer of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council and former congressional labor liaison, died Feb. 13 after collapsing in his home in Wilsonville, Oregon. He was 87.

Imel was a longtime member of what is now the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union. He joined Food and Drug Clerks Local 1092 in 1951 while employed as a supermarket clerk.

The local hired him as a business agent in 1965.

Local 1092 merged with the Meat Cutters and other unions in to form UFCW in 1979. [In 1985, the UFCW locals in Oregon and Southwest Washington consolidated to form UFCW Local 555.]

Imel served as president of the then-Multnomah County Labor Council from 1978 to 1980, when he was elected to the full time post of executive secretary-treasurer. Under his leadership the council merged with labor councils in Washington, Clackamas and Columbia counties to create the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC), making it a political and community powerhouse.



Imel hired Judy O'Connor as his office secretary at the labor council in 1982. O'Connor later served four terms as executive secretary-treasurer of NOLC — the first woman to hold the post.

Imel stepped down in 1985 to take care of his wife, Diane, who had muscular dystrophy. Diane's doctor recommended they relocate to Hawaii, where the climate might be beneficial.

They returned to Portland several years later, which is when Imel began working as a labor liaison. He worked for U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin from 1988 to 1992, and for U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Furse throughout her three-term career from 1993 to 1998.

In his years as a congressional labor liaison Imel from time to time took leaves of absence to assist in political campaigns, including Bill Clinton's 1992 and '96 successful runs for president.

LON IMEL graduated from Portland's Roosevelt High School and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He attended the University of Portland and Portland State University.

During his union career he

served on many labor, civic and government boards and commissions. He served 10 years on the Oregon AFL-CIO Executive Board and chaired its Finance Review Committee. Gov. Vic Atiyeh appointed him to the Oregon Economic Development Commission and to the Governor's Labor Advisory Committee. He spent six years on the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette board of directors, and on its executive committee. And he also was president of Labor's Community Service Agency while head of NOLC.

On the J P Finley & Son Funeral Home web page 'guest book,' former Oregon governor Neil Goldschmidt posted: “Everything that Lon touched got a little better. He fought for the needs of Oregon's working citizens and likely never got the credit he deserved for helping engineer improvements to all of our lives. Count me among the lucky Oregonians who knew Lon and got his help on many occasions.”

Imel is survived by his wife of 56 years, Diane; daughter Jodi Imel, son-in law Robert Babcock, and two granddaughters.

A celebration of life was held March 2 at Bethel Congregational UCC Church in Beaverton.

TOP 10 REASONS

PACIFIC NW IRONWORKERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ROCKS!

- #10 We LOVE to make loans - We make it easy!
- #9 Our rates are better - Saves YOU money.
- #8 We are easy to join - Takes less than 5 minutes.
- #7 We are convenient - 100s of ATMs in YOUR area.
- #6 We are insured - YOUR money is safe.
- #5 We are non-profit - YOU are our top priority.
- #4 You're not just a number...we know our members!
- #3 We give back to the community.
- #2 We have fewer & lower fees
- #1 You're union. We're union. - We get it.



Proudly Serving Ironworker members and their families in
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Pacific Northwest
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PORTLAND BRANCH
11620 NE Ainsworth Circle, #400
Portland, OR 97220
Phone: (503) 774-3848

SEATTLE BRANCH
4550 S 134TH Place, Suite 103
Tukwila, WA 98168
Phone: (206) 835-0150

SPOKANE BRANCH
16610 E Euclid
Spokane, WA 99216
Phone: (509) 326-2485

UNIONIZATION → JAN-FEB 2017

The following is the only workplace in Oregon and Southwest Washington where workers voted whether to be represented by a union in the months of January and February 2017 — based on information from the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board. That's the lowest level in any two-month period since the Northwest Labor Press began regularly listing local union certification elections in 1999. The thumbs-up symbol means workers will be union-represented.

Union election results

Employer (Location) Union	Yes-No	
ColumbiaCare Services (Portland) Operating Engineers Local 701	5-1	👍
■ 6 maintenance techs and housing specialists		