So far, 2015 is shaping up to be a busy year at IUE-CWA! We started the year by welcoming both the 2014 and 2015 mentorship class participants into Dayton, along with their mentors, for the official passing of the torch to the new class. The 2014 mentees shared their knowledge and experience with the new mentees, who started their year with training and an introduction to the union. We are confident that these young, energetic members will be the future leaders that will keep our union strong! In the end of January, we held the first of two New Officer Training classes at HQ in Dayton, with 150 new and returning local officers attending. We were packed in pretty tightly, but the two-day training went very well! I enjoyed meeting the new officers and saying hello to some old friends as well. What a great group of officers we have! At the time of this printing, we are holding our second new officer training on February 23-24th in Philadelphia, where we are welcoming over 100 new and returning officers. Later in the year, we will hold additional trainings for new stewards as well. In February, we also came together for our first of two 2015 Diversity meetings. Seventy-five local officers met in Memphis, Tennessee for an engaging and interactive two-day meeting facilitated by Cornell University’s Arthur Matthews and Susan Woods. I was very proud of our union leaders over those two days – proud of how engaged and interested and passionate our officers are and proud of IUE, when we visited the National Civil Rights museum and saw pictures of our IUE forbearers marching alongside Martin Luther King. All of our officers left with a better understanding of how our diversity makes us much stronger. A second Diversity meeting is planned for April of this year. Watch for the call letter!

Finally, please don’t forget about the importance of defeating TPP! We cannot let our future be decided by corporate lobbyists who care only about profits! Please check out the article in this edition and do your part to help us defeat this terrible trade agreement.

IUE-CWA 13th Division Conference, Are you ready?

When: June 6 - June 7
Where: Detroit, MI
Registration for the IUE-CWA Division Conference is now open.
All locals have received call letters with meeting information and registration materials. Online registration will open March 15 at www.iue-cwa.org.
JUNE 6-10, DETROIT, MI

- Call letters with details on the meeting have been sent to all locals. You can download a copy of the call letter at www.iue-cwa.org, or you can contact us at Headquarters if your local did not receive the letter. Online registration will be available starting March 15 on our website.
- At many locals, Presidents are automatic delegates (check your by-laws). Other delegates MUST be elected by secret ballot every three years. If you have questions on election of delegates, contact the IUE-CWA legal department, 937-298-9985.
- Register early! Deadlines are on the call letter. Online registration will be available starting March 15 at www.iue-cwa.org. Space is limited for classes and the reception, so register ASAP.
- More information about the hotel and how to reserve a room in the block will be included in the CWA Convention call letter.
- The CWA Convention is in the same hotel as the IUE-CWA Division Meeting. You must register separately for the CWA Convention. Registering for IUE does NOT register you for CWA or vice versa. You must send registration in for BOTH meetings separately.
- Yes, you should stay for the CWA Convention. National officer elections are taking place which can affect you and your local.

Questions? Call IUE HQ. 937-298-9984

Do your part to Stop the TPP

The fight against TPP continues, with a new “fast track” bill that will likely be introduced in early March. As we know, our American jobs are on the line with this trade deal. Many of you have already been involved in the fight to stop this trade deal. We have a very critical action step that we are asking every IUE member to take—write a handwritten letter to your member of Congress urging them to vote no on “fast track.” Handwritten letters are a key tool we can use to get legislators’ attention. Since hardly anyone takes the time to write a handwritten letter anymore, Congressional offices really notice when they get one in the mail. Go today to www.iue-cwa.org to download a sample hand-written letter that you can use to write to your Congressional Rep. It takes 5 minutes, but makes a huge difference—please take this action step today!

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Don’t let the true cost of your health plan be a surprise to you!

RetireMED®iQ is an independent health plan advisory service specializing in both Medicare and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

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To learn more call 1-844-388-6565 or visit www.retiremedmarketplace.com/iue-cwa

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• Find the “HIDDEN” Bolt Contest •
2 Winners will receive IUE-CWA Stinger Flashlights!

Somewhere in this edition of “The Bolt,” we have hidden this small lightning bolt from the IUE-CWA logo. Find the lightning bolt, fill in the form below then mail, fax or email it in, and you will be entered in a drawing to win! Deadline for submissions is April 24th.

Name:  
Street Address:  
City/State/Zip:  
Phone Number:  
Page number where you found the bolt:  
Describe the story or picture in which you found the bolt:  

One entry per person. Must find the “hidden bolt”.
Mail to: Bolt Contest, 2701 Dryden Rd. Dayton, OH 45439
Fax to: 937-298-2836 or Email the information to: thebolt@iue-cwa.org

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IUE-CWA The Industrial Division of the Communications Workers of America

JIM CLARK
President

ROGER DEEL  Director, Region 8
PENNY FRANKLIN  At-Large, Region 7
JOE GIFFI  Director, Region 3
TONY HAYES  At-Large, Region 8

JOHN LEWIS  Chair, Trustee
BOB SANTAMOOR  Chairman, GE and Aerospace Conference Board
BRIAN SULLIVAN  At-Large, Region 3
KEN REAM  Director, Region 7


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**LOCALS**

**IUE-CWA DIVISION CONFERENCE • WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW •**

**SPRING 2015**

**IUE-CWA THE INDUSTRIAL DIVISION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA**

**SPRING 2015**

**Danilo and Friends**

**SPRING 2015**

REGION 3 REPORT
by JOE GIFFI, Director

Happy New Year Sisters and Brothers! And boy what a busy year we will have. With New Officer trainings, International Union Officer elections and all the government challenges we now face with the re-configured Congress, this will be a non-stop exciting 2015.

We are really looking forward to all the new blood in our organization. There is plenty of room for everyone to jump in and get involved. The IUE-CWA under Jim Clark’s leadership has really pushed us to the head of the class in encouraging, providing training and utilizing new participation. If you want to get involved, just let us know and we will do our best to get you there as soon as possible. Classes fill up fast but more classes are always being scheduled.

This year is also a big year for the CWA as it is Officer Election year and President Larry Cohen has announced his retirement. Even this Officer Election year and President Larry Cohen has announced his retirement. Even the leadership has really pushed us to the head of room for everyone to jump in and get involved.

Here’s wishing everyone a very successful year!

In fraternity,
Joe

I’m proud to feature these Locals:

Negotiating Committee for Local 496 at Equistar Chemical Plant in Edison, New Jersey (L-R) Theodore Brookes - Edward Fortune - Patrick Sevenski - Peter Trezza (President) Nicholas Jones - Timothy Brookes

Come look us up at cwalocals.org/sites/IUECWA/81496

REGION 7 REPORT
by KEN REAM, Director

SISTERS and BROTHERS – IT’S UNION TIME. And speaking of time, don’t you think that it is about time that the media turns off the lights on their cameras so that Punx-sutawney rodent would quit seeing his shadow? I’m ready for spring!

Yes, the weather has been cold, but we have kept ourselves warm by staying very busy. The 2014 Local Union elections have brought in a wealth of new officers, some old folks, are still re-elected. As of the writing of this letter, we have just finished the new officer training in Dayton and are preparing for another round in Philadelphia.

The training in Dayton was tremendous. The turnout was outstanding. We almost needed a shoehorn to squeeze everyone into the training rooms. To those of you who were there, we appreciate your grace and patience. I certainly was glad to see so many new faces as well as some old friends. Not only were the rooms jam packed, the training was too. We had two very solid days of education. I’m certain that everyone learned something. I know that I did. And, we had a few laughs too (I’m afraid, mostly at my expense). I am sure that the training in Philadelphia will be equally enlightening.

I know that you all have been very busy. Our staff has been busy too. The constant negotiations, arbitrations, grievance meetings, etc., keep us hopping. One of the pleasant things about elections is that President Clark, our IUE officers, staff, and I often get the honor of swearing in newly elected Local officers. You will see some of those pictures in this edition of THE BOLT. Again, to all of those who were elected, congratulations! If there is anything that I can do to help you, let me know.

I would also like to commend the officers and members of Local 708 and Local 719 in Mansfield, OH. Local 719 was a very proud IUE Local for a long time. However, with recent outsourcing, restructuring and downsizing, Local 719’s membership had dwindled. Local 719 President, Jim Wicker and his officers and members realized that they could better serve their members by merging into Local 708. With the merger, and under the strong leadership of Local 708 President Vince Storms and his officers, the newly merged Local 708 is even bigger, stronger, and better than either Local had been independent-ly. Moreover, under CWA’s policy, the Local received a rebate check to help build their funds. (See picture of Todd Viars presenting the Local with their new Charter and the rebate check). If you think that your Local would be better served by merging with another Local, please contact your staff representative or me.

I would also like to say how proud I am of Local 436A FW President Eric Gels-ter and VP Chris Jammer for their “Roofsite for Warmth” (See separate article). The officers and members of Local 436A FW do an outstanding community outreach. I am proud of Local 436A FW and all of you who go the extra mile to help your Sister or Brother whether they are Union or not. Great job!

In closing, I want to remind you that we have a busy year ahead. The IUE-CWA Division Meeting and the CWA Convention are both coming up in June in Detroit. There will be many important meetings, lots of training and this is election year. So, please make sure that your Local is represented there.

Just a note, since this is an election year, Locals attending the IUE-CWA Division Meet-ings and CWA Convention will need to register for both respectively.

Until next time,
Ken

Our visit to congress man Henry Cuellar to talk to him about TTP in pic Rudy Rodriguez & wife retired IUE Local 780 member Mela Rodriguez

The Bolt IUE Division News continues after the CWA News
COMPLIANCE REPORT
by ROGER DEEL, Director

Welcome Brothers and Sisters to my first column of 2015. This year began with many new local officers who were recently elected as President, Financial Officer, and Trustee, among others, to their respective locals. These officers will receive all the assistance possible from the staff rep assigned to service their local, from their Regional Director and all of the staff at IUE-CWA headquarters.

This column is more focused on my job as Compliance Director. Part of my job is to help local officers meet their reporting requirements to the Department of Labor, to the Internal Revenue Service and to CWA. By the time you read this article, most IUE-CWA local trustees will have audited the local financial records. Their Financial Officer has filed the LM Form with DOL and also filed the appropriate 990 Form with the IRS. And they should have mailed a copy of the IUE-CWA Yearly Audit Form, the LM Form and the 990 Form to my office. Thank you so much for your copies.

For those of you who have not yet filed the LM Form, it was due December 30, 2014. The IRS 990 Form was due on February 15, 2015. If you haven’t filed the LM, the DOL will notify you and CWA that your report has not been received. While the DOL does not have any financial penalty, failure to file may prompt them to audit your records. When that happens, the DOL auditor may demand financial records for the last five years. If their auditor finds misuse of the Local’s assets or finds theft of union funds, the officer(s) responsible may be charged with a crime and prosecuted. It can be quite an ordeal. The IRS does have financial penalties for both the local union and on the financial officer(s).

The local can be fined $20 per day for every day the 990 Form is delinquent (up to a maximum of $10,000) and the officer fined $10 per day (up to a maximum of $5,000). Even if they don’t catch you for not filing the forms, failure to file Form 990 for 3 years will result in revocation of your tax exempt status and cause the local to pay taxes on the dues income. That could be huge.

I’m sure you understand by now that failure to file the aforementioned forms will pose a serious threat to the local union. However, the local faces a more immediate risk from the Fully Functioning Resolution passed by the delegates to the Convention in 2013. That resolution permits a local to be merged into another local if they are not meeting the Fully Functioning Resolution. These forms are a big part of that resolution.

In March, I will submit an update to President Clark and CWA that identifies our locals who are in compliance and those who are not. I will also identify the locals that are working toward compliance. The delegates at the convention in June may follow up on the FF Resolution and take action to merge non-compliant locals. It is extremely important that you contact me if you need help. It is also very important that I get copies of your forms to show that you are compliant. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at rdeel@iue-cwa.org or call me at 937-293-5959.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Roger Deel
Compliance Director
Proud IUE-CWA member since 1977

GE CONFERENCE BOARD REPORT
by BOB SANTAMOOR, Chairman

I would like to start off my report by sharing this update from GE Local 701 Madisonville, KY as reported by Andrew Blades, Local 701 President.

GE originally opened the Madisonville Plant in 1971 as a lighting facility. The IUE organized the plant in April of 1974. In 1980 the company moved Ballast to Mexico and converted the plant to Aircraft Engines, producing turbine blades and vanes. In the mid to late 90’s we were at the peak of employment with approximately 900 union members. After several challenging years of GE’s continuous outsourcing to non-union GE facilities we find ourselves at approximately 430 union members. The decline in members has mostly been through attrition, but presently we have 55 laid off since Oct. 2014. 2015 looks to be a very tough, but exciting year. In Oct. of 2014 we had officer elections and I’d like to thank the Local 701 for the privilege of letting me serve as their president. In addition, I am proud to be part of the National Contract Negotiating Committee. The IUE-CWA has put together a great mobilization campaign for 2015. Negotiations will be tough this June and as a member of the committee I would like to encourage everyone’s support and involvement as it is the first step in a fair and equitable contract.

In Solidarity,
Andrew Blades

We don’t always get to report success stories from our Locals. This was a report submitted to me from Brian Sullivan, Business Agent in Schenectady, NY.

Back in late 2014, we experienced a temporary lack of work in the Energy Storage Division, mainly due to furnace deficiencies in Bldg 66. This is an integral process in the battery plant because all of the battery cells flow through that process. While repair work was going on there, a meeting with the business leaders was also occurring. They determined that the once booming business the company had invested in was experiencing a volume-driven decision. The Local represents 220 members there and the news was not taken lightly. We were soon to be facing permanent layoffs. GE’s business leaders and the union leadership quickly met to determine a solution. After weeks of discussion, finally including the GE Energy Division on the same campus, we negotiated an unusual settlement. The Energy team resolved the problem by agreeing to employ all of the members into their division. Anyone who wanted a job would have one. On January 15, 2015, the company and union sat down to sign a Memorandum of Agreement, stipulating that Battery Plant members would be absorbed by openings, have training, and educational programs, and even a voluntary job elimination package for those wishing to leave the company to pursue outside job interests. There were no concessions in pay rates or any other benefits for the members of the Battery Plant. This was a negotiation designed specifically to continue to provide jobs and opportunity for union members, and not to compromise anything or anyone. Not all negotiations have an unhappy ending. This situation is proof of that.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Sullivan

And now for a GE Contract Mobilization Update from Lance Bergmann:

GE Mobilization training is now complete and was very well received by the locals. Our members found it informative and motivating. The official kick off to the first of three monthly issue campaigns started on Friday February 13th with “Fact Sheet Friday.” The job security fact sheets have been circulating all over the shop floors and our members are excited and looking forward to supporting the negotiating committee and getting a good contract.

On a personal note, I am very proud of all of our local mobilizers, and I look forward to working with them over the next few months. Our strategy going forward is to unify all of the locals by coordinating all of our efforts. Contact your Local about getting mobilization t-shirts and buttons and don’t forget to like us on Facebook at GEWorkersUnited. I will continue to travel to our GE Locals to help with the mobilization process. A big thanks to all of our wonderful GE Local Presidents who have supported this contract mobilization campaign so far.

Lance Bergmann
My sincere thanks to these great union leaders for sharing with us!

Bob Santamoor

Show Us Your Tees!
Union pride is what makes the IUE-CWA strong and keeps us moving forward! We want to showcase our local union sisters and brothers and the pride they take in their local. Each month we will feature a photo of an IUE member sporting their local union t-shirt. Send us a photo of members wearing their union t-shirts! Be sure the photos are clear and in-focus.

Send your photos to IUE-CWA at: thebolt@iue-cwa.org

Rex Rains, President of Local 190 in Rome, GA showing us his union pride and winner of the IUE-CWA Cooler Bag!
“Roofsit 4 Warmth”

Do you think it has been a cold winter? Try doing what IUE-CWA Local 436A FW’s Eric Geister, (President) and Chris Jammer (VP) did. On behalf of the Local, Eric and Chris spent 3 cold January days and 2 freezing nights on top of the roof of Olivera’s restaurant in Ionia, Michigan! The event was an effort to raise money for a local non-profit charity (EightCAP, Inc.). EightCAP uses contributions to help area residents stay warm throughout the cold Michigan winters.

The goal of the “Roofsit” was to raise $8,443.60 (in honor of the Local’s CWA Charter number). Eric Geister said, “There are a lot of people at our factory who have hit hard times but are too proud to ask for assistance. This is a way to funnel money into our community and to help those in need.” Chris Jammer added, “We’re trying to do our part as a labor organization and give (EightCAP) a nice big boost and help some folks out in the community. We’re camping out for two nights to show people that we mean some business and that people struggle with the cold.” Eric and Chris have said that they plan to make the “Roofsit” an annual event.

The IUE is proud of Eric, Chris, and Local 436A FW for braving the cold and “doing the right thing” by helping those in need. In fact, President Clark expressed that pride by making a donation for the Roofsit on behalf of the IUE. Great Job, Eric, Chris and Local 436A FW! Way to show your Union Pride and Compassion!

IUE-CWA Mentorship Program: Class of 2015

Welcoming the New Class of the IUE-CWA Mentorship Program

The IUE-CWA Mentorship Program started off the second year of our program with a bang! In January we hosted in Dayton our 2014 class of mentees and mentors, and also our new incoming class of 2015. The group spent time in skill-building workshops, including in the areas of public speaking and member mobilization. We proudly presented certificates of completion to the 2014 mentees for finishing their year in the program. It is hard to believe that the year passed so quickly with our inaugural group of the Mentorship Program.

We are extremely proud of this group of talented new leaders—we know that the time they have spent with us in the program is just the beginning of their roles as leaders within the IUE! We also thank the 2014 mentors for providing such valuable guidance to our young leaders. We are extremely excited to welcome our new group of 2015 mentees and mentors—we have a tremendous group of young workers from across our organization. It is truly an inspiration to work with these leaders and get a glimpse of the future they will build for the IUE-CWA!

-Heather

Taking TPP to the State House!

Members of IUE-CWA Local 201 recently participated in a lobby day at the Massachusetts State House, bringing the TPP fight to their local legislature. Local 201 worked with state legislators to introduce a resolution on the TPP: HR-1010, “A Resolution to urge President Obama and the United States Congress to oppose Trade Promotion Authority and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).” The Massachusetts Legislature will be asked to show support by voting for this resolution. A YES vote would show Congress that Massachusetts is opposed to multi-National corporations exporting good American jobs. This is a great way to bring the TPP fight to the local level—thank you to Local 201 for their leadership with this resolution! If there are other locals who are interested in bringing a TPP resolution to your statehouse, city council, or other local government body, contact Heather Atkinson at IUE-CWA for assistance!

IUE-CWA Local 201 President Peter Capano with Massachusetts State Representative Brendan Crighton, who worked with the Local to sponsor the TPP Massachusetts Resolution.
NEW & RETURNING OFFICERS TRAINING

We were very pleased to welcome new and returning IUE-CWA officers at our recent officer training sessions in Dayton and Philadelphia. We had over 200 officers in attendance between our two training sessions—what a tremendous turn out! The trainings, conducted by IUE Headquarters staff, covered topics such as financial, political action, steward, health and safety, and organizing, just to name a few. It was a great way to kick off 2015 with our new local leaders. We congratulate these officers and thank them for their leadership and service to our members!

HEALTH & SAFETY

Promote Health & Safety Through Bargaining:

Contract language alone won’t make a workplace healthy and safe. But, negotiating for health and safety can produce important contract language that can be a vital part of a comprehensive safety management program designed to eliminate the risks of recognized hazards.

IUE-CWA represented members shouldn’t have to rely on a government agency to protect them. Many of the laws designed to protect workers are outdated or inadequate. Workers deserve to understand the risks associated with work and be able to speak up and contribute in finding answers to OH&S affecting them.

Since hazards exist in every worksite, local collective agreements should deliver guarantees and well-designed programs. Safety written into a union contract can be specific to members’ jobs, stricter than legal requirements, and provide a grievance process which is typically a faster and more effective method of enforcement. For some public-sector workers, contract language may be their only protection regarding occupational safety and health.

As a labor safety representative, I want our represented businesses to clarify expectations, define safety success and use measuring tools, analyzing and adjusting to create a profitable, sustainable safe workplace. I want each to embrace and implement sustainable strategies. Maybe this can be done without contract language, but my work experience raises skepticism. I’m encouraging each negotiating team, staff, and local representative to include comprehensive health and safety language in all of your bargaining contracts.

TO SCHEDULE SAFETY TRAINING CONTACT DEBRA FISHER: dfisher@iue-cwa.org

Streamlining Election Procedures

By Lela Klein, IUE-CWA Attorney

Some members may recall that back in 2011, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued proposed changes to the rules that govern union representation elections. Unions and labor activists applauded these proposed changes because they would have streamlined union election procedures to make the process faster, allowing workers to vote on whether they wish to be represented by a union without long delays that allow employers to mount pressure campaigns against unionization. Unfortunately, those rules never went into effect because a federal court held the Board lacked a quorum when it issued the Rule.

In February 2014, the new, fully constituted Board re-issued Proposed Rules, and in January of 2015, after nearly a year of soliciting comments from the public, the Final Rule was finally announced. The Final Rule makes a number of commonsense changes that aim to eliminate some of the barriers workers face when they decide to have a vote on whether to form a union. The rule reduces unnecessary litigation and streamlines hearings, setting realistic timelines and allowing some issues to be resolved after the vote has taken place. This is helpful because under the current rules, employers can intentionally delay the election by insisting on pre-election hearings. The new rule also modernizes the Board’s procedures, for example by allowing electronic filing of petitions, and including email addresses and cell phone numbers in the information an employer must provide before an election is held. The new rule also eliminates the requirement of a 25-day waiting period after the Board directs that an election will be held.

Although it should make the process of getting to an election faster, the Final Rule does not establish any time deadlines or mandate that elections be conducted in any specific number of days. The timing of elections will vary from case to case, as under previous procedures.

The New Rule should go into effect in April, but (not surprisingly) a legal challenge has already been filed by several employer groups, including the US Chamber of Commerce, claiming that the Rule is contrary to the NLRA and violates the First and Fifth Amendments to the US Constitution and the Administrative Procedures Act. We’ll continue to keep you posted!
If you don’t belong to an IUE-CWA Retiree Club and your local has one and invites you to their membership meetings GO, visit – join! Not only will you enjoy seeing some of your old work friends, you will gain vital knowledge pertaining to Retirees/Seniors. IUE-CWA Retiree Clubs are located around the country. Like our personalities they can be different, but the one thing they have in common – they are all IUE-CWA Retirees and spouses. We have large clubs and small clubs. Meeting times vary, once a month, once a quarter or weekly breakfast/luncheons. They meet to share information important to retirees or seniors, such as changes in health care, Social Security, and Medicare. They discuss Local, State or National political issues that can have a negative or positive effect regarding Retirees/Seniors. Speakers are invited to attend, and some Clubs have social outings and entertainment. Clubs also promote community involvement. IUE-CWA Local 798 Retiree Club collected toys for Toys for Tots this past Christmas.

If you would like to start an IUE-CWA Retiree Club, I would be happy to help you get started. Please call me at 937-224-5219.

You can also stay connected to your union by joining the IUE-CWA Auxiliary Retiree Club for $3 a month and every quarter receive a copy of the IUE-CWA Newspaper, The Bolt.

We need your help! Have you heard about the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP? The United States seeks to negotiate new trade deals with Europe and Asia. It could make it even easier to ship U.S. jobs overseas!!! To find out more about TPP go to www.StopTheTPP.org As Retirees, we can be a part of the fight to reject this unfair trade deal. Please call or write your Representative and tell him/her to fight against the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Your children and your grandchildren still depend on us to help fight for them!!!

Keith Bailey

Seniors and Retirees: Beware of the TPP!

The Trans Pacific Partnership Trade deal is poised to become the biggest trade deal in history if signed into law. This trade deal is more of the same failed trade policy that we’ve seen over the past decades, with deals such as NAFTA. The TPP has the potential to harm seniors and retirees, and we need to get active to stop it! AARP has warned that the TPP could lock in higher prices for popular drugs and undermine public programs like Medicare and Medicaid. For example, the TPP would prevent $3.8 billion in savings because it would prohibit a reduction of the period during which big drug companies have exclusive rights to biologic test data. The TPP would also allow medical device corporations to actually patent surgical methods leading to increasing costs for Medicare and Medicaid. Consumers Union and 13 other organizations warned that “… the proposals related to pharmaceutical, biologic and medical device industries could undermine access to affordable health care for millions in the United States and around the world.” We have got to take action today to stop the TPP once and for all. Call your legislator today and ask them to vote NO on Fast Track for the TPP. 888-966-9836. Also, take a few moments to write a letter to your Congressional Rep about the TPP. Instructions for writing a letter are at www.iue-cwa.org.

Hello All! I hope this issue of the Bolt finds you all well and staying warm in your region.

I am sure most of you have heard on the news that Anthem has unfortunately had a cyber-attack and have had their system hacked into. With that being said, I have been able to get some information for any of you who are concerned as to what has happened and what Anthem is doing to protect all of us on Anthem plans.

Anthem has set up a Website and a toll free telephone number to be able to get the latest and most up to date information to us. The website is www.anthemfacts.com and the toll free telephone number is 1 877 263 7995.

Here are some frequently asked questions to help you understand the situation.

Was my information accessed? Anthem is currently conducting an extensive IT Forensic Investigation to determine what members are impacted.

What information has been compromised? Initial investigation indicates the member data accessed included names, dates of birth, member ID numbers, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and employment information.

How can I sign up for credit monitoring/identity protection services? All impacted members will receive notice via mail (NOT Email) which will advise them of the protections being offered to them as well as any next steps.

Do the people who accessed my information know about my medical history? No – our investigation to date indicates there was no diagnosis or treatment data exposed.

Do the people who accessed my information have credit card information? No – our current investigation shows the information accessed did not include credit card numbers.

Did this impact all lines of Anthem Business? Yes, all product lines are impacted which include Anthem BlueCross/BlueShield, Empire Blue Cross, Amerigroup, Caremore and Unicare.

How can I ensure my personal and health information is safe with Anthem, Inc.? Anthem is doing everything it can to ensure there is no further vulnerability to its data base.

I think I received a scam email related to Anthem’s cyber-attack? Members who may have been impacted by the cyber-attack against Anthem, should be aware of scam email campaigns targeting current and former Anthem members. These scams, designed to capture personal information (known as “phishing”) are designed to appear as if they are from Anthem, and the emails include a “Click here” link for credit monitoring. These emails are NOT from Anthem! DO NOT click on any links in email! DO NOT reply to the email or reach out to senders in any way! DO NOT supply any information on the website that may open, if you have already clicked on a link in the email! DO NOT open any attachments that arrive with the email!

Of course if you are uncertain as to whether Anthem has or is trying to reach you by telephone, email or mail, do not hesitate to call the customer service number on the back of your Anthem card and ask. Hopefully this matter has been resolved and none of us will be impacted by this event.

If you should have any other concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Solidarity,
Kim Short
IUE-CWA Retiree Rep.

Recently Retired or Retiring Soon?

Join the IUE-CWA Retiree Associate Member Club.

For $3 a month dues, you get to continue receiving the IUE News, access to retirement benefit representative Kim Short, and invitations to our Retiree Health Fairs and other activities. Join now and we will send you a retiree club gift!

For more information, call (937)298-9752 or go to Retiree Corner on the website at IUE-CWA.org.