We’re Not on Strike . . . Yet.

The leadership of the CWA has decided not to go on strike against SBC . . . yet.

National and regional negotiations for a new contract at SBC are continuing. While there is some progress, there are still significant unresolved issues. The key issues remain health care for active employees and the jobs of the future.

At this time, we have decided that working without a contract is the best, strongest tactic for us. We can always decide to strike at any time.

There are several reasons why your union leadership has made this decision:

- We want to demonstrate to the public that the unionized workers of SBC care about service quality even if the company does not, and that we will do everything possible to ensure that consumers receive good service. By not striking at this time, we show our willingness to go the extra mile for service quality.
- The company is gearing up for a strike. It has spent huge sums hiring contractors, recruiting scabs, and training managers to climb poles and do the rest of our work. Why should we give them what they expect? Let them pay the scabs and us too.

No Business As Usual

We will not simply be working as usual. We will be doing informational picketing, rallying, working safely, seeking community and political support, pressuring company executives and members of the Board of Directors. The union will ask customers to switch carriers or to drop enhanced services. In short, we will do all the things we normally do when we’re on strike, except we will go to work.

How Will It Work?

- Negotiations will continue.
- You will still earn a paycheck.
- All benefits, including health care and pension, will remain in effect.
- The grievance procedure continues, but arbitration probably will not for grievances filed after the contract expires. Discipline can be negotiated at the bargaining table.
- You have the right to participate in “concerted activity.” This means you can mobilize on the job, including wearing buttons and stickers, filing group grievances, leafleting, informational picketing, etc.
- Payroll deduction of dues may end. Your local will let you know how to pay your dues.

Mobilization Must Continue

Our battle for a just contract continues. Everyone must get involved. You’ll be hearing lots more from your mobilization coordinator in the coming days.