

May 5, 2008  
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# Unity @Verizon

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## Members confront Seidenberg at VZ annual meeting and mobilize support across the country

**Verizon union members** carried ten boxes with thousands of proxy votes into Verizon's annual shareholder meeting on May 1 with a message to bargain a fair contract and make every Verizon job a union job.

Prior to the meeting, union members from Lincoln, Neb., leafleted shareholders.

David Rogol, a VZB technician, traveled from Charlton, Mass., to speak with Ivan Seidenberg during the Q&A period.

"Verizon management has tried to isolate us from the company's union workforce to keep us from having a voice on the job," said Rogol. "Why don't you take the high road, and recognize our union based on the card check process? After all, Verizon allowed a simple card check with customer service reps in 2000. Why not us?"

Shareholders also heard from Dave Reardon, a business agent at IBEW Local 2222 in

Boston who attended his eighth VZ annual meeting.

"These divisions aren't good for shareholders or customers," said Reardon. "Our company's strongest

performance will come from bundling wireless with voice, data, and video from FiOS for all customers, large and small."

Lee Gitschier, an SST from Lowell, Mass., asked Seidenberg about the rising cost of health insurance. While we won't give an inch on health care at the table, Verizon should do more than complain about

increasing medical costs.

"Couldn't we—the unions and the company—work together for a political solution to the problem that would take health care off the bargaining table? Will you join with us to work with Congress and the next president for meaningful reforms so that this won't be a divisive bargaining issue any more?"



**IBEW L. 2222 business manager Myles Calvey addressed a huge noontime rally in front of VZ New England headquarters. Nearly 50 CWA L. 2204 members practiced picketing in Roanoke, VA, at their work locations. Reports and photos from other Verizon worksites in our next issue.**



**IBEW L. 2321 members Lee Gitschier, Craig Fields, Lee St. Louis, and John DeRosa with VZB tech David Rogol in front of the annual meeting in Lincoln.**

Video of VZB tech John Linder with VZ core members:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgAwe0fiCGk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgAwe0fiCGk)

Photos from the annual meeting:  
[www.cwa-union.org/verizon/photos](http://www.cwa-union.org/verizon/photos)

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