We Are ONE!
Officers’ Message

CWA 73rd Convention — We Are One

When 175,000 of us gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., last fall, we declared that we were “One Nation.” We stood together for secure jobs, bargaining and organizing rights, retirement security and a government that works for all of us.

We’re still One Nation. In fact, if there was any doubt that a united movement of workers, civil rights activists, religious communities, students, environmentalists and other allies was the only way to reach our goals, that doubt is gone. None of us can do it alone.

This year, we’ve seen the fallout from the disastrous Supreme Court “Citizens United” decision that allowed unprecedented spending in the 2010 elections by corporations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and “advocacy groups” fronting for right-wing extremists. We’ve seen our political process turned back one hundred years, to the days when only the Big Trusts and robber barons had a voice. Today, we have government of, by and for corporations, not the people.

This extremist agenda has spread to the states. That’s where governors like Scott Walker of Wisconsin schemed to wipe out 50 years of public worker bargaining rights and ignore the rule of law, where John Kasich of Ohio talked about “breaking the back of organized labor,” where Chris Christie of New Jersey declared war on public workers and bargaining rights, and where Susana Martinez of New Mexico got rid of the state's Public Employee Relations Board that oversees public worker bargaining.

This attack on collective bargaining is new to some states in the public sector, but we’ve seen it take hold in the private sector over the past few decades, as union-busting became a billion dollar industry and companies made good on their threats to move jobs overseas.

Looking ahead, it won’t be easy. We face tough bargaining in all our industries, a Congress and many state governments determined to support financial and capital interests over the needs of ordinary citizens, and an economy that’s not really working for middle class families.

So we do what we always do. We resist and set new strategies for positive change: in organizing, bargaining and legislative/political action and coalition building around our key issues.

Restoring bargaining and organizing rights. Today, for U.S. workers, these rights just don’t exist. We’re at the bottom among developed economies, and many developing nations provide workers more opportunity for a voice on the job than in the U.S. Even the democratic standard for airline representation elections, adopted a year ago by the National Mediation Board, has come under attack.

Creating quality, secure, sustainable jobs in the U.S. This means ending the offshoring of jobs that has devastated millions of families, entire communities and important U.S. industries.

Real retirement security. We will continue to oppose plans to privatize Social Security and cut Medicare or extend the retirement age to 70, and work for retirement security for all workers.
The changes that CWA delegates have made to our union’s structure and the use of our financial resources over the past six years have made a tremendous difference in our union, and have enabled us to continue to fight for our key issues and the priorities of CWA members.

Delegates to this 73rd convention will consider additional structural changes, including the elimination of the executive vice president position, to help bolster CWA’s finances in what is still a very difficult economic time.

We know the fight isn’t easy. And we know that times are tough, for our union, for every union, for our labor movement. But if we move forward together, in solidarity, we can work to build the kind of country we all want for our children and for future generations.

We’re proud to stand together, as CWAers and as “One Nation,” and to use our passion and determination to restore an America of fairness and justice for working families.
The CWA Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1, provides that the Union shall meet in Biennial Convention at a place selected by the Executive Board or the Secretary-Treasurer when authorized by the Executive Board to do so.

Section 3 of the same Article provides that all Locals be notified in writing of the date and place of the Biennial Convention not later than 90 days in advance of the opening date of the Convention. Therefore, this is to advise that the 73rd Annual Convention will be held at the Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, NV, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 11, 2011.

Delegates, Alternates, Retirees and Guests can register Sunday, July 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Monday, July 11th, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The Convention will be held **July 11-13, 2011**.

**PLACE OF MEETING**

Las Vegas Hilton  
3000 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89109

**CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

The Resolutions/Rules Committee will convene on July 7, 2011.  
The Appeals Committee will convene on July 7, 2011.  
The Finance Committee will convene on July 8, 2011.  
The Constitution Committee will convene on July 8, 2011.  
The Credentials Committee will convene on July 8, 2011.  
The Defense Fund Oversight Committee on July 7, 2011.  
National Committee on Civil Rights and Equity on July 8, 2011.  
National Women’s Committee on July 8, 2011.

The Convention Committees will have their respective meeting rooms at the Las Vegas Hilton available to those who may need to contact them.
Delegates, Alternates and Guests attending the Convention should make their hotel reservations in advance.

Housing registration will open on Thursday, April 7, 2011. CWA’s Headquarters Hotel will be the Las Vegas Hilton. This will be the only hotel that CWA is using this year.

Reservations can be made online or by calling the hotel directly at the following numbers:

   Toll free: 800-635-7711

   Direct: 702-732-5111

Confirmation from the hotel will be sent via email or fax upon request.

All pertinent information can be found at www.cwa-union.org/convention.

The cut-off date for making reservations is June 3, 2011.