

# Communications Workers of America



# Local 4501 Communicator

March/April 2010

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[www.cwa4501.org](http://www.cwa4501.org)

OSU MAIN CAMPUS, WOOSTER, MANSFIELD, LIMA, NEWARK, MARION, PUT-IN BAY, FACULTY CLUB, SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, PICKAWAY COUNTY JOBS AND FAMILY SERVICES, FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERAN'S COMMISSION

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Vice Pres., (Wooster) Daniel Gladyszewski  
**Board Members:** Wayne Crawford, Mericle Long, Lynn Kornegay, Dennis Woodson

## Local 4501 Communicator

**Michael Secrest** ([msecrest@cwa4501.org](mailto:msecrest@cwa4501.org)), Editor/Contributor. Writes all articles not specifically attributed to others.  
**President Richard Murráy** contributes a quarterly message and oversight  
**David Fitzgerald** [webmaster@cwa4501.org](mailto:webmaster@cwa4501.org) keeps our web site current.  
**Cynthia Stewart** [cstewart@cwa4501.org](mailto:cstewart@cwa4501.org) writes political and voter empowerment articles, and more  
**Lookin' for contributors for the newsletter, y'all.**



**President Murráy**

## CWA, Leading the Way

Long before it was popular, CWA 4501 Attorney, Michael Moses, and I met and chose to back then Senator Barack Obama early in his primary run. And now we back him even more strongly now.

According to Politifact's Obameter, of the more than 500 promises President Obama made during his presidential campaign, he has kept 108 with 257 in the works, and compromised on 34. In fairness, I should say there are also 83 stalled and 19 broken. Not bad.

When I hear conservatives denying President Obama's successes, minimizing or taking the credit for

his accomplishments, or out and out lying about all that he is and stands for, I get angry! But, then again, they are who they are and don't have a lot to point to in their corner.

**But**, when I hear progressives bad mouthing the man, I'd pull my hair out if I didn't wear it so short. If you voted for him because of what he said he was going to do, and **he has done, partially done or is doing 80% of what he promised in the first year,**



### *what is your problem with him?*

If you are a democrat, an independent or an Obamican, what more can you ask from the man? He never promised to be perfect, or to please all of the people all of the time. He has pleased me far more often than not. I am proud I backed him and I am very proud of what he has accomplished and I am proud to stand up and say I will vote for him again and I will turn out to vote for anyone who will back him.

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Printed in House, CWA Local 4501

Organized Labor-the folks fighting for the working class



Representing Employees: [The Ohio State University \(Regional Campuses\) & University Medical Center](#) | [OSU Faculty Club](#)  
[Ohio Secretary of State](#) | [Pickaway County Job & Family Services](#) | [Franklin County Veterans Commission](#)

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**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
**FREE TO CWA MEMBERS BY RESERVATION ONLY**  
 CWA LOCAL 4501

**TO RESERVE A PACKET YOU MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SUBMIT IT AT YOUR LOCAL UNION HALL, DEADLINE TO RESERVE A PACKET AND ENTER THE DRAWING IS AUGUST 6, 2010. 9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP ON AUGUST 11, 2010 – 9:00a.m. – 6:00p.m.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Job site/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children # of grades k-6 \_\_\_\_\_ # of grades 7-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If applicable)

**A total of six packets will be given to each CWA 4501 family**

***You must pick up your packets at the union hall. The items you may receive are:***

**Grades k-6**

- Spiral notebook
- Crayons
- Glue stick
- Wide ruled notebook paper
- Ruler
- Eraser
- Scissors
- #2 pencils

**Grades 7-12**

- Dictionary
- Colored pencils
- Ruler
- Notebook paper
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Spiral notebook
- #2 Pencils

**YOU MAY ALSO ENTER CWA'S DRAWING TO WIN A BOOKBAG**  
 (Entry forms will be made available at the Union Hall, two drawings will be held)

**To get a reservation form please see your Steward or stop by your Union Headquarters at 27 Euclid Avenue from 9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (614) 294-5265.**

Vice President, Michael Mogan, Email: [MMogan@cwa4501.org](mailto:MMogan@cwa4501.org)  
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Executive Board: Wayne Crawford Lynn Komegay Mericle Long Dennis Woodson

# Cohen: How the Citizens United Decision Harms Our Democracy

By United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger and CWA President Larry Cohen

*CWA International President Larry Cohen made a strong case that the Supreme Court's decision allowing corporations and unions to use unlimited treasury funds to make "independent expenditures" was just wrong. "A corporation isn't a person. But the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Citizens United decision, had no problem granting corporations the First Amendment rights that citizens enjoy. This decision will allow corporations to dominate the political process, just like they are able to dominate the workplace, undermining laws that are supposed to protect worker bargaining and organizing rights."*

In a stunning display of judicial activism that overturned federal and state campaign laws dating back to the early 19th century, the narrowest Supreme Court majority held that corporations have a constitutional right to use their treasury funds to make so-called "independent expenditures" supporting or opposing candidates for public office.

The Communications Workers of America and the United Auto Workers are deeply troubled by the court's recent 5-4 decision in Citizens United. In our judgment, **this misguided decision poses a fundamental threat to our democracy and our nation's ability to pursue policies that will benefit ordinary Americans, rather than just the wealthy, powerful elites.**

The Citizens United decision will allow corporations to dominate the political process, just like they are able to dominate the workplace, undermining laws that are supposed to protect worker bargaining and organizing rights.

The Supreme Court's latest decision is based on two highly dubious propositions. First, the majority opinion simply asserts that corporations have the same First Amendment rights as individuals. This assertion has no basis in either the literal language of the Constitution or the statements of our founding fathers. As the dissent notes, "corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no

feelings, no thoughts, no desires." And corporations don't have other important rights that the Constitution confers on individuals, including the right to vote or to be counted in the census that forms the basis for apportioning representation in Congress.

Second, the majority opinion argues that as long as corporate campaign expenditures are "independent," there is no danger of corruption or even the appearance of corruption of elected officials because there cannot be any "quid pro quo" arrangements. This is magical thinking. Given the intertwined connections between political operatives, the reality is that such expenditures are seldom truly "independent." Even if they were, however, public officials still would be influenced by the prospect that a corporation might spend millions on TV ads supporting or attacking their re-election.

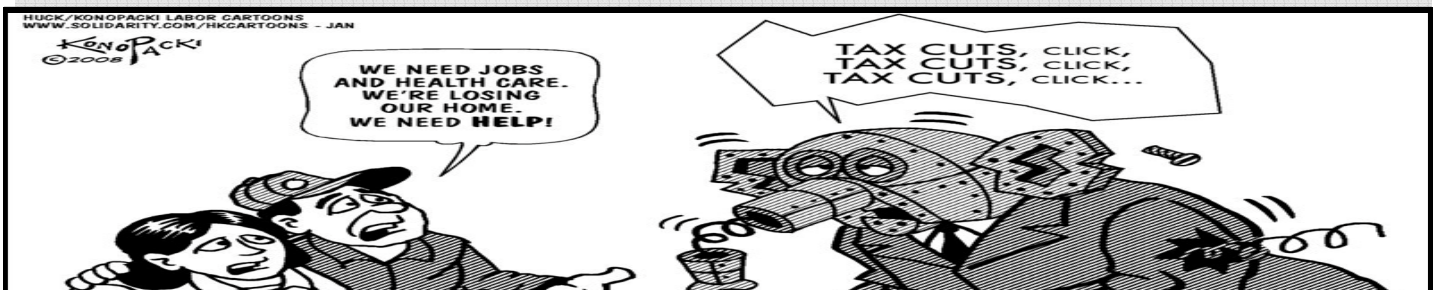
One need look no further than the infamous "Swift Boat" ads for proof that such expenditures can have an even greater impact than direct contributions. The practical impact of the court's decision is that corporations will be able to use the millions in their treasuries to exert massive pressure on elected officials to support policies beneficial to them. And these players with the deepest pockets will be able to pay premium prices for as many ads as they want, and of course, in political advertising,

like all advertising, repetition is what works.

As a result, the voices and interests of ordinary Americans will be lost and their faith in representative democracy undermined.

Congress should act promptly to prevent this corporate coup d'etat. This should include holding hearings to document the corrosive impact that independent expenditure campaigns are likely to have on decision-making by public officials, as well as the questionable "independence" of such campaigns. Congress also should look to impose new requirements on corporate independent expenditure campaigns, such as shareholder approval and tougher disclosure and accountability measures.

More sweeping reforms are needed to free candidates from their dependency on wealthy special interests by restoring our system of public financing in presidential elections and establishing public financing for Congressional elections. Ultimately, the best solution would be to ensure that any future vacancies on the Supreme Court are filled with justices who will reject the misguided judicial activism in Citizens United, and instead restore the longstanding principles that protect the right of individual Americans to a free, honest and participatory government by preventing corporate wealth from dominating our political process.



## YOUR'S TO KEEP?

Hey y'all,

Before I became CWA 4501 newsletter editor I was a CWA 4501 steward, Physical Facilities (now FOD), for many years. It's a steward's duty and privilege to do everything possible to try to help bargaining unit member's working hours go more smoothly, to enforce the contract and to do what we can to help, should some adversity befall your working relationship. All steward's try to do their best, which is what we are now asking you to do. No matter how good we are with words, no matter how well we know our contract and laws that affect our members, we cannot talk you out of trouble you behaved your way into.

In my position as steward, I saw some of the best craftsmen and hardest workers in FOD lose their jobs because of some personal problem, usually substance abuse. A couple of members that come to mind would do more in the four days a week they came to work than many people would do in two weeks, with quality to match. But I had to sit there, one disciplinary meeting after another, and watch them flush years of seniority and years of their own futures down the river because, with all their

strengths, they couldn't get a hold on their weaknesses. Before and after each meeting I would tell them what they could expect from the meeting we were entering and what they could expect from future meetings if they didn't take their futures into their own hands, but in 95% + of the cases they continued down a path that no one but them could alter, and lost jobs for which they were otherwise well qualified.

Please don't let this happen to you. If you don't like your job, quit! It beats the hell out of being fired and bodes better for your future prospects.

In that vein, some of the stewards from OSUHP have asked me to reprint these reminders in the newsletter. What you do is entirely up to you, but you don't always get to choose what happens as a result of what you do.

Michael Secrest

## ONLY YOU CAN KEEP YOUR JOB

- Come to work on time
- Bring your ID to work with you
- Clock in and out on time
- Be dressed and ready to work when you clock in
- Stay in your area
- Do your work in a timely fashion
- Avoid conflict in the work place
- If you must call in, do it according to the contract and attendance policy (Article 40.5)
- Fill out your "Application for Leave Form" the day you return to work
- Attach a copy of any doctor's statement or FMLA form (you keep the original)
- Know your rights under the contract
- Utilize the Sick Leave Conversion Program (Article 40.13, only Bargaining Unit members of 4501-CWA can use this program)
- If you have a doctor's appointment, use Article 40.8D (4501 CWA members only)

Though these OSU stewards created this list, with President Murráy's input, I know that this advice is pertinent in all units.

**Theresa Hardgrove** 565-9357 lead chief **Stephanie Johnson** 293-7874 First shift  
**Mericle Long** 293-7767 First shift **Marcus Speed** 346-1650 Third shift

# CWA Local 4501 holds training for stewards

Steward training class was held November 10, 2009.

**Cynthia Steward (SOS), CWA Local 4501 Treasurer**, educated the stewards about various types of paperwork they might encounter, particularly how to fill out vouchers for reimbursement of out of

pocket expenses, gas mileage and so on. **Bill Bain (staff member, CWA District 4)** instructed the attendees on the structure of CWA and the role the various levels play and

the areas of assistance that the district and international have to offer stewards in the performance of their duties. Bill also spoke about CWA's **Committee on Political Education (COPE)**. CWA feels it is important to build political bridges and support efforts to

help union-minded politicians help us. Helping get



l-r: VP (Wooster) Michael Good, Judy McGill,



Above: District staff member Bill Bain addresses the group.



Below: Atty. Moses talks with one of our stewards



Seated, back to us: Rosemary Vest



front to back): Lynn Kornegay, Tony Tutt, Patrice Myers, Jason Lacey

f-b): Mericle Long, Stephanie Johnson, LCS Theresa Hardgrove, Terry Davis, Rosa Denson and President Murráy

f-b): Randy Grey, Don Ingram, Marcus Speed, Jim Love, Nick Harrison



f-b): Fern Moore, Danette Dorsey, LCS Kevin Kee, VP Michael Mogan, Dennis Woodson, Lee Paul, Jon Taylor

people elected who understand and empathize with the struggles of working families will benefit us all in time.

**David Greeno, (OSUMC retired), past CWA Local 4501 steward and vice president emeritus and current activist and staff member**, known as a very diplomatic and effective steward, shared his insights as to how to approach management and how to speak with them for the maximum benefit of all involved, especially our members. **And Michael Moses, attorney for CWA Local 4501** discussed the legal rights of union stewards when dealing with management.

**Local 4501 President Richard Murráy** moderated and helped answer questions in all sections.

# What You Should Know About Health Insurance Reform

CWA news

1. **Your union-negotiated health insurance plans are maintained.** Nothing in reform will take them away. Nothing in the bill changes our right to bargain over health benefits. Nothing in the bill allows employers to drop benefits or change benefits outside the collective bargaining process.
2. **Benefits provided under the terms of existing collective bargaining agreements remain in effect until the contract expires.**
3. **The excise tax, the tax on high-value health plans, will not take effect until 2018.** CWA and other labor unions successfully beat back this measure, delaying the effective date by 5 years, reducing the amount of plan costs that are taxable, and implementing adjustments to account for older workforces. (more on this below)
4. **Some reforms that will apply to our plans in the future, include:**
  - Plans are prohibited from excluding coverage for treatments related to any pre-existing conditions
  - Plans are prohibited from imposing lifetime and annual dollar limits on benefits payable.
  - Plans that cover dependent children must offer coverage to unmarried children until their 26th birthday if they do not have access to coverage from their own employer.
  - Preventive care must be provided without deductibles or copays.
  - Limits waiting periods for coverage to 90 days from date of hire.
5. **Improvements for retirees include:**
  - Effective 1/1/11 Medicare covers preventive care and screenings without deductible or copays.
  - The “doughnut hole” in the Medicare prescription drug plan is closed gradually each year and completely by 2020.
  - A \$5 billion trust fund is established to reimburse retiree health plans a portion of the cost of high cost claims for retirees between the ages of 55 and 64.
  - A voluntary long-term care insurance program for community-based living assistance services is established.
  - The subsidy received by employers for providing retiree drug benefits will no longer be excluded from taxable corporate income. Employers must account for the different tax treatment immediately.
6. **Brings costs under control to keep coverage affordable:**
  - Eliminates a significant portion of the estimated \$1,100 that employers and workers pay each year to cover the cost of the uninsured.
  - Emphasizes evidence-based care to improve quality and control costs in Medicare, and to help manage chronic illnesses. These system improvements are expected to be adopted by the private sector.
  - Cuts the deficit by \$100 billion over 10 years and by \$1.2 trillion in the second decade, by reducing wasteful spending and slowing the rise of healthcare costs.
7. **How reform is paid for:**
  - Effective 2013, the Medicare Hospital Insurance tax is raised by 0.9% on the wealthiest taxpayers (more than \$200,000/individual or \$250,000/married couple).
  - Effective 2013, the Medicare Hospital Insurance tax is applied to unearned income, investment income, dividends, royalties, etc. of the wealthiest taxpayers.

- Effective 2013, the current tax deduction for the Medicare Part D subsidy for employers who maintain retiree prescription drug plans is eliminated.
- Effective 2018, an excise tax is applied to employers whose health plans cost more than \$10,200 for single coverage and \$27,500 for family coverage. The threshold dollar amounts will be adjusted by the age and gender of the workforce to account for the higher utilization experience by these groups. Retiree plans have separate, higher dollar thresholds.
- Effective 2011, an annual flat fee is assessed on the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.
- Effective 2013, a tax is applied to on the sale of medical devices.
- Effective 2014 a flat fee imposed on the health insurance sector.

## Michael Stinziano to Run For House

Michael Stinziano, son of Lisa and Mike Stinziano, resigned his position as Director of Franklin County Board of Elections, one of the largest in the country, to run to represent Ohio's 25th House District. Michael's father, Mike, represented the people from this district for 22 years. "I consider myself to be the best qualified person to build upon the accomplishments of Representative Dan Stewart, who will be leaving at the end of his term this year.

Throughout my college and professional career, I have pursued public service in opportunities that enabled me to contribute to solutions at the local, state, federal, and international levels.

If I am elected to represent the constitu-



ents of Ohio's 25th House District, I will work tirelessly to bring jobs to our area" Stinziano said. "As state representative, I will work with township, city and county

officials to find solutions to improve housing and safety of our neighborhoods. I will work hard to promote the success of small businesses in our community".

## CWA STATE COUNCIL OF OHIO

Three candidates for legislative office presented themselves for labor consideration for support in the primary election of 2010, they are:

Ben Kessler is running for a seat in Ohio Senate third district. Candidate Kessler stated that he is a friend of labor and believes that labor is strong in unity.

Lou Gentile is running for a seat in Ohio House 95th district. Candidate Gentile

has been a long time aide to Governor Strickland, going back to his congressional days.. Candidate Gentile made his announcement of candidacy at the United Steelworkers of America Local 1238 hall and immediately was given a CWA State Council endorsement via votes of the delegates at the meeting.

Debbie Phillips, incumbent, is running for Ohio House 92nd district. Candidate Phil-

lips, also a friend of labor, has shown her support of labor, CWA State Council of Ohio President Frank Mathews called on Rep. Phillips to show her support of CWA's fair wage and benefit package, She quickly responded via letter to AT&T's CEO.

I will make every effort to keep you informed of CWA State Council of Ohio's efforts to keep your interests at heart.

**Please call your U.S. Representative now at 888-580-0792 (toll free)** and voice your opinion that you support the US House health care bill, you oppose taxing health care benefits and that all employers should provide coverage. (CWA State Council of Ohio)

Submitted by Cynthia Stewart, CWA 4501 delegate to the Council.

**The Ohio primary is May 4. Primaries are important. VOTE!**

If you need to register to vote, not sure if you are registered to vote, not sure what precinct to cast your vote in, please contact Cynthia Stewart at 614-570- 3425.

**IN MEMORY**



*Give them rest with the devout and the just, in the place of the pasture of rest and refreshment, of waters in the paradise of delight; whence grief and pain and sighing have fled away.*

**Charles Michael Good, CWA Local 4501 Wooster Vice President**, previously worked at OSUMC, passed away around Christmas time. Though I have certainly seen Michael very serious, considering how to help out a member who had.....uh...I'm trying to think of one of Michael's colorful expressions that would fit the situation, but none that I can remember are fit to print, so I'll just say... messed up, Michael was as quick a guy with a laugh as you'll ever meet. I could go on for a long time. Suffice it to say, "I will miss you, my friend." And I know his co-workers and many of us here at the hall feel the same way.—the editor.

**Prayer for the grieved:** *“May the LORD bless you and keep you; May the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; may the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”* Numbers 6:24-26

**HAS SOMEONE IN YOUR AREA PASSED OR LOST A CLOSE RELATIVE? Do you know of a member who is ill at home, or in the hospital? Or had a baby?**

We here at the hall need your help so we can stay on top of our member's good and bad news. Do you know someone who has won an award? Has starred in a play?

We have, on this page, an area where we can share bereavement, and inform employees of a member's loss who might have worked with them in other areas. And we have a section we call Good and Welfare, which chronicles other events of our members. And, as your union, we consider it a duty and an honor to send cards or flowers to our members and their close families. BUT, OSU is too large for us to know all member's activities.

And in situations where flowers are appropriate, the sooner we know, the more timely our response can be. This is just another way our members can help us serve other members.

**Please HELP 294-5265**

We need to know the event, the member's department and shop, and the relationship to the member.

**SECOND LEVEL GRIEVANCE/RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES ROSTER**

DEPT	STEWARD	ARTICLE / ISSUE	HRN	DECISION	CWA ACTION
FOD	Davis	11.1 Mishandling of corrective action on level 1 investigation	1/12/10	Denied	NFA**
OSUMC	Long	1.1, 3.2, and 8 Harassment	2/23/10	<b>AFFIRMED&amp;</b>	NFA**
OARDC	Gladyszewski	Harassment and Discrimination	3/3/10	<b>RESOLVE&amp;</b>	NFA**

\*CONSIDERING FOR ARBITRATION \*\*NO FURTHER ACTION \*\*\*RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES #SEE O.U.C.H. & SEE NEXT O.U.C.H.