CWA at a Glance

Beginnings

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) is a young union—it was founded in New Orleans in 1938. First known as the National Federation of Telephone Workers, convention delegates in 1947 changed the name to the Communications Workers of America.

CWA joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) in 1949 and has been an affiliate of the AFL-CIO since the two labor organizations merged in 1955.

Size

CWA, the largest telecommunications union in the world, represents over 700,000 workers in public and private sector employment.

Composition

CWA members are employed in the telecommunications industry, airline industry, printing and news media, public service, health care, cable television, general manufacturing, electronics, gas and electric utilities and other fields.

Geographic Spread

There are more than 1,200 CWA chartered Local Unions throughout the U.S. and Canada. CWA members live and work in more than 10,000 communities.

Collective Bargaining

CWA holds over 1,000 bargaining agreements that spell out wages, benefits and working conditions for its members. Among the largest employers are AT&T, Verizon, SBC, General Electric, Delphi, state and local governments, airlines, major newspapers, and universities.

Union Democracy

CWA holds an annual convention. Elected rank and file delegates attending CWA conventions are the union's highest policymaking body.

CWA Organizational Structure

Convention

The Convention is the highest governing authority of the Union. Approximately 2,500 locally elected delegates and alternates attend the CWA convention.

Executive Board

The Executive Board is elected at the Convention every three years and consists of:

The President
The Secretary-Treasurer
The Executive Vice President
Sixteen Vice Presidents—eight District Vice Presidents and Eight International Vice Presidents for:
Communications and Technologies;
Printing, Publishing and Media Workers;
Public and Health Care Workers;
Telecommunications
NABET-CWA
TNG-CWA
IUE-CWA
AFA-CWA

Districts

CWA is structured into eight geographic Districts. Each Locals District has a District Vice President and Staff.

Chartered Locals

CWA has more than 1,200 chartered local unions in the United States and Canada. Members elect local officers and the delegates to the CWA Convention.

All CWA members, including International Officers, Staff and Local Officers must abide by the CWA Constitution as well as their Local's Bylaws.
CWA District Map

CWA District

District 1  New York City
District 2  Silver Spring, MD
District 3  Atlanta
District 4  Cleveland
District 6  Austin
District 7  Denver
District 8  Sacramento
District 13 Philadelphia