

By Louis Gabriele

CWA District 9 is responsible for supporting the CWA Locals in the states of California, Hawaii and Nevada. We all gathered in Honolulu, Hawaii for the 2018 District 9 Leadership Conference. It is rotated each year. Everyone was greeted by the Association of Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA) and the Printing, Publishing and Media Sector (PPMS-CWA) with a Hawaiian Song and Dance to celebrate our coming to Hawaii.



After the special greeting, Vice President Tom Runnion reported that there were 60,000 members in District 9. He spoke about the Janus Factor, the Department of Labor cuts, CWA Strong training.

What is *Janus* all about?

Mark Janus, working as a child support specialist in Illinois, did not want to be a union member and distraught when dues were taken out of his paycheck. He filed a lawsuit, *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*. It is a Supreme Court case that aims to take away the freedom of working people to join strong unions.



← Meet the man behind Janus, *billionaire Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner*. He filed a lawsuit to bar the collection of fair share fees by public service unions. The National Right to Work Foundation, funded by corporate billionaires, took up the case and put it on the fast track to the Supreme Court. ([Education News](#), [Workers' Rights](#))

“Unions work because members pay their fair share and they benefit from what is negotiated together”, according to *AFSCME* (the [American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union](#)).

West Virginia Frontier workers are on strike.

Live pictures were sent to support them, while we chanted:

“CWA District 9 SUPPORTS CWA District 4 and Frontier West Virginia Workers”



About 1,400 Frontier Communications workers in West Virginia and Ashburn, Virginia, went on strike that Sunday after union leaders and the company failed to reach a contract agreement. Frontier's contract with CWA expired at midnight March 3rd. They had been in negotiations for 10 months and the contract had been extended twice since May 2017. The company wanted to continue cutting jobs in West Virginia. That hampers the workers' ability to provide quality service, The Union Leaders also said that Frontier had not lived up to the promises it made when it bought Verizon's landlines in 2010. Since 2010, Frontier cut more than 500 middle-class jobs in the state. "We Are Fighting for our Future at Frontier"



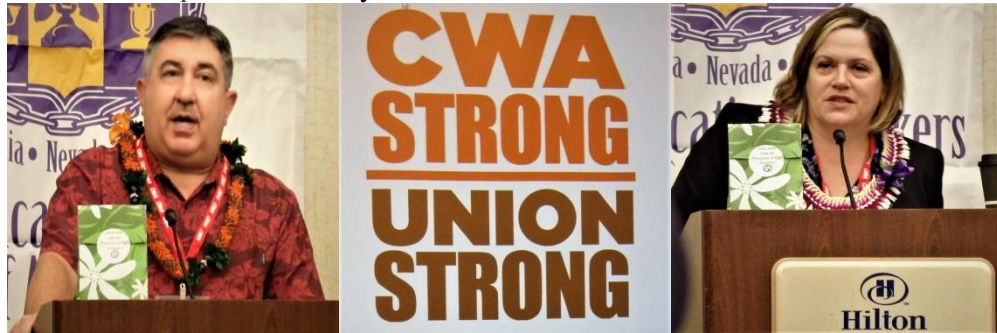
Vice President Runnion stressed the importance of CWA STRONG



Update: April 18, 2018 - CWA reported that members at Frontier Communications in West Virginia, Va. have voted to ratify a four year agreement that the bargaining team reached. The members fought hard for this agreement. It was a case of unity and perseverance and the unwavering support of working people in West Virginia, and across the country. They won raises, affordable health care and job security.

Get off your ass and fight

That's a quote from Randy Perriera Hawaii – AFL-CIO



Randy Perriera Hi. – AFL-CIO

Sara Steffens CWA Sec-Treas

Randy Perriera said that we were the “Last Line of Defense” and we must “Be Active”. Sara Steffens talked about ORGANIZING. Direct TV was organized by NABET-CWA technicians. The Los Angeles Times was organized by the Newspaper Guild. The LA Times went for 136 years without being unionized. It is about time. Sara quoted Mother Jones when she said, **“You will never get anything unless you make them give it you”**

MORE SPEAKERS



Cheryl Bacon-NABET-CWA Local 53

Monica Alvarado

Dominique Thomas



Pandy Allen, Women's Committee

Bernie Lunzer – TNG

Victor Serano- Organizing



Rafael Navar, National Political Director

Sara Nelson -AFA Sect. Pres.

Adrian Acosta – Staff Rep

“This is a dangerous time to be a journalist”

UPDATE:

May 22, 2018



“Week after week, President Trump and this Administration seem to break new ground in their attacks on the press. The president and his cabinet officials view the free press as the enemy. CNN and the Associated Press were barred from entering an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) summit on water contamination where Administrator Scott Pruitt was speaking. When a reporter asked questions about why she was prohibited entry, she was forcibly removed by security guards.”

May 25th 2018 Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) filed a bill in the Senate that would make it a federal crime to assault a journalist. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Eric Swalwell of California in February of this year. Unions representing 30,000 reporters, photographers, and broadcast employees are praising the bill. News Guild President Bernie Lunzer said, “The Journalist Protection Act addresses a real need. This is a dangerous time to be a journalist.”

“NABET members are easy and tempting prey for anti-media extremists and thieves because they often work in the field alone or with just one other person. They also carry equipment that’s expensive and cumbersome,” said NABET Sector President Charlie Braico. He also said, “The Journalist Protection Act will permit the authorities to properly punish people who attempt to interfere with our members as they work in dynamic and challenging newsgathering situations,”

The bill would make it a federal crime to intentionally cause bodily injury to a journalist engaged in reporting or with the intention of intimidating the journalist or impeding newsgathering. It calls for punishment of up to six years in prison.

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P.S Is anyone ever forced to join a union or pay dues or fees that go to political candidates?

“No. The simple truth is that no one is required to join a union and no one is required to pay any fees that go to political candidates. A bargaining unit employee who does not want to be a union member or does not want to contribute toward electing candidates who support working families can choose to be a Fair Share feepayer—and pay a fee that is calculated to exclude any political expenditures. This is already the law of the land.

“When employees (in a legally defined bargaining unit) at a particular workplace have chosen to be represented by a union, the union becomes the legal representative for collective bargaining matters. The union is required by law to represent and negotiate on behalf of all of these workers—and all the workers receive the wage increases, benefits and workplace rights that the union is able to achieve.”