



*News from the*  
**Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO**

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**Contacts:** Mary Gutierrez – 213-276-3384  
Gina Blea – 619-726-8931  
T Santora – 310-795-9315

## **AT&T-West Workers, Months Without a Contract, Rally for Idol Fans' Support**

**WHAT:** This Thursday, workers employed by AT&T will hold a march and rally to ensure that their jobs remain good middle class jobs. The action will begin with about 600 workers who will gather outside the AT&T-West offices and march to the Staples Center where they will greet thousands attending the American Idol Concert which is sponsored by AT&T-West. Upon arriving they will urge thousands of young AT&T customers to support them in their fight by "texting" CEO Randall Stephenson with a message in support of them.

**BACKGROUND:** This action comes in the midst of contract negotiations between AT&T-West and its workers. The contract expired at midnight on April 4, 2009 and impacts 8,000 workers in L.A. County. Workers have been working without a contract since that time. In total, AT&T-West employs approximately 23,000 workers represented by CWA District 9 in California, Nevada and Hawaii. July 16 also marks the opening of contract negotiations between CWA and AT&T-Southeast, the former Bell South. That brings the total number of employees currently bargaining for a new contract with AT&T to approximately 115,000 nationally.

CWA members at AT&T operations voted by an 88 percent yes vote to authorize a strike if a fair contract isn't reached. CWA represents approximately 125,000 AT&T employees nationally.

Primary obstacles for a new agreement center on health care costs, pensions and job security issues.

**WHO:** Workers employed by AT&T-West including installation and maintenance technicians, customer service representatives, cable splicers, operators, administrative support staff, communications technicians, and many more titles related to telecommunications service delivery.

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**WHERE/SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:**

4:30 pm – Workers and supporters to gather at the AT&T Tower - 1150 S. Olive, Los Angeles

5:00 pm – Workers to begin marching to the Staples Center - 1111 S. Figueroa, Los Angeles

6:00 PM – Rally begins in front of Staples Center

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