

Sisters and Brothers,

As we step into a new year and the challenges it may bring, we want to reaffirm our commitment to improving wages, benefits, and working conditions for every member. This year will be significant, as we begin contract negotiations for our two largest bargaining units. Negotiations with Frontier Communications will start for a contract expiring August 1, followed by Windstream (Valor) Communications, whose contract expires August 31. In addition, we are continuing efforts to secure a first contract for employees of Windstream (Sugarland) Communications, aiming for an agreement that meets both member needs and the objectives of our Local. Your unity during these negotiations is essential to our success.

Equally important is maintaining solidarity during this time of national unrest. While we acknowledge political and philosophical differences among individuals, we must also respect everyone's right to express their opinions. We will not always agree, but open dialogue should never divide us. We all share the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and embraced in the Declaration of Independence.

Let's concentrate on what unites us—far more than what separates us. Together, we can achieve common goals that impact our daily lives, regardless of political views: fair wages and benefits for the hard work we do, safe working conditions, the ability to provide for our families, and the fundamental right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

In Unity,  
Executive Officers of CWA Local 6171  
President Travis Pirotte  
Executive Vice President Allen Whitaker  
Secretary Treasurer Cody Rickey