



## A Newsletter to Connect CWA Passenger Service Professionals

This is our sixth issue of the CWA Agents Connected newsletter. CWA represents more than 20,000 agents at American, Piedmont, and Envoy. In this newsletter we cover stories of interest to agents at all three airlines. If you'd like to suggest a story or share a picture of you and your coworkers taking action to build our union, email us at [info@cwaagents.org](mailto:info@cwaagents.org).

May 2018

### Assault Bill Passes House: Let's Make Sure It Passes the Senate

Tell your Senators to protect passenger service employees right now!

Tensions keep increasing at U.S. airports, with agents on the front lines facing travelers' frustrations over delays, baggage fees, and other airline policies. When passengers lash out and become disruptive, verbally and physically abusing agents, we need protection. Take action for airport safety by asking your Senators to pass the FAA Reauthorization bill, which includes important new protections for agents here: <https://bit.ly/2lfuU8E>

As of April 27, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the Reauthorization—a major victory for airline agents everywhere. Now we're ready to clear the final hurdle in the Senate and your help is the key. We'll win if we all **write our Senators today!**

Continued online: <http://bit.ly/2HRaoEn>

### Dates to Remember

*Envoy Bargaining: May 29-31*

*Piedmont Sessions with National Mediation Board: July 9-13*

### WHAT'S AT STAKE: Conversations with Envoy and Piedmont Passenger Service Agents



We've been asking Envoy and Piedmont agents to share their stories about the challenges they face at work.

Please check out the interviews with Envoy Agent **Takisha Gower**, Piedmont Agent **J. D. Colwell**, Envoy Agent **Robert Helmstetler**, and Piedmont Agent **Douglas Christian** online: <http://bit.ly/2JTr1Ep>

# We're Fighting to #EndPovertyPay: Envoy and Piedmont Workers in Action

Envoy and Piedmont agents have been mobilizing across the country for the past several months. Our picketing and lobbying actions are focused on ending poverty wages and making sure that American Airlines recognizes our value as the employees who work long hours every day at its regional carriers.

American Airlines recently posted almost \$2 billion in profits and will see millions more as a result of new corporate tax cuts, but many workers at Piedmont and Envoy are facing wages of less than \$10 per hour. American announced a one-time bonus for employees after the passage of the recent tax bill, but they haven't yet budged on the real issue—permanent, sustainable wages for all front-line workers. We all wear the same uniform and do the same crucial tasks. And we all deserve respect and a living wage.



**In Washington, DC, May 14:** Passenger service agents from Envoy Air and Piedmont Airlines led a full-court press on Capitol Hill. Agents went to the Hill to ask Senators to urge American Airlines CEO Doug Parker to put an end to poverty wages at American's regional carriers. Agents spent most of the day educating Senators and their aides on the lack of fair pay and benefits for the majority of Piedmont and Envoy workers and the lack of progress on these issues in bargaining.

Continued online: <http://bit.ly/2t1UyIv>

**On April 16, to mark "Tax Day" at airports across the country:** Envoy, Piedmont, and American Airlines passenger service agents from LA to New York and from Chicago to Miami grabbed signs and flyers and made their voices heard. Agents picketed and leafleted outside their airports, telling American Airlines that it's time to End Poverty Pay at its regional carriers.

"We had about a dozen Envoy workers out picketing and educating the public in Rochester," said Envoy agent Brian Zeh, who works three jobs to make ends meet. A recent survey of Envoy workers showed that more than 25 percent of them rely on public assistance to survive. "American is making billions in profits, but paying poverty wages at Envoy, and that's not right." At many airports, customers and fellow workers stopped to lend support.

Continued online: <http://bit.ly/2JSVxuD>



## Updates on Recent Bargaining

Our Envoy bargaining team met with the company's bargaining committee in late January and mid-March, reaching agreements on several issues, including Sick Leave and Uniforms. Bargaining resumes May 29-31. Team members appreciate the solidarity and support of members over the difficult two years of bargaining so far. We're united and prepared to fight for the contract we deserve.

At Piedmont members did not ratify the Tentative Agreement with the company in March, so a new round of bargaining training is set with a mediator from the National Mediation Board in June. New mediation sessions are planned for the summer, with the first to be held July 9-13, in Florida. In preparation for those sessions, members filled out surveys about their concerns regarding the TA to guide the bargaining team. The team is eager to get back to negotiating the best possible contract for all agents.

## Demanding an End to Poverty Wages in Charlotte



**On March 19 in Charlotte, NC:** More than 120 workers from BOS, PHX, HSV, SAT, RIC, and CLT rallied to demand a fair contract and an end to poverty wages for Piedmont employees. The turnout for the action was amazing, with a sea of CWA red filling the streets. Crews from two local news teams showed up to interview participants.

Local 3645 VP and 13-year veteran Piedmont employee Donielle Prophete is energized by the activism in Charlotte. She says, "We need to be compensated and respected for our hard work and dedication to this company."

Continued online: <http://bit.ly/2LQFka7>



## Dispatches from the Field: North Carolina Members in Action

*By Vickey Hoots, President, CWA Local 3640*

On Wednesday, April 18, CWA Local 3640 celebrated Agent Appreciation Day. The Executive Board served pizza and handed out red t-shirts to members in Winston-Salem, NC. District 3 Vice President Richard Honeycutt and CWA representatives Marge Krueger and Vonda Hardy were on hand to listen to members' suggestions and concerns and answer questions. Back in January, when CWA members across the country took to the streets to call on AT&T to end offshoring and outsourcing of union jobs, members of Local 3640 were proud to join informational picketing in front of a store in North Myrtle Beach, SC.

Offshoring is an issue that impacts workers in lots of industries, including mine. Many members of my local are reservation agents who came out of US Airways before the merger with American. We fought hard to bring back hundreds of jobs the company had offshored to foreign countries in 2005. So we're well aware of the damage that outsourcing can do to communities.



And it wasn't that long ago I was at a bargaining table fighting for fair wages and benefits for our members at American Airlines, and CWA members all across the USA showed their solidarity. That's what it means to be union. We will stand with members at AT&T until they get the fair contract they deserve. That's why we say: One day longer, one day stronger!



# Local 6001 Is CWA STRONG!

*By Tammy Woods, President, CWA Local 6001*

Last week the Executive Board of Local 6001 learned a variety of new techniques and strategies for organizing and mobilizing members at New Officer Training in Dallas. Board members attending included: President Tammy Woods; Vice President Donna Bryant; Treasurer Wanda Tanaka; Secretary Renee de la Garza; and Area Representatives Reggie Brooks, Barrye Fregia, and James Womack. During their training, officers learned the importance of improving their communication with members, how to expand their CWA Strong efforts, and how to improve the Local's involvement in political, civil rights, and human rights programs.

The Board then joined with other attendees from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri at CWA's District 6 Conference to discuss issues that impact members in all five states. One of the highlights of the conference was participating in an action with AT&T employees to protest offshoring of American jobs.

All the Local 6001 officers are looking forward to the October 2018 Delegate Assembly in Dallas, and they've already begun planning activities leading up to that meeting to make sure members are fired up and mobilized.



*The Executive Board of CWA Local 6001 joined in a Solidarity March with AT&T employees in Dallas to protest offshoring of U.S. jobs.*

CWA Agents  
501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-434-1100  
info@cwaagents.org

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