



**FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS IUE-CWA 81381
FSW FUNCTION REPORT**

Person attending (Name & Title):

Christina Christman, President

Name and nature of the event/function (i.e., Conference, Training, etc.)

2022 CWA Presidents Meeting, Division Meetings for CWA District 1, IUE, and PHEW (CWA Public Sector), and Legislative Political Conference

Dates attended:

June 12th – June 16th 2022

What was the purpose/goal of the function?

The purpose of the President's Meeting was to take care of official CWA business as the local president. The Division Meetings were for updates and topics related to our specific sectors and districts; I went to those three as our local falls under all of them. The Legislative Political Conference was to hear from elected officials, learn the CWA LP agenda, lobby our federal level politicians that represent our local area, and provided updates and information relating to CWA overall.

What did you learn and/or what significant information was shared at the function?

The President's Meeting: we approved the Credentialing Committee report, we also had the opportunity to overturn the Appeal's Committee decision to suspend a member for one year, we were able to hear both sides and overwhelmingly chose to acquit the member of all charges and reinstate them to their office. President Shelton made a groundbreaking announcement that Microsoft has signed a neutrality deal with CWA and will not interfere with CWA unionization of Activision Blizzard after acquired by Microsoft.

We also heard the financial report for CWA at the President's meeting. Overall CWA membership is down by 2%, attributed to Covid 19, Janus, and downsizing in telecom. One thing that immediately stood out to me is that Public Sector jobs overwhelmingly make up the largest group of members in CWA, yet the priorities for legislative and political agendas (as well as organizing and others) seem to remain on the telecom industry. Spending remained under budget by almost 7% overall, and national spending has been cut by more than \$14 million since 2016. CWA is also in the process of hiring 28 staff reps and organizers from funding approved during the Convention in November.

Division Meetings: District 1 explained the three legislative priorities they wanted us to lobby on, we went over the lobbying process and schedule for the next two days, and we heard from District 1 VP Dennis Trainor. IUE spoke about sector related updates, wins and losses over the last year, and we heard from IUE VP Carl

Kennebrew. PHEW (Public, Health Care, and Education Workers) had a great panel that spoke more about public sector related issues, and we heard from VP Margaret Cook.

The three legislative priorities we lobbied on were the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, The United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act, and the No Tax Breaks for Union Busting Act. The PRO Act has actually passed the house the last 2 years but still has not been brought to a vote in the Senate. The provisions in it would make it easier for workers to unionize and would strengthen worker's rights. No Tax Breaks for Union Busting Act is actually one of the articles of the PRO Act; companies would no longer be allowed to write off hundreds of millions of dollars every year for contracting with anti-union lawyers and consultants. This would save the tax payers money, and is likely to be passed through the Senate as a budgetary item successfully bypassing the filibuster obstacle. The United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act has already been passed in several states, including NYS. It strives to protect Call Center jobs from going overseas with a list of provisions.

LP Conference: we heard from elected officials Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Rep Chuy Garcia (IL), Rep Ro Khanna (CA), Congressman Al Green (TX), Senator Bob Casey (from PA, also introduced the No Tax Breaks for Union Busting Act and The United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act into the Senate), Senator Sherrod Brown (OH), Rep Ruben Gallego (AZ), and Rep Hakeem Jefferies (NY). We also heard from President Shelton, CWA National Political Director Cory Medina, and CWA Government Affairs Director Dan Mauer. Former Secretary of Labor Tom Perez spoke with us, as well as current Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh.

If there was one resounding message we took away from the Conference it was this – Joe Biden is the most labor friendly president this country has had in a very long time, possibly ever. It was repeated time and time again by every single speaker. Our LP packet included a letter from the President himself. This was reinforced when the White Advisor for Infrastructure Mitch Landrieu spoke with us, he told us that he was instructed by President Biden that when Chris Shelton calls, he is to answer.

There were several poignant panel discussions. One was CWA women who are also elected government officials. We heard from call center workers from the Philippines who have been imprisoned and threatened simply for organizing. If you did any national phone banking in the last few years one face stood out a panel for skill building, Rasean Clayton. Rasean is a rank and file member who sued Kanye West to keep him off of the ballot in Arizona in 2020, Biden narrowly carried that state and many people believe it is due to Rasean's actions.

We traveled up to the Capitol to meet with the staff from Senator Gillibrand; the Senator has already co-sponsored all of the legislation we were lobbying on. Afterwards we met with Chuck Schumer and we asked him to bring the PRO Act to a vote in a Senate, which he would not commit to. We did have a meeting with Morelle but it was cancelled due to hearings.

There were plenty of networking opportunities in which I was able to meet and connect with other local Presidents from all over the nation. We shared stories and strategies to learn from each other.