



Workers Rights are Human Rights



Sean Mcvay Tim Lovaasen Rep. Mike Nelson

Sean McVay, 1st Vice President from CWA Local 7201, and CWA MN State Council President Tim Lovaasen, along with other union members attended and spoke at a Workers' Rights Forum commemorating International Human Rights Day on Monday, December 10, 2007.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948. It states that "Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his or her interests. Unfortunately, the fundamentals of human rights are under attack at Verizon and Comcast.

The Forum was moderated by Representative Jim Davine of Minneapolis and attended by Representative Mike Nelson of Brooklyn Park, MN. Mike is the author of the resolution supporting the Employee Free Choice Act now in the MN House and Rep. Loren Solberg (from the Iron Range).

When addressing the Forum, Sean told about the troubles CWA had with Comcast in St. Paul. He said after organizing the warehouse personnel at Comcast, CWA could not get a first contract because of the delaying tactics Comcast used during bargaining. CWA tried to bargain for two years with Comcast but failed to get a first contract. The workers voted for decertification of CWA as their bargaining agent after waiting two years for a contract. Sean pointed out that under the EFCA a first contract would have been reached or binding arbitration would have dictated one.

Tim pointed out the differences between the anti-union tactics of Verizon and the success we had with AT&T wireless using the process put forth in the EFCA. Tim also told them how a unionized company such as New Flyer in Crookston, MN, helped to improve the entire standard of living in that community along with the workers at the factory.

Representative Mike Nelson left the people attending today's Forum the thought provoking phrase of "Good paying jobs with good benefits are good economic development"