In Memoriam

As we meet here in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the 74th Convention of the Communications Workers of America, we remember those who are no longer with us.

We honor our colleagues and their contributions to building our union.

GLORIA JOHNSON

Gloria Johnson, CWA’s women’s activities coordinator and founder of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, was a staunch defender of women’s and civil rights. At CLUW, she served as president from 1993 to 2004 and secretary-treasurer for 17 years prior. Gloria fought for equal access to economic opportunities and was a prominent voice on a number of issues including women’s health, family and medical leave, sweatshops, labor law reform and voter education. Gloria got her start as an IUE bookkeeper in 1954 and rose to become chair of the IUE Women’s Council, director of IUE’s Social Action Department and a vice president. In 1993, she became the second African-American woman to be elected an AFL-CIO vice president. When IUE merged with CWA in 2000, she was named CWA’s women’s activities coordinator. After stepping down from CLUW, she led the newly created Labor Coalition for Community Action. She retired in 2005, and died on February 13, 2013 at age 85.

CONNIE KNOX

Connie Knox, a Baltimore Sun staffer who was active in the Newspaper Guild for more than three decades, was a witty writer, nurturing editor and mentor to scores of journalists. After stints with the Waterbury Republican-American and the
Seth Rosen, District 4 vice president, fought tirelessly for workers’ rights. He joined CWA Local 4309 while working at Ohio Bell and served as an officer and chief steward. He led District 4’s organizing program and became administrative director to then District 4 Vice President Jeff Rechenbach. Seth was elected vice president of District 4 in 2005 and was a leader in organizing, bargaining and coalition building. Through his leadership, union and progressive allies defeated Ohio’s Senate Bill 5, which attacked the bargaining rights of public workers. He was a behind-the-scenes powerhouse who never wavered in the face of successive attacks on workers’ rights across the Midwest. Seth chaired the CWA Executive Board Committee on Organizing and was a founding member of Jobs with Justice and Stand Up for Ohio. Seth Rosen died on July 20, 2012 at age 55, as he and the bargaining team were successfully negotiating a tentative agreement for 15,000 CWA members at AT&T Midwest.

ROBERT ‘BEN’ PORCH

Robert “Ben” Porch, a retired vice president of District 3, was one of the youngest CWA leaders ever elected. Working as a lineman for Southern Bell in Alabama, he joined the newly formed Communications Workers of America union at age 24. Ben went on to serve as Alabama Director, North Georgia Director and North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky Director. In 1967, he was elected District 3 vice president. He served as vice president and in other positions within CWA, then was re-elected District 3 Vice President in 1978, serving until his retirement in 1987. In 1988, the COPE Hall of Fame Award was named for Porch in recognition of his tremendous support for CWA’s political action program. He died on December 31, 2012 at age 88.

PATRICK SCANLON

Patrick Scanlon, former CWA general counsel, devoted his entire legal career to workers’ rights. In what he considered his greatest achievement, CWA won a $60 million maternity leave settlement at a former AT&T subsidiary — securing back pay and seniority credit for 13,000 workers. In 1980, he was named associate general counsel for District 3, and in 1986, he moved to CWA headquarters. As general counsel, Patrick advised CWA leaders on the legal conduct of strikes, contract details and grievances and supervised all aspects of arbitration, trying more than 200 cases each year. He also served as the CWA convention’s longtime parliamentarian, as well as co-chair of the American Bar Association’s equal employment opportunity and international labor law committees. He retired in 2005. Patrick Scanlon died on April 4, 2012 at age 71.

RAY MYERS

Ray Myers, executive president of the Retired Members’ Council, spent his working and retirement years building CWA. He started his career in the labor movement in 1957, working for Bell of Pennsylvania. He was elected president of Local 23 of the Federation of Telephone Workers of Pennsylvania, and he continued to serve in that position following its merger with CWA in 1984. Later in life, he never missed the opportunity to join a picket line and support retiree efforts. He was elected executive president of the RMC in 2010 and also served as president of RMC District 13. Ray Myers was editing an email to his retiree chapter when he died on March 15, 2012 at age 73.

SETH ROSEN

Seth Rosen, District 4 vice president, fought tirelessly for workers’ rights. He joined CWA Local 4309 while working at Ohio Bell and served as an officer and chief steward. He led District 4’s organizing program and became administrative director to then District 4 Vice President Jeff Rechenbach. Seth was elected vice president of District 4 in 2005 and was a leader in organizing, bargaining and coalition building. Through his leadership, union and progressive allies defeated Ohio’s Senate Bill 5, which attacked the bargaining rights of public workers. He was a behind-the-scenes powerhouse who never wavered in the face of successive attacks on workers’ rights across the Midwest. Seth chaired the CWA Executive Board Committee on Organizing and was a founding member of Jobs with Justice and Stand Up for Ohio. Seth Rosen died on July 20, 2012 at age 55, as he and the bargaining team were successfully negotiating a tentative agreement for 15,000 CWA members at AT&T Midwest.

Willoughby News-Herald, Connie began working at The Sun in 1978. She then got involved in the Washington-Baltimore Guild, where she served as unit chair at The Sun, local vice president and president for 12 years. In 1991, she was elected an at-large vice president for TNG-CWA and later served as TNG-CWA vice president for Region 2. In 2008, she was elected TNG-CWA International Chair. She retired in April 2011 and died a few months later on July 17, 2011. She was 68.
George R. Strick

George R. Strick, former District 2 vice president and a special assistant to the president, dedicated his life’s work to building our union. He joined CWA’s predecessor union, the National Federation of Telephone Workers, in 1946 in Kansas City, Mo., and served Local 6325 as chief steward and vice president. He worked on several organizing campaigns, including Western Electric, and joined the CWA staff in Kansas City in 1960. He was named assistant to the vice president of CWA District 2 in 1966 and became vice president in 1974. In 1986, he was named a special assistant to the president. George Strick retired in 1989. He also was a longtime board member of the Joseph Anthony Beirne Foundation. He was 89 when he died on April 7, 2013.

Donald Arnold began working as a CWA Representative in District 7 in November 1951 and served District 7 locals until his retirement in July 1990. He died Aug. 16, 2011 at age 78.

Billy Austin joined the union staff in August 1984 as a Printing Sector representative. He later became a vice president of the PPMWS, until that position was eliminated by the 1992 convention, and was assigned to CWA District 7. He retired February 2011 and died on Nov. 26, 2012 at age 79.

George Bair joined the CWA staff in Oklahoma City in November 1977 and worked with locals throughout District 6. He retired January 1988 and died in Jan. 15, 2012. He was 89.

Walter Collins was a CWA staff representative who served locals in Michigan, Indianapolis, New Jersey, Connecticut and Florida. He joined CWA in January 1966 and retired in June 1989. Collins also served as president of the CWA staff union in 1986. He was 88 when he died on Apr. 28, 2012.

Janet David, TNG-CWA’s first African American representative, joined the union staff in 1981, working with locals from New York and New England to Michigan. She retired in March 2000 and died March 11, 2012. She was 79.

Glen Hanson was a CWA representative who started working in January 1966 in Michigan, then transferred to Chicago in 1970. He retired in July 1983 and died on Dec. 11, 2011. He was 90.

Don Jernigan was a NABET-CWA representative who also was an elected NABET local president before joining the union staff in January 1994. He retired in March 2007 and died on Jan. 23, 2013. He was 67.

Luis Montanez, Jr., was a TNG-CWA representative who began working for the union in November 1971, organizing and bargaining for locals on the East Coast. He retired in January 1998 and died on July 3, 2011 at the age of 78.

Frances Moran was a CWA representative who began working for the union in February 1974. She served locals in Illinois and Florida, and retired in November 1989. She was 83 when she died on Jan. 1, 2013.

Martka Moudy was a CWA staff representative in District 3 and also served for a time as western North Carolina director and North Georgia director. She joined CWA in October 1953 and retired in April 1987. She was 88 when she died on Feb. 28, 2013.

Mary O’Hara, a CWA representative in Pennsylvania who later became administrative assistant to the vice president, joined CWA in January 1957. She retired in March 2000 and died on Oct. 11, 2011 at age 87.

Charlotte Posey joined CWA in October 1959 as CWA representative and went on to serve as area director for Wyoming, Idaho and Montana. She retired in August 1980 and died on Oct. 22, 2011 at age 92.

George Powell was a CWA representative in District 3, serving Tennessee and Mississippi. He joined the union staff in September 1980 and retired in March 2000. He died in June 28, 2012 at age 66.

Ross Stanley Powell joined the union staff as a trainee in Michigan in January 1966 and later served as a CWA staff representative in District 1 and East Tennessee Director. He retired as a District 3 staff representative in July 1988 and died on Dec. 1, 2012 at the age of 79.

M. Don Sanchez joined CWA in 1960 as a staff representative and also served as area director in New York and New Jersey. He retired in May 1985 and died at age 86 on Dec. 12, 2011.


Beatrice G. Williams began working as a CWA representative in District 1 in April 1973 and also served locals in the Communications and Technologies sector. She retired in March 2000 and died at age 79 on June 19, 2012.

John Zawackis joined CWA in June 1986 and was a CWA representative serving locals in Florida and Georgia. He retired in November 1998 and died at age 76 on Sept. 7, 2012.
We also remember the CWA Local Officers who have passed away since our last convention:

**DISTRICT 1**

Tom Appler, Officer, Local 1126
Raymond L. Wagner, President, Local 1122
Edward Dempsey, President, Local 1101
Dee Truchon, Secretary, Local 1033

**DISTRICT 2-13**

Michael McCalla, Executive Vice President, Local 13500
Altamese Dangerfield, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 2275
Joseph C. Mell, Department Representative for AT&T, Local 13550

**DISTRICT 3**

W. E. (Bill) Smoot, Jr., Vice President, Local 3808
Eric Douglas Cox, President, Locals 10519 and 3519

**DISTRICT 4**

Terry Short, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 4319
Mark Powell, President, Local 4510
Ned Sibich, Vice President, Local 4773

**DISTRICT 6**

James Eberhart, III, President, Local 6225
Kenneth W. Flanagan, President, Local 6391

**DISTRICT 9**

David Goodwin, Executive Vice President, Local 9588
Chuck Latimer, Vice President, District 9 Retired Members Council and former Secretary-Treasurer, Local 9509

**TNG-CWA**

Angel Baez Rivera, President and Executive Secretary, UPAGRA Local 33225
Darlene Myers, Washington Post Unit Chair, Local 32035

**AFA-CWA**

Shirley Barber, United Air Lines Master Executive Council Secretary-Treasurer and Negotiating Committee Member, Local 29012
Karen Mazuer, Local President and Negotiating Committee Member, Local 21006
Edith Lauterbach, last member of the original organizers of AFA

Their legacy is the union that we work to build every day.
We remember their dedication to CWA and we honor them by continuing to fight for workers’ rights for all.

Larry Cohen  
President  

Annie Hill  
Executive Vice President
Communications Workers of America
74th Convention
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
April 2013