



In Memoriam

2023 - 2025

**Communications Workers of America
80th Convention
August 2025**

In Memoriam

**As we meet for the 80th convention of the
Communications Workers of America,
we remember those who are no longer with us.**

**We honor them and their contributions
to building our union.**

JAN PIERCE

Jan Pierce joined CWA in 1956 when he began work at Ohio Bell in Columbus, Ohio. He became actively involved in the union as a shop steward and as an organizer and was later elected President of Local 4320. He joined the CWA Staff in 1965 as a Staff Representative in Buffalo, N.Y., served as Area Director for Upstate New York and New England, then as Assistant to the Vice President of District 1 starting in 1973. He became Vice President of District 1 in 1985 and led the historic 4-month strike against NYNEX in 1989.

Jan had a passion for social justice and union solidarity.

Jan retired in 1996 and returned to his beloved farm in Quaker City, Ohio. He died on July 16, 2024, at the age of 87.

GENE RUSSO

Gene Russo began working as a PBX installation repair technician at Southern Bell in Miami, Fla., in 1953 and served Local 3107 as a steward and Vice President before being elected Local President in 1967. During his five years as President, Gene built Local 3107 into one of the largest in the union, more than doubling its membership. Gene became a Staff Representative in 1972 and was promoted to Central Georgia Director later that year. He also served as South Georgia Director and as Administrative Assistant to District 3 Vice President Ben Porch.

As Administrative Assistant, Gene revitalized District 3's COPE program and was recognized at the 1986 Convention with the Maxine Lee Award for his outstanding service to CWA's COPE and political action programs.

Gene was elected Vice President of District 3 in 1987 and passionately believed in the importance of political engagement and in the potential for union organizing in the South.

Gene retired in 1996. He died on November 24, 2024, at the age of 89.

JAMES "JIM" WEITKAMP

A lifelong Californian, **Jim Weitkamp**'s first job during high school was at the original In-N-Out Burger in Baldwin Park. After serving in the Air Force, Jim began working at Pacific Telephone as a lineman in 1977. He joined CWA on his second day on the job and immediately volunteered to be a steward.

Jim was elected to Local 9505's executive board in 1980 and joined CWA's staff as Southern California Director in 1988. He was promoted to Administrative Assistant to District 9 Vice President Tony Bixler in 2004. Jim was enthusiastic about bringing members from new industries into our union and bargained contracts in almost every CWA sector.

When he became Vice President of District 9 in 2009, Jim put a priority on building solidarity and trust across the district.

Jim retired in 2014. He died on April 11, 2025, at the age of 67.

Florine Anderson, Staff Representative, CWA District 4. June 4, 2023

Edward Baxter, Staff Representative, CWA District 1. June 28, 2025

Leroy A. Christensen, Assistant to the CWA District 7 Vice President. December 5, 2024

Joseph Diesso, Staff Representative, CWA District 1. August 1, 2023

Carol Gay, Area Director, CWA District 1. August 29, 2024

Edward Gilmartin, General Counsel, AFA-CWA. November 7, 2024

Michael Grieco, Staff Representative, CWA District 3. April 12, 2023

Rhoda Hailey, Staff Representative, CWA District 7. February 11, 2025

Jeff Hayes, Campaign Lead, CWA District 6. April 20, 2023

Michael Horvath, Jr., Staff Representative, IUE-CWA. November 5, 2023

Fay A. Marsh, Assistant to the Vice President, CWA District 7. March 8, 2024

Gary McGuire, Staff Representative, IUE-CWA. July 23, 2023

David Palmer, Area Director, CWA District 1. July 13, 2023

Kenneth Peres, Research Economist. October 14, 2024

Bill Rainwater, Assistant Secretary Treasurer, PPMWS-CWA. December 30, 2024

Dennis L. Serrette, Staff Representative, District 2-13. March 7, 2024

Hall Sisson, Administrative Assistant to the CWA Secretary-Treasurer. June 16, 2024

We remember the CWA Local Officers who have passed away between April 1, 2023, and April 30, 2025.

DISTRICT 1

Anthony Tallarico, Vice President, Local 1032
Carolyn C. Wade, President, Local 1040
John Grasso, Vice President, Local 1060
Dolores Phillips, President, Local 1089
Martin (Marty) Shannon, Northern Business Agent,
Local 1101
George K. Bloom, President, Local 1104
Anthony Caudullo, President, Local 1106
Maryann F. Reardon, Executive Vice President,
Local 1126

DISTRICT 2-13

John Edward Petronchak, President, Local 13302
Carol Coultas, Vice President, Local 13500
Edward R. Friedel, President, Local 14815
Peter Vizza, President, Local 14815
James C. "Jim" Lowen, President, Local 14827

DISTRICT 3

Cheryl Comeau, Secretary, Local 3101
Denny Salkeld, Executive Vice President, Local 3106
Mary "Elise" Maloof, Executive Vice President, Local 3204
William Ray "Billy" Powell, President, Local 3204
Morgon Jay McMullin, Active Secretary, Local 3317
Debra "Debbie" Bays, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 3372
Corey McLamb, Area Vice President, Local 3642

DISTRICT 4

Judith M. Wicker, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 4009
Janet L. Rich, President, Local 4107
Edwin D. Phillips, President, Local 4340
David Gray, President, Local 14503

DISTRICT 6

JD Williams, President, Local 6215
Steve White, President, Local 6314
Kenneth Ploch, Treasurer, Local 6350
Bryan Harrel, Vice President, Local 6360
Joe Rice, President, Local 6391

DISTRICT 7

Becky Flores, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 7000
Tim Lovaasen, President, Local 7200
Chester "Chet" Nettetstad, President, Local 7219
Rozanne Dubois, President, Local 7500
Gregg Sherwood, President, Local 7804
Bill Jenkins, President, Local 7810

DISTRICT 9

Addie Brinkley, Retired Members Council President,
Local 9333
Frank Cross, Vice President, Local 9402
Jay Ingraca, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 9412
Ray Cordova, President, CWA Local 9571

AFA-CWA

Edmundo Bayan, Local Executive Council Secretary,
Local 29011
James Kaneshiro, Local Executive Council President,
Local 29014

IUE-CWA

John R. Derrickson Jr., President, Local 81134
Dan Edmunds, President, Local 81304
Mike Rachetta, President, Local 81320
Michael Scarchilli, President, Local 81359
Michael Green, President, Local 82130
Kevin Kramer, President, Local 82167
Stanley "Tom" Hart, President, Local 84802
Tony Hayes, Executive Council At-Large Member,
Local 86782

NABET-CWA

Richard L. Gelber, Vice President, Executive Council
Region 1, Local 51016
Robert "Bobby" Williams, President, Local 52031
Raymond W. Taylor, President, Local 54041

NewsGuild-CWA

Dena Bunis, Local Officer, Local 31017
John Funicello, President, Local 31034
Richard Agajanian, President, Local 31041
Patricia Kissell, President, Local 31167
Guy Nadeau, Vice President, Local 31167
Frederick Hanson, Local Officer, Local 31245
Otlida Byrne, Secretary, Local 36047
John J. Clarke, President, Local 38177
Carol Ann Przybyszewski, Vice President, Region 1,
Local 38187
Lynne Dennis, President, Local 39098

**We remember their dedication to
the members of our union,
and we honor them by continuing
the fight for workers' rights for all.**