

BELLTEL RETIREE



The Official Newsletter for Union and Management Retirees and Employees of Bell Atlantic, GTE, Idearc/Supermedia, NYNEX, Verizon and its Subsidiaries. Paid for by contributions from Verizon and Idearc/Supermedia retirees.

Summer 2011

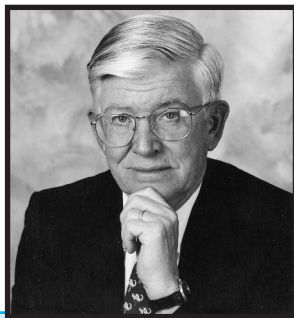
Volume 58



PROXY SUCCESS AGAIN!

Verizon's 2011 annual shareholders meeting was held in Indianapolis on May 5. Each year at this time your retiree Association's proxy campaigns have brought changes to Verizon's governance and even had Congressional legislation mirroring one of our proxies.

The Association passed its Say on Pay proxy at the 2007 Verizon meeting and it was implemented by Verizon's Board in 2009. Later the United States Congress created the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, under which shareholders of every publicly traded company get to vote on the compensation packages of senior executives. Although the Dodd Frank Act does not require companies to take any action the votes clearly demonstrate to the company how the



President's Message

by C. William Jones

Dear Members,

Each year for the past 14 years your Association has presented proxies at the annual meeting. The following is a report of the presentation I made on May 5 to the Verizon Board of Directors and shareowners in Indianapolis. I think you will see that in addition to

shareholders view their performance and pay.

On this year's proxy ballot, shareholders were asked as a follow up to our Say on Pay proxy and the Dodd Frank Act, if shareowners should be entitled to vote on executive pay every 1, 2, or 3 years.

In our guidance to shareowners, the Association asked a majority of shareowners to vote for annual Say on Pay. An amazing thing happened, as over 1.4 billion shares or 79% of the votes went to annual Say on Pay.

On another proxy measure, the Association asked shareowners to make more stringent the standards and to place limits on Performance Share Units (PSU) bonuses paid to senior executives. It is the Association's position that Verizon has been granting some senior executives stock bonuses for what it calls sub standard results. Nearly 565 million shares or about 1/3 voted in support of our proposal.

Members of the Association of BellTel Retirees can be proud of the record of success of our campaigns. In 14 years, the Association has blazed a significant trail of shareowner advocacy.

Significantly at the annual meeting,

Communicating to Verizon Shareowners

the results the campaign generates it is also a great opportunity to speak directly to the thousands of other shareowners of the company.

"Good Morning Mr. Seidenberg, Mr. Horton, members of the board and fellow shareholders. I am Bill Jones, President & Executive Director of the 112,000-member Association of BellTel Retirees Inc, representing over 230,000 former Verizon employees.

each year your Association is able to convey vital information to the top company leadership (see President's Message below).

The BellTel shareholder campaigns have brought about important changes that include limits to senior executive golden parachutes, golden coffins, overly generous compensation packages and performance based equity compensation, "Say on Pay", pension accounting credits as well limiting how many other boards a director may serve on and board independence policies.

This year's effort once again garnered significant and high level attention from some of the nations' largest news outlets including the Newark Star Ledger, Indianapolis Business Journal, Indianapolis Star, Baltimore Sun and more. The media has called your Retiree Association "one of the noisiest-and most effective- shareholders advocacy groups around". We consider this a badge of honor.

Association President Bill Jones proudly echoes the sentiment, "the days of the retiree being a doddering old underrepresented individual have past," he said.

I retired from NYNEX in 1990 after 30 years of service. My position at the time of my retirement was Managing Director of Corporate Planning.

I am here to present the Association of BellTel Retiree's proposal, item number 6, calling on the board to raise the minimum performance level required for the vesting and pay-out of Performance Share Units for senior executives.

We commend the Board for tying the

(Continued on page 2)

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

majority of the long-term equity compensation to the relative performance of Verizon stock. However, we believe that the performance bar is set much too low.

Large pay-outs are granted, for performance as low as 25th in the 34 corporation peer group selected by the board. That would be a rank of 9th from the bottom of Verizon's peer group! How can anyone consider performance at that level as justification for a performance-based bonus, in the millions of dollars?

A study by the Corporate Library pointed to this low performance bar when it singled out Verizon for two consecutive years as one of the 12 "Pay for Failure Companies" with the worst combination of excessive CEO pay and negative shareholder returns over a five-year period.

The Corporate Library's 2008 update on "Pay for Failure" companies extended its criticism of our board's executive compensation policies: "Verizon's performance stock units continue to pay out for TSR performance below the median ... in fact the company would have to perform below the bottom 20th percent in 2008 and 2009 in order for executives to receive nothing."

Two years ago Verizon raised this minimum performance hurdle slightly, to roughly the 25th percentile for 2009. At that level 50% of the target award amount would be granted and senior executives would still receive 100% of the target PSU award for median performance.

This sort of disregard for shareholder interests is particularly tough on retirees of Verizon who have not seen a cost of living increase in 20 years while the buying power of their pensions dipped by about 70% of what they were at retirement. Retirees are concerned about hav-

ing to pay more each year for healthcare benefits and, on top of all that, see the value of their savings, in the form of Verizon stock, stagnate and erode.

Another concern is the precipitous drop in the value of the pension funds. The officers, who are the stewards of our pension funds, managed to lose nearly \$11 billion in 2008 – and ended the year with \$14.9 billion or 34.9% less in assets than at the end of 2007. This caused the fund to become underfunded for the first time in our history. In 2009 there was a modest recovery. However, in 2010, the funding status declined again in spite of a bull market. I would be happy to provide you with the name of my investment advisor who did much better than your guys.

There are about 230,000 Verizon retirees that are depending upon the leadership of this company to fully fund their pension plan, make good on their commitments to provide healthcare and other earned benefits and grow their savings in Verizon stock. Therefore, it is troubling to us that at the end of 2010, pension funding remained \$16.8 billion below 2007 levels – and yet the Company has contributed less than \$1 billion total over those three years.

Meanwhile, the top officers are being rewarded with multi-million dollar stock pay-outs for below mediocre performance.

We have another concern and that involves the spin off of the directory operations to Idearc. People who worked for Verizon and its predecessor companies for 20, 30, or more years - many because of the security it provided - were transferred to this weak, undernourished spin off that went bankrupt, emerged from Chapter 11 as SuperMedia, and now continues to falter.

The entire retirement security for those folks was put at risk with the stroke of a pen in 2006. I have yet to hear a plausible explanation as to why this tragic move is in the best interests of Idearc/SuperMedia and the retirees who were transferred to Idearc.

The Verizon employees signed on with this company with a promise that they would receive a compensation package that included the best pension and healthcare benefits available. Mr. Seidenberg you know this as you, I am sure,

bought into this package when you were hired. We accepted lower pay in return for this promise – morally, if not legally, a social and business contract. We earned these benefits through years of service; they were not gifts from a benevolent employer.

For the most part, this promise has been kept so far and we credit you, Mr. Seidenberg for that. However, we submit that when the performance bar is set so low for the attainment of objectives there is little incentive for the top officers to excel and be able to keep their commitments to Verizon shareowners employees and retirees.

We urge all shareholders to support this proposal asking the Board to restrict awards of Performance Share Units to only above average performance.

Should the board fail to act on this proposal, we recommend strongly that shareholders also cast a no vote on the Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation in the future."

Thank you.

OUR MISSION:

The Association of BellTel Retirees Inc. is dedicated to promote the protection and enhancement of the pensions and benefits for all retirees and beneficiaries of the companies and subsidiaries that make up the Verizon and Idearc/Supermedia Corporations.

The Association will convince the company to properly care for its thousands of dedicated former union and management employees.

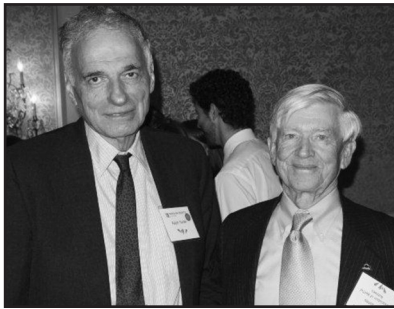
The Association will conduct activities designed to educate elected federal, state and local representatives and promote the passage of legislation which will protect and guarantee, rather than invade our hard-earned pension and benefits fund.

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Pension Rights Center Honors Association's President

On March 31, 2011 over 300 people attended the Pension Rights Center's 35th anniversary gala: A Celebration of Superheroes at the Washington Club in Washington, D.C.



Activist Ralph Nader (l) with Association President Bill Jones at the Pension Rights Center 35th Anniversary gala where Mr. Jones was honored.

Photo by Dave Simmonds

The Pension Rights Center, which is dedicated to protecting and promoting income security of American workers and retirees, honored retirement security superheroes who promote pension rights.

Its mission is to ensure workers and their families have enough money to live on in retirement.

The evening's honorees included Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA); Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA); Rep. George Miller (D-CA); and Marilyn Hennessy, former executive director and president of The Retirement Research Foundation and

Association President Bill Jones.

Activist Mr. Ralph Nader presented the Pension Rights Center's 2011 Helen Quirini Activist Award to Bill Jones with several BellTel board members in attendance. Helen Quirini was GE's first female factory worker in Schenectady, NY and was an

early advocate of equal treatment for women workers. After her retirement she dedicated herself to advocating for retiree rights.

Another recipient included Janice Winston, of the Ad Hoc Coalition to Restore Retirement Security and the Bell Atlantic Coalition for Retirement Security and a proud member of the Association of BellTel Retirees.

Important Notice

Association Stands United With Verizon Workers

The union contracts will expire on August 6, 2011. Usually Verizon writes to retired management personnel asking them to fill out forms for temporary work in the event of a strike. The Association has a long history of standing united with all workers, union and management alike.

Our membership, as of the latest count, is made up of 65% former union people and 35% former management. We have said from our beginning in 1996 that we represent all retirees regardless of their affiliation. Once we retire, we are all in the same boat. Association President and Executive Director C. William Jones said, "Everyone hopes that the negotiations can be conducted in such a manner that a strike is not necessary. There are no winners in a strike."

"However, should a strike take place, the Association asks its members to honor picket lines. Furthermore, the Association requests that members decline should the company ask retirees to go to work to replace striking members."

There are 50,000 active and retired CWA and IBEW members that that could be affected by a work stoppage. These people are fighting for the protection of their economic futures.

CONTRIBUTION CARDS to be Included with each mailing

You probably noticed that you are receiving a white donation card with every Association mailing. This card will have your last donation date printed next to your name. If you already made a donation for the year, THANK YOU.

If you haven't given a donation or wish to give a second donation, PLEASE HELP US BY USING this card when mailing back your check. This card is critical to processing your donation correctly. Also, you will notice a number toward the bottom of the card. This is your individual member number and is used to ensure your donation gets properly updated to your membership record. PLEASE do not WRITE anything around this number.

This new system has a number of advantages:

- It permits your contribution to

be processed electronically, saving us time and money.

- - It assures that our records are correct since no manual work is required.
- - It makes it easier for you to make a contribution or to update your contact information.

Thank you.



ProtectSeniors.Org
www.protectseniors.org

Invest in preserving your future healthcare benefits.

ProtectSeniors.Org has only one goal. To pass legislation that will Protect Retirees' Earned Healthcare Benefits.

For more information (including becoming a Grassroots volunteer)

Call 800-398-3044 or email info@protectseniors.org.

Send contributions to: ProtectSeniors.Org, P.O. Box 476, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

YOUR DONATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

ProtectSeniors.Org is a 501(c)4 organization. Contributions are NOT tax deductible.

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VERIZON BUSINESS NEWS

Verizon Reports Strong 1st Quarter Results

Verizon Communications announced at the end of April its 1st quarter 2011 fiscal results. Total operating revenue was \$27 billion, an increase of .3% compared with first quarter 2010.

Verizon reported an additional 207,000 FiOS internet customers, totaling 4.3 million, an additional 192,000 FiOS TV customers, totaling 3.7 million, and an additional 1.8 million Verizon wireless customers, keeping the provider above the 100 million customer mark (104 million customers).

"In the first quarter, Verizon Wireless solidified its industry leadership with results that once again showed sustainable, profitable growth," said Verizon Chairman and CEO Ivan Seidenberg.

Verizon is focusing on investing in

growing its nation-wide 4G LTE (fourth generation, long term evolution) wireless broadband network. After its 4G launch in December 2010, Verizon introduced three 4G LTE devices which were the Thunderbolt by HTC, the Verizon USB551L, modem made by Novatel, and a Samsung 4G LTE mobile hotspot. Verizon also noted that there was a high consumer demand for its new iPhone 4. In addition to the build out of their 4G network, Verizon continues to invest in its 3G network.

The sales of the iPhone 4 also helped offset cash flow from operations which went down from \$7.1 billion from first quarter 2010 to \$5 billion for this fiscal quarter.

Verizon reported .51 cents in diluted



earnings per share.

Verizon Acquires Terremark Worldwide

During the first quarter, Verizon announced the closing of their \$1.4 billion acquisition of Terremark Worldwide, which is a global provider of IT infrastructure allowing consumer access to massive and diverse network connectivity, cloud computing services and data center hosting.

"Our strategic acquisition of Terremark, improves our ability to provide integrated, enterprise class cloud solutions and accelerate growth," said Seidenberg. Terremark was previously traded on the NASDAQ. Terremark has 13 data centers in the U.S., Europe, and Latin America and is based in Miami, Florida.

Important Information For Verizon & Supermedia Retirees

In our recent on-line member survey, many members suggested the Association publish contact information regarding member benefits and health care.

Benefits Questions

Verizon retirees: To contact Verizon Benefits Center:

If you have internet access, you can log onto the Your Benefits Resources website at <http://www.verizon.com/benefits>. You will need your user ID and password. If you do not have internet access or want to speak with a benefit's representative you can call 1-877-489-2367. You will need the last four digits of the retiree's social security number, date of birth and password. If you do NOT have a password, you will be asked to respond to questions to verify your identity. Enter your information and follow the prompts to speak with a representative.

Savings Plan Questions

Fidelity Investments: If you have a savings plan (401K Plan) through Verizon, it is managed by Fidelity. Their website is <http://www.netbenefits.fidelity.com>. You will need to log in to the netbenefits with your social security number (or a Customer ID if you created one) and a Pin. You can also contact

them on 1-888-457-9333.

Concession Telephone Service:

Concession service is handled by Wells Fargo. Their number is 800-898-3886.

The following products and services are not eligible for concession:

- Packages that include local and long distance services such as Verizon Freedom
- FIOS bundled services
- DSL
- Direct TV
- 911 fees

Reimbursement is applied directly to your bill if you receive service from the Verizon company from which you retired. Otherwise, you will need to pay the bill and submit it to Wells Fargo for reimbursement. Their address is:

Wells Fargo TPA
P.O. Box 2911

Charleston, WV 25331-2911

You can also check out Verizon's retiree website at www.verizon.com/retirees

At this website you can get general information on retiree issues and updates from Verizon on current changes and offers. Under Your Discount: You can find discounts not only Verizon products, such as FIOS and

Verizon Wireless, but other suppliers such as Dell and Staples as well.

For our members who are currently SuperMedia retirees: Benefit Questions

BENEFITS To contact benefits for information on healthcare, dental, vision: If you have internet access you can log onto: <https://secure.aliquant.net/supermedia/> You will need your social security number and pin number.

If you don't have internet access or wish to speak with a representative, call benefits on 1-888-385-3028.

Savings Plan Questions

J.P. Morgan If you have a savings plan (401K Plan) it is maintained by J.P. Morgan. For information on your pension and savings plan log onto <https://www.retireonline.com/rpsparticipant/supermedia/splash.jsp> You will need your user name and password to access your accounts. To speak with a representative call

1-800-345-2345.

We will be responding to other questions/suggestions from the survey in future newsletters.

Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Update for Verizon Retirees Only

Verizon sent out a letter to retirees in February 2011 regarding a new group Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) for 2013. The Association contacted Donna Chiffrieller, Verizon's Vice President of Human Resources, who addressed and clarified some related retiree questions and concerns.

Below is a list of questions and answers:

Q. What precipitated this change?

A. Verizon has studied alternative Medicare Part D strategies each year since the Medicare Part D program was introduced in 2006. However, the recent changes in the Part D program introduced by the federal healthcare reform act have made contracting with a Medicare Part D plan on a group basis a preferable option to the Retiree Drug Subsidy (RSD).

Q. Does this mean that Medicare retirees will now be part of Medicare Part D program?

A. Yes and no. In 2013, Medicare-eligible retiree medical plan participants will be enrolled in the Verizon

Medicare Part D plan and will not be required to pay the Medicare Part D premium. This change will essentially be seamless to retirees, except that they will need to use a new prescription drug ID card at retail pharmacies.

Q. What about the Medicare Part D "donut hole"?

A. This change does not require that Verizon change plan designs available to retirees (for example: deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance); therefore, there will be no "donut hole" in the coverage.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Verizon retirees will not have to take any action as a result of this change. The new plan applies to all former management and craft Medicare-eligible retirees.

This change does not require that Verizon change plan designs available to retirees (for example: deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance); however, as we all know, other factors might possibly increase the costs or result in changes in plan options and designs at any time. This is why your Association of BellTel

Retirees believes it is very important that all retirees join and support ProtectSeniors.Org, which is working to secure retiree healthcare benefits through legislation that will make reduction or termination of these benefits against the law.

Please pass this on to any of your fellow Verizon retirees. Also please encourage them to join, if they are not already a member. They can go to www.belltelretirees.org and click "Join Us," email us at association@belltelretirees.org or call us at 1-800-261-9222.



UNITED, TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE

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Healthcare Cost Reporting On W-2's Delayed Until 2013

According to a provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, employers were mandated to start reporting the cost of group employer sponsored healthcare plans on W-2s beginning in 2011.

However, the IRS announced in 'interim relief notice 2010-69' that it had extended the start date of this tax reporting requirement until year 2013. According to the IRS, this is to "provide employers with additional time to make any necessary changes to their payroll systems or procedures in preparation for compliance with the reporting requirement."

The IRS stressed that the healthcare costs are not taxable, but used for transparency purposes so employers have a better understanding on how much healthcare actually costs them overall. Some feel this is a movement towards taxing healthcare costs provided by employers or former employers.

However, the IRS will leave it as an option for any company that does want to report the costs in 2011. The IRS did draft up a new W-2 form that reflected healthcare cost accounting and will provide further details on this later this year.

Over 500 Gather for Special 15th Annual BellTel Meeting in New Jersey



Over 500 retirees from 15 states including North and South Carolina, Arizona, Florida and every northeast state except for Maine, traveled to the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey for the 15th annual Association of BellTel Retirees Inc. membership meeting.

This is the third time the Association has held its member meeting in Atlantic City.

The 15th anniversary festivities kicked off the night before the meeting in the Royal Swan Ballroom, with a cocktail reception attended by overnight guests staying at the hotel. Members and spouses turned out in force as over 100



Members line up to ask questions at the annual meeting. Photo by Dave Simmonds

guestrooms had been booked by meeting attendees. This event gave retirees a chance to chat with Association board members and catch up with fellow retirees.

The following morning over 500 members and spouses participated enjoying a 90 minute continental breakfast and friendly reunions with former co-workers. Many chose to participate in a seminar being offered by ProtectSeniors.Org, leading up to the Association's meeting.

The official business portion of the Association's meeting began with welcome remarks from Jack Cohen, Executive Vice President of the Association, followed by Association Chairman Jack Brennan, who announced that the all -

volunteer board donated an amazing 7,771 volunteer hours in 2010 working to protect Verizon retirees pensions and benefits.

Association Chief Financial Officer



Tropicana Hotel In Atlantic City Hosted the 15th Annual Retiree Gathering.



Attendee address the membership.

Photo by Dave Simmonds

Bob Rehm, one of the seven founding BellTel members said, that when they first started the Association, his fellow founders never would have imagined it would grow to over 112,000 members. He attributed the growth to retirees sending in their contact lists and recommending their friends join. He asked members to keep sending fellow retirees names and addresses to the Association.

Mr. Rehm then reported on the Association's financial state and impressively noted it has members in all 50 states and 13 foreign countries.

Association President Bill Jones then discussed the 2011 proxy proposals, the Idearc/ Verizon lawsuit that affect 2,000 retirees, and the fight to have them put back under the Verizon

pension and benefits umbrella.

Mr. Jones, thanked the crowd and told them that without financial support and efforts from the membership all the services that the Association provides would be gone. He asked for continued financial support to both the Association and ProtectSeniors.Org, to recruit new members, and continue to have retirees write to their elected officials to protect retiree healthcare.

Dr. Thomas J. Mackell former chairman of the federal reserve bank in Richmond and author of "When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America needs A New Deal for Pensions and Healthcare Reform" was the keynote speaker at this year's BellTel meeting (see story on page 7).

The meeting also included a member question and answer session which included a discussion about COLAs and the probability of a 13th pension check for retirees.

One member stood up to thank the Association leadership for being instrumental as a check against Verizon and how the group has been fighting for retirees' pensions. President Bill Jones gave CEO Ivan Seidenberg credit for continuing to provide healthcare and pensions to retirees, but said he hopes to get the new chairman to commit to keeping those benefits in place once Mr. Seidenberg retirees, later this year.

At the end of the meeting, all 500 stood and raised their right arm and took a pledge with their Association pins.

The Association would like to thank all the many retirees and spouses that participated in this year's highly successful annual membership meeting and to all of the members of our event committee for making the event such as huge success, to Jack Cohen who was the lead organizer of the 2011 meeting event committee and special thanks to Dr. Thomas J. Mackell Jr. for delivering such a riveting speech.



Former Federal Reserve Bank Chair Fires Up Retirees

“On January 1, of this year baby boomers begin to turn 65. Every eight seconds of every single day for the next nineteen years, 10,000 people a day are turning 65,” and yet “the shlbs of Washington want to do away with Medicare,” with that Dr. Thomas Mackell launched into his keynote address to over 500 retirees gathered for the Association’s fifteenth annual meeting in Atlantic City, NJ.

Dr. Mackell had previously been the keynote speaker at the 2008 member meeting. He is the author of “When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America Needs a New Deal for Pension and Healthcare Reform,” (Wiley Publishing).

Dr. Mackell is former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank for the District of Richmond, which includes Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas, the District of Columbia and most of West Virginia, and it was clear he charged up meeting attendees regarding the fight to protect pensions and benefits.

Dr. Mackell spoke highly of the Association of BellTel Retirees, saying it is such a unique Association, respected and recognized nationally for its accomplishments and retiree advocacy.

He went on to identify that the main problem in America today, is many seniors “do not want to hear what’s going on.” He believes that “the name of the game today is ‘engagement’we are all in this fight together.” In his energetic 45 minute talk, Dr. Mackell said he believes it is up to the people to bring about change.

With only 535 members of Congress and over 300 million of us, he argued why do, especially older Americans, let members of Congress control the agenda. “We have to make them responsi-

ble” Dr. Mackell said.

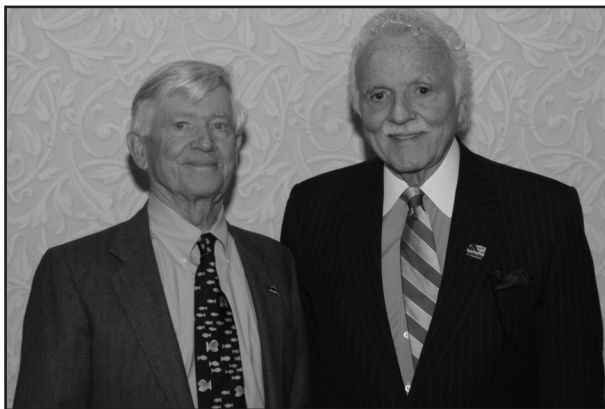
He feels the current state of affairs and the financial and political shape of America is in is appalling. “Leadership today is an oxymoron, it does not exist,” which drew one of many rousing ovations from the gathering.

“Lobbyists are working aggressively and tirelessly to protect business interests, healthcare providers’ interests and others so they fight to hold onto and kill proposals that affect their bottom line... American people have a bottom line... they (Washington) don’t connect with us.”



Dr. Thomas Mackell, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond addresses over 500 retirees in Atlantic City.

Photos by Dave Simmonds



Association President Bill Jones introduced keynote speaker Dr. Thomas Mackell.

Dr. Mackell continued addressing the Association members by telling them his concerns over unemployment, healthcare and retirement.

Even after spending years in Washington, D.C. himself, Dr. Mackell thinks there is no formidable job creation strategy to speak of and projected that 60 million Americans are unemployed.

Another growing concern is the lack of healthcare. He cited that in 1993, 30 million Americans did not have

healthcare and that amount is now 50 million and rising. He compared Congressional officials in Washington, D.C. view of the debt crisis to the legislators of the Roman Empire, British Empire and Habsburg Empire, all of which fell under the burden of their debt obligations.

As of 2009, only 16% of Americans had a defined benefit plan, and notes that 50% of baby boomers are ill prepared financially to retire. We are beginning to see traits of America unwinding and yet elected officials cannot see that it is the creeps on Wall Street that are causing the problems and not the average American.

Believing that if people stand shoulder to shoulder, he pressed each retiree about what must be done so change can happen. “You must engage in challenges and overcome them and if you don’t then shame on us.”

He said that “our strength lies in organization,” referring to the Association’s mobilization of and harnessing the power of organization.

He concluded his talk with a quote from Horace Mann, “be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.”

VERIZON WAGES FUTURE ON SMART PHONES

What are the three things most people won't leave home without these days? Keys, a wallet or purse, and their cell phone or smartphone.

Since the cell phone truly became a mainstream personal tool more than a decade ago, new options and technology have swept the market. Somewhere along the line, phones began doing more than just making calls. Apples stopped being solely a fruit, and Droids moved past being those lovable character robots from *Star Wars*.

Before last year, the business chic Blackberry and trendy iPhones controlled the market for smart phones. Then Verizon released its Droid, whose Android operating system has become an increasingly popular phone alternative. Last winter the company also made a major move against rival AT&T acquiring rights to sell the iPhone 4. Verizon is currently the number 2 mobile carrier and seller of smart phones.

Modern smart phones are essentially cost effective handheld computers with phones inside. They represent the future of Verizon's current business model.

Verizon reported a total of \$14.6 billion in revenue from their wireless services, representing more than 100 million of the company's customers.

For those of our members yet to give these gadgets that make Verizon's earnings purr, we want to offer a tutorial to show how beneficial and cost effective they can be.

Handheld Super Devices:

According to an April feature in the *New York Times* the evolution of the smartphone effectively eliminates the need for stand alone cameras, video recorders, GPS, calculator, voice recorders or even renders desktop computers a relic!

In March the Association surveyed over 1900 members about various topics, including their use of cell phones or smart phones. 28% have been utilizing texting on their phones, and have already migrated to a smart phone. Statistically 400,000 smartphones are being activated each and every day.

Telephone company people have always been leaders in adapting to new technologies and the modern-day Verizon is abuzz with new offerings to simplify your life and communication.

When choosing a smart phone one must select which device is best for them, whether it be an iPhone, a Droid or Blackberry.

One option when choosing a smart phone for your own use is to have a physical slide out keyboard, touch screen, or a



combination of both. Most keyboards and touch screens are easy to type on. The decision for a type keyboard also becomes important to keep texting easy and convenient.

Let The Children Lead the Trend:

Children today are getting cell phones in elementary school, and by the time they hit teenage years they are communicating largely through text messaging, not as we did by calling on the telephone.

Statistics find that many think they are "too busy" for a traditional phone call, but not to text. Parents and grandparents who want to stay in close contact have already figured this out.

What's an App:

One newer feature of smart phones is the ability to download fun and functional applications, or apps. The iPhone App Store, Droid Android Market, and Blackberry's App World are all one-touch shops that make finding apps easy. Many of them are free or can be bought for less than five dollars.

Apps for books, games, movie accounts, magazines, organizers, recipes and many other things can be downloaded to a phone. GM, Ford, and other car companies even have an app that allows you to unlock or start your car from your smartphone.

Popular apps include games, bar code scanners to help shoppers find the best prices, redeem electronic store and prod-

(Continued on page 9)

Robert F. Manning

Director

Financial Advisor

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SMART PHONES

(Continued from page 8)

uct coupons at checkout, restaurant guides, recipe books, sports team and score trackers, medication trackers, and calorie counters.

Keeping organized is important for the on -the -go types. Smart phones offer user friendly calendars with alarm reminders. Fitting inside a shirt or pant pocket, they are more convenient to use and carry than a bulky planner and help keep appointments straight.

Travelers can appreciate the included turn-by -turn GPS and maps most smart phones offer or the ability to get on -the -spot information or discounts to shows and events while you are on the move.

Shutterbugs appreciate the cameras that come within smart phones, with as many megapixels as many digital cameras. They produce high quality photos. Also, unlike cameras, phones are easy to charge and carry, so capturing memories with loved ones has never been easier.

Those who share a love for music will enjoy downloading songs on to their smart phones or transferring music from your home collection so you can take it with you. Songs can be added with computer software or bought directly onto the phone. It is an on- the- go way to listen to favorite songs without having to carry an extra MP3 player or CDS.

If you have not already done so, ask your children or grandchildren to give you a test drive on their device or stop by the Verizon store to find out more about just why this is having such a big impact on Verizon's bottom line.

GO GREEN
 This newsletter is available to you on-line. If you wish to receive **ONLY** an on-line copy, please email us at association@belltelretirees.org and put in the Subject line of the email -GO GREEN. Please give us your name, mailing address and email address so we can make the change.

RETIREE NEWS AND NOTES

IBEW Local 827 has sponsored numerous meetings to get the word out about the support and advocacy the Association of BellTel Retirees provides. We would like to thank IBEW and local union leaders for their hospitality and support. Below are some meeting highlights:



On April 7, Bill Jones, spoke to about 100 retirees in Williamstown, New Jersey.

Members engaged the Association president in a wide ranging dialogue touching upon union negotiations with Verizon, pension inflation protection, the 2011 proxy proposal and status of the lawsuit against Idearc/Verizon plus the retiree pension fund.

On April 28, Jack Cohen, Association Executive Vice President spoke to Local 827 a group in Fairfield, NJ.

On May 4th Association Chairman Jack Brennan spoke to IBEW retirees in New Jersey in the Raritan Unit in Edison, and at the Central Unit in Freehold, NJ the following day.

On May 24, Mr. Brennan spoke at a Pioneer meeting at the American Legion in Totawa, New Jersey.

On June 8, Jack Cohen and Pamela Harrison, Vice President of Union Relations are scheduled to speak in Stonehedge, New York to a combined

group of craft and management. They will be speaking about the mission of the Association of BellTel Retirees and Protect-

Seniors.Org.

If you have an upcoming Verizon retiree gathering and would like to invite a member of the Association of BellTel Retirees board to speak, please contact the office at 1-800-261-9222 or via email at association@belltelretirees.org.

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We have many satisfied BellTel Retirees as clients & have effectively retrieved hard earned pension \$\$\$ lost carelessly.

Contact Debra G. Speyer, Esq. who represents Bell Retirees nationwide. 1-800-510 STOCK
www.wallstreetfraud.com

2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

An overview of our 2010 year-end financial data was presented at our fifteenth annual meeting of the Association in Atlantic City, NJ on April 20, 2011.

There is a great deal of work that goes into tracking our financial information accurately throughout the year. Over the years, we have progressed from hand ledger entries to a QuickBooks system of accounting. The system requires a dedication to small details that allow us to do important budget analysis, and to plan our future.

The Association is grateful to our office staff for their constant attention to detail, insuring accuracy and gathering the required documentation. Our annual audits – an IRS requirement for non-profit organizations — have reinforced the importance of this team effort. Our staff also fulfills the important role of being our connection to you.

2009

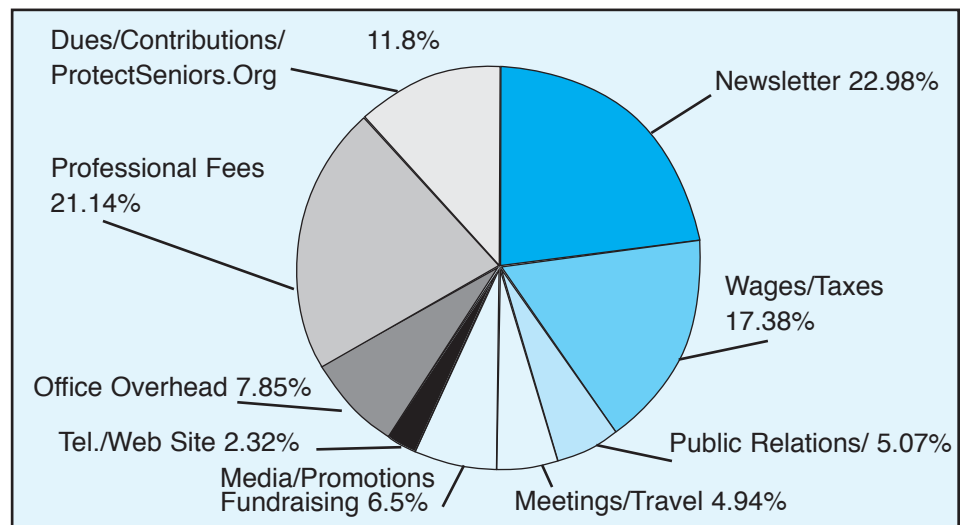
As required by the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, BDO Seidman, LLP conducted an audit of our 2009 financial statements, finalized on July 9, 2010, and presented their findings at our August 2010 board meeting. The audit included examining, on a test basis, records, receipts, methods and internal controls as supporting evidence of the amounts disclosed in our financial documents.

The auditors found that our financial statements “present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association of BellTel Retirees Inc. at December 31, 2009, and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” The audit's statement of financial position as of December 31, 2009 reflected **total assets of \$512,644**. Audit results were presented to and approved by the Associ-

ation board and a copy has been filed with the New York State Attorney General.

2010

The following are brief highlights of our financial transactions for fiscal year 2010. Our financial records will be audited in June 2011 prior to filing our IRS Form 990, and the NY State CHAR 500, the “Annual Filing for Charitable



Organizations.” In addition to filing in New York, we file in 36 additional states where we conduct fundraising.

REVENUE

Our total income for 2010 was **\$769,230**, an overall increase of 7.8% for the year.

Contributions represent 96% of revenue, and averaged **\$27.62**.

EXPENSE

Total operating expense for the year (pre-audit) was **\$787,379**, an overall increase of 7% vs. 2009.

Publication and distribution of our newsletter, including printing, postage and PR/media costs, account for 23% of this total. Cost-saving measures and more members choosing to receive their newsletter online helped keep these costs

at the 2009 level.

Your Association's media communications effort provides us a taller stage and brighter spotlight for the retiree concerns we advocate for. With a record as one of the most successful groups bringing attention to the plight of retirees we have drawn critical attention to:

- 1) our proxy campaign
- 2) the federal court certifying the Idearc/SuperMedia retirees' lawsuit as a class action
- 3) the need for retiree health benefit protections
- 4) Maintaining a visible presence in

key online, broadcast and print articles your association's efforts makes headlines in the news outlets America frequents including *Barron's*, *Crain's New York Business*, *Bloomberg Business News*, *Fox News* and numerous top 40 circulation newspapers across the U.S. including: *Baltimore Sun*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Denver Post*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Newark Star Ledger*, *Bergen Record*, *Indianapolis Star* and more.

Wages and taxes, at 17.4% of our total expense, increased 7%. Most of the increase was due to the legal requirement to file state tax forms in all states where we have members. There was an increase in paid hours for our part time

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FINANCIAL

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office staff. Each of our mailings generates many calls to our staff, including updating of member personal information, benefit questions, how to reach a benefit specialist at Verizon or the annual proxy filing. Every call is answered. Wage expense is offset by the unpaid hours of work by your board each year.

Professional fees (21% of total) **increased 25%** in 2010. This includes our **Legal, Accounting, and staff consulting.** Major projects included our commitment to support the Idearc/SuperMedia retirees litigation effort, our annual proxy filing and accounting costs associated with our audit and annual IRS filing, as well as New York and other state filings.

Your Association continues to support ProtectSeniors.Org with an annual grant to pursue a legislative remedy to protect against loss of our earned healthcare subsidy from Verizon. On April 1, 2011, ProtectSeniors.Org successfully garnered bi-partisan support for the introduction of a revised HR 1322, which will protect our earned benefits without cost to taxpayers. We are pleased

with their grassroots efforts during 2010, and we will continue to support them in 2011. Your grassroots and financial support are important, and it continues to be vital to this effort.

The Association ended 2010 with pre-audit **total cash assets** of \$497,768.

Thank you.

Eileen Lawrence, Treasurer

IMPORTANT 2011

*As this report is written, we are reviewing the results of our 2011 annual fundraising effort, kicked off in January. As of May 10th we have reached 60% of our year-end goal with over 15,000 contributions. **But we need 100% support from our members. Please consider a donation today to help us continue our work on your behalf. Your contribution is vital to our ability to continue publishing the newsletter, to attend and be heard at Verizon's shareowner meetings, and to support legislation protecting your earned healthcare benefits. We will continue to keep you informed on the latest issues important to you. We are the only organization fighting for the needs of Verizon retirees. Please ... support our work. And spread the word to friends and family.*** Thank you.

ATTENTION ALL SNOWBIRDS

For those of you who temporarily relocate for the Spring and Summer months, won't you please take the time to drop us a note or email with your summer address, so that we can update our records and forward all important retiree communications to you promptly.

This helps your Association substantially by allowing the most direct and immediate correspondence with our members. It also eliminates substantial cost of return postage and clerical assistance needed to correct the errors in our database.

We are more than happy to redirect your mail to either your snowbird or main postage address as the year goes on.

Please send your information via email at:

association@belltelretirees.org or mail to us at: P.O. Box 33, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724.

ASSOCIATION OF BELLTEL RETIREES INC. P.O. Box 61, Glen Head, NY 11545-0061

Yes, I want to support the Association of BellTel Retirees Inc. in our fight to protect the pension and benefits of all retirees and active employees. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of:

\$100. **\$75.** **\$50.** **\$36.50.*** **\$25.** **Other \$_____.** **Check Enclosed.** (*Equals Only 10 cents a day)

Or you can use your credit card. Just fill out the information listed below.

Visa MasterCard Credit Card Acct.# _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Three digit code on back _____

Name _____ Expiration Date _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip Code _____

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I am interested in learning more about Planned Giving. Please contact me.

The Association of BellTel Retirees is a 501 © (3) IRS Tax-Exempt Corporation representing retirees and active employees of Verizon, all of its subsidiaries and all of the companies that were combined to form Verizon and Idearc.

WE'RE IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA



We all remember when most every family had a set of encyclopedias in their home bookshelf. They came from publishers like Encyclopedia Britannica, Funk and Wagnalls and even Art Linkletter's Children's Encyclopedia. Many of us also recall the time when you could even buy one volume a week at your local grocery store.

For encyclopedia publishers those days have come and gone with the rapid development of the internet and

its myriad of intellectual resources. Nowadays, to look up information, one simply goes online, to visit today's most used encyclopedia, Wikipedia, with some 750 million users each year.

You'll be happy to know that Wikipedia has a page devoted to your Association of BellTel Retirees' and its highly successful retiree advocacy agenda.

Next time you are on the internet –look us up!

Dear Association:

Enclosed please find my \$10 donation. I wish it could be more but my pension is a low \$810 and my husband gets no pension at all, just social security.

Thank you for all of your assistance and help with getting our land line back in service for us, it's very much appreciated.

Thank you for all of the good things you do for the retirees.

Sincerely,

A.G.
New York

Dear Association:

Enclosed is my annual dues contribution of \$100 in grateful appreciation

Member Mailbag



for the efforts of Bill Jones and all of the volunteers working on behalf of retirees' best interest.

It was appalling to read in a recent newsletter the large number of retirees who (allegedly) belong to our association but chose not to lend financial support.

I have been retired from Bell Atlantic /Verizon for the past 21 years and have not received one cent of increase in my monthly pension in all that time. What I have done is to elim-

inate many of the charitable organization I used to support, because of the major portion of the money contributed went to CEO salaries and administrative costs, and (now I) divert those funds to the only organization dedicated to helping me.

Obviously, I am not aware of other retirees financial situations, however, it is difficult to believe that any telephone company retiree could not afford a token \$25 to help support the only organization devoted solely to protecting our retirement benefits.

Sincerely,

Joel R. Schrank
Myerstown, PA

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