



Name: **Wilhelmenia Hardy**

Local Number/USW District #: **Local 1025, District 9**

Employer, Job Title: **Corning, Material Handler**

Years as USW Member: **17 years**

Hometown: **Wilmington, NC**

What is unusual about your hometown, place of work or job?

A lot of people know that North Carolina is a Right-to-Work state, but they don't know that there are actually a lot of unions in the southeastern part of North Carolina. As far as my job, a lot of people don't even know what Corning makes. They know they make dishes, but they don't know about things like fiber optics.

What does this year's theme, "A Union That Works" mean to you?

I was thinking about the 2011 convention when the theme was "Stand Up Fight Back." Taking that message back to the work places, that message produces "a union that works."

What issues will be important when your Local's contract expires?

Healthcare, especially the cost of healthcare. We just did a contract, and we had to really fight hard to keep costs down. We've also had to fight to keep healthcare for retirees because most companies are doing away with that.

What is the most "political" thing you have done?

We've been sending a Rapid Response team to the Moral Monday protests that Rev. Barber spoke about, and I'll be involved myself starting next week.

What career option do you think Chris Christie and/or Rob Ford should pursue?

Since Chris Christie has so much experience with traffic, he should be a toll collector on a bridge.

Who would you prefer to have dinner with, and why: Hilary Clinton, Lady Gaga, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Will Smith, Richard Trumka or Jennifer Lawrence?

I would say Richard Trumka, not only because he's involved with the labor movement, but I'd like to sit down and hear just hear him talk about his biography: coming from the mines, going to school, getting his degree, balancing all that and still being part of the labor movement.

What's the best thing about the Convention so far?

The best thing has been the dynamic speakers—I have to give them all credit.

What things do you hope to do while you're here?

Meeting more new people.

Have you yet decided how you will put the convention to work when you return home?

First and foremost, I've got to communicate this information to the membership—at the next monthly meeting and by posting things on the union board. I'm also going to get out and do more with Rapid Response.

