

MINUTES: Executive Meeting

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Present: Lois Kirkup, Janet Hunter, Gord Holder, Debbie Cole, Joanne Schnurr, Tony Cote, Terry Garner, Claude L'Ecuyer and Pat Cavalier (staff).

Absent: Nancy Noel, Marc Laurin, Jordan Juby, Don Smith.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lois Kirkup at 1:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

M/ by Joanne Schnurr to approve the agenda. S/ by Janet Hunter. CARRIED.

3. Secretary's Report

a. Executive Committee – good standing report.

Terry Garner reported that everyone is in good standing.

b. Adoption of Minutes:

Gord Holder requested we make a revision to the February 20 Minutes under Congratulations & Condolences (3 d.), along with a number of copy editing changes. Amended Minutes will be distributed to the executive with their March Minutes.

M/ by Janet Hunter to adopt the February 20, 2007 Minutes as amended. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

c. Correspondence:

·Terry Garner outlined miscellaneous correspondence items including information, newsletters and minutes from the Ottawa & District Labour Council and the Ontario Federation of Labour.

·Information received from ALS Society of Ontario about this year's walk for ALS being held on Sunday, June 10.

·Thank you letter received from Heart & Stroke Foundation for Ruberry donation.

d. Congratulations & Condolences:

·Basket sent to Rob Cross (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

·Donation to Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation in memory of Herbert Charles Ruberry, father & father-in-law of Charlene Ruberry & Dennis Leung (Citizen/Editorial).

·Donation to Alzheimer Society of Ottawa in memory of Eileen Ardley, mother of Nancy Ladouceur (Citizen/RS&S).

·Advised of the following to be acknowledged by the Guild: send basket and letter to Charlie Greenwell following his retirement; send flowers or plant to Zev Singer who is back at work after surgery; send basket to Danny LaPlante off on sick leave (surgery). The Guild will also send donations in memory of Earl Brennan, father-in-law of Nancy Noel; and in memory of Earl James Etue, father-in-law of Carol Anne Meehan. We were advised of the death of

Bernie Lunzer's father-in-law; executive proposed that the ONG send a memorial donation and Gord Holder will check with Bernie for ideas as to the designated charity.

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4. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial Report: Gord Holder presented the financial update to February 28, 2007, which is five months into this fiscal year. He reported that membership dues revenue is on target with the budget. Expenses for February are fairly light, and the expense figures to date are also on target as budgeted. Gord advised that since the financial report was prepared yesterday, we have received an invoice from the lawyer concerning the DLR file.

Conferences expenses listed cover train tickets purchased for the April TNG Canada NRC meeting in Toronto. There is an amount of just over \$4,000 - Receivable from Defence Fund, on the General Fund Balance Sheet which is largely CTV Ottawa bargaining expenses paid on behalf of the Defence Fund. The Defence Fund Balance Sheet shows the Guild long term investments assets at \$1,294,494.05, which is the market value as opposed to the book value of the assets.

b. Toledo Newspaper Guild, Local 34043 - Toledo Blade Lockout: TNG has requested financial support for the locked out newspaper workers at the Toledo Blade who have been locked out by their employer and are about to lose their health benefits. TNG is asking for \$800 per month for 3 months to pay for a worker's health insurance. Executive committee discussion and proposal to make a lump sum donation.

M/ by Tony Cote that the ONG donate an amount of \$2,400.00 US to the locked out members of Toledo Guild Local 34043. S/ by Debbie Cole. CARRIED.

c. TNG Request for donations to Freedom Award Banquet Fund, May 3, 2007: A request for financial support has been received from TNG-CWA. The ONG has usually sent a donation of \$100.00 to the fund each year.

M/ by Janet Hunter that the ONG send a \$100 donation to the TNG Freedom Award Banquet Fund. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

d. OFL Strike appeal - OPSEU Local 361: A strike appeal has been received from the OFL for OPSEU Local 361 members, on strike against Kennedy House Youth Services in Ajax.

M/ by Gord Holder that the ONG send a \$50.00 strike donation to OPSEU Local 361. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

5. Unit Reports

a. CTV Ottawa (CJOH)

Joanne Schnurr advised there will be someone coming from Toronto in April to speak with CTV Ottawa employees on the old and new pensions plans. Tony Cote is interested in attending that meeting on behalf of the Guild executive, and Joanne will confirm that with Delma Devoe in HR. Joanne advised that news director Scott Hannant plans to meeting with the Guild unit co-chairs (Joanne and Kimothy Walker) on a regular basis.

b. DLR International

[a] Contract conciliation update: At the request of the Guild, lawyer Julie Skinner of Nelligan-O'Brien-Payne has filed for contract conciliation with the Quebec Minister of Labour. The parties are scheduled to meet on April 5, 2007. Dave Wilson and Claude L'Ecuyer will attend the meeting for the Guild, along with Julie Skinner. Lois Kirkup and Dave Wilson are to have

a conference call with the lawyer on April 3.

c. **Citizen**

[a] Unit - Pay Equity Update: Lois Kirkup reported that the joint Pay Equity committee meetings have been postponed for the next couple of months.

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[b] Building Services Issues: Reported that mailroom cleaner issues in the department seem to have settled. A member who was away on sick leave is returning to work and the member who had been covering for his shifts will be returning to his regular shift rotation at the end of March. On a health and safety issue, it is reported that toe caps/clips are available to be worn by all employees entering the mailroom.

[c] RS&S Issues: Debbie Cole updated about a Teamsters organizing drive for the carrier route drivers and concerns expressed by Guild district supervisors who had been advised by their managers about what to say to their carrier drivers. After extensive executive discussion on the issue, it was decided to advise the district supervisors to talk to Debbie Cole or Lois Kirkup about their concerns.

[d] Editorial Discipline: Lois Kirkup reported on a discipline meeting with management that she attended with a newsroom member who was assessed a three-day suspension for submitting improper expense claims.

[e] New Local – Lois Kirkup updated the executive committee on a small printing company in downtown Ottawa that wants to organize. There are currently six employees. Lois and Dave Wilson met with the owner of the company. After executive discussion, it was proposed that the ONG pursue this organizing potential and that Dave Wilson and perhaps one or two members of the executive committee meet with the employees to talk further.

6. Arbitrations

· **DLR Contract Conciliation - April 5, 2007**

7. Committees -

- a. Personnel -
- b. Communications - website training March 27/07
- c. Health & Safety - Terry Garner reported that the Ergonomics Committee is starting up again and that a number of employees have come forward to serve on the committee. The members will soon be receiving some training about RSI, etc.
- d. Grievance -
- e. Guild Awareness / Mobilization -
- f. Finance -
- g. Organizing -
- h. Elections -
- i. Bylaws -

8. Internal Guild

a. ONG Local website: “ottawanewsguild.ca”

A local history proposal was approved today at the general membership meeting. The membership approved that the executive committee could spend up to \$10,000 from the Special Projects Fund to produce the local history project. The Guild needs to hire someone for the project. Tony Cote talked to Charlie Gordon, who is busy and can't take on the work, but he did provide Tony with some other leads.

David Hunter will be coming to the Guild office to provide some website training on March 27. Guild leave has been booked for Tony Cote and Jordan Juby to attend. Janet Hunter, Gord Holder and Pat Cavalier will also attend.

b. TNG Canada/CWA National Representative Council Meeting, Toronto, ON, April 14-15, 2007: Deadline for submitting Agenda items to the NRC meeting is March 31, 2007 -- no agenda items from the ONG. VIA train reservations have been made for delegates, along with their hotel reservations. Gord Holder advised that there could be a special TNG Canada meeting in Toronto in July, held between the sector conference and the convention.

c. Delegates to TNG Sector Conference - Toronto, ON, July 13-14, 2007: ONG delegates to the sector conference were elected at the general membership meeting held earlier today. The five delegates are: Debbie Cole, Janet Hunter, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup and Nancy Noel, and Tony Cote was elected as the alternate.

d. Delegates to CWA Convention - Toronto, ON, July 16-17, 2007: Lois Kirkup and Debbie Cole were elected as the two ONG delegates to the CWA convention at the general membership meeting today.

9. Outside Issues

10. Other Business

Executive committee discussion regarding several Citizen newsroom issues: Online web pages; PDF pages such as Game Day and Rush Hour, and the extra work involved. Also partial re-assigning of scoreboard editor; Guild will discuss with the company the idea of having him post stories to the web when he isn't busy.

11. Lost Time Notification

Lost time recorded for Debbie Cole, Tony Cote, Terry Garner, Lois Kirkup, Claude L'Ecuyer, Joanne Schnurr.

12. Upcoming Meetings

☆ Next Executive Meeting - Wednesday, April 18, 2007 - 1 p.m. - Guild Office.

13. Adjournment

M/ by Gord Holder to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 p.m. S/ by Claude L'Ecuyer. CARRIED.