

MINUTES: Executive Meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Present: Lois Kirkup, Janet Hunter, Nancy Noel, Gord Holder, Debbie Cole, Terry Garner, Jordan Juby, Claude L'Ecuyer, Don Smith and Pat Cavalier (staff).
Absent: Joanne Schnurr, Marc Laurin, Tony Cote.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Lois Kirkup at 1:05 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda
Add 5. d. (i) Night differential - Montreal; and 10. (a) Office Fridge
M/ by Debbie Cole to approve the agenda as amended. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.
3. Secretary's Report
 - a. Executive Committee – good standing report.
Nancy Noel advised that executive committee members are all currently in good standing.
 - b. Adoption of Minutes:
M/ by Jordan Juby to adopt the September 5, 2007 Minutes. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.
 - c. Correspondence - some of the miscellaneous items include Canadian Labour Congress - Pension Conference November 1-3 in Ottawa; CWA/NETT Academy Course info; Ottawa & District Labour Council Minutes; Ontario provincial election info; Ontario Federation of Labour newsletters, correspondence and conferences details; Workers Health & Safety Centre Fall 2007 training schedules. A thank you card was received from Debbie Walsh for basket sent from the Guild following her recent surgery. Thank you letter received from TNG President Linda Foley for ONG support for the 2007 Freedom Award Banquet held in May.
 - d. Congratulations & Condolences:
 - Basket to Alyson (CTV Ottawa) & Scott Fair, baby girl, Olivia.
 - Basket to Bonnie & Corey Ginther (CTV Ottawa), baby girl, Brienna.
 - Basket to Debbie Walsh (Citizen/RS&S) - surgery.
 - Basket to Ian MacLeod (Citizen/Editorial) - illness.
 - Basket to Tony Cote (Citizen/Editorial) - surgery.
 - Basket to Norm Provencher (Citizen/Editorial) - surgery.
 - Gord Holder advised that Doug Menary (Citizen/Editorial) will be having knee surgery later in October; Gord will keep us posted).
4. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Financial Report: Gord Holder provided the financial update to fiscal year-end September 30, 2007. Membership dues amount is higher than normal amount as we've accrued for the

estimated amount of dues to the end of the month. Total Revenue for the year is about \$18,000 more than budgeted for as we estimated conservatively last year.

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There is a negative amount shown on the Conference and Meetings lines, because of adjustments made to accrued lost time that reflect charges on the Citizen quarterly invoice. The Rent expense for September is less than normal because Minto sent us a rebate/refund cheque for common area expenses we have been overcharged for the period ending December 2006. The Guild Awareness figure reflects value of items distributed to new members in the past fiscal year. Gord reported the Guild has paid \$7,500 plus GST to date for the Local History project, with one more invoice to come. The ONG was authorized by the membership to spend up to \$15,000 on the project, but GST wasn't included in the project quote or the motion. The ONG will need to bring the Local History Project approval back to the December 12 General Membership meeting to approve the additional GST costs. Gord advised we have received a cheque from Wood Gundy to cover expenses paid by the General Fund on behalf of the Defence Fund, except for the additional amount of \$4.32 on a legal bill.

Gord reported that September was a good month for the bond market and the Defence Fund long-term investments value is recorded at \$1,288,475.44. The Defence Fund Income Statement numbers indicate expenses totaling \$12,401.09 and an increase in value of \$22,848.82, resulting in a Net Income figure of \$10,447.73.

b. **Strike Donation Local 39521 (Northern California Media Workers Guild):**

Request for donations received on behalf of the members of the California Federation of Interpreters (CFI) who have been on strike against the L.A. Courts since September 5. M/ by Janet Hunter to send a \$50.00 strike donation to Local 39521. S/ by Debbie Cole. CARRIED.

c. **2007-08 TNG Irving Leuchter Memorial Scholarship Fund:**

Letter received from TNG President Linda Foley requesting donations to the 2007-08 Leuchter Fund. M/ by Gord Holder to donate \$250.00 to the 2007-08 TNG Irving Leuchter Memorial Scholarship Fund. S/ by Debbie Cole. CARRIED.

d. **Request for Donations re President of IUE-CWA Local 907:**

Email request received from Chris Grogan requesting donations on behalf of Brother Dave Baker, President of IUE Local 907 (illness and plant closure). M/ by Debbie Cole to send a \$150.00 donation. S/ by Gord Holder. CARRIED.

e. **Sheraton Ottawa Strike - UNITE/HERE Local 261:**

Members of UNITE/HERE Local 261 are on strike at the Sheraton Ottawa hotel since September 17.

M/ by Terry Garner to send a \$50.00 strike donation. S/ by Claude L'Ecuyer. CARRIED.

5. Unit Reports

a. **CTV Ottawa (CJOH)**

[a] New Web Postings - Online/On-air; Request for waiver to exclude FT position from rotation:

Joanne Schnurr did attend a meeting with the company to discuss these matters, but she is currently away on vacation. The Guild will check further with the CTV Ottawa Unit Leaders concerning the requested waiver.

b. **DLR International**

[a] New Pre-press job classification: No report; check at next meeting.

c. **Delta Reprographics**

Lois Kirkup said we have been unable to get the parties together for mid-October as intended. She will contact CWA/SCA Canada rep Dan Zeidler and we will check out dates in early November for bargaining the first contract.

d. Citizen

[a] RS&S - Part-time CSR Hours Without Prejudice Agreement: The Guild sent a letter September 10 to Sue Armstrong requesting to renew the current agreement to July 20, 2008, the contract expiration date. Lois Kirkup will check to see if she has received a response from the Citizen.

[b] RS&S - Discipline Letter: Debbie Cole reported that she talked further with Sue Armstrong; the matter is settled with no further changes made to the company letter.

[c] Unit - Pay Equity Review: Lois Kirkup reported that the parties met on September 24 and agreement was reached on the Financial Services B-3 positions. Settlement was also reached on the B-4 Switchboard operator position, with the parties agreeing that member will be compensated at the B-3 rate of pay for 2.5 hours per day. The parties will deal with the Reader Sales & Service department next. A meeting is scheduled for the morning of November 1. Lois Kirkup and Debbie Cole will meet before that date.

[d] Editorial - Pages to Hamilton; Guild requested meeting with Publisher and Editor-in-Chief:

Lois Kirkup met with Jim Orban and Scott Anderson. Scott Anderson will be holding three rounds of meetings with each department starting October 15 and a town hall meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. on October 16. It's reported that up to one-half the paper will be going to Hamilton; it's still to be seen what will work. People are leaving and are not being replaced. Extensive discussion; we need to keep people engaged and involved. Guild should send a letter to the membership after the dust settles to let members know that their backing and attendance at meetings matters and makes a difference.

[e] Editorial - Employee Survey: Newsroom member Jackie Beingessner submitted a series of questions to Lois Kirkup that the Guild could ask members to complete to get their input on the newsroom changes and generally how things are work, or not working. Survey questions could be emailed to all editorial department members.

[f] Unit - New Manulife Benefits Claim Form: The ONG sent a letter to the company September 26 advising of its concerns with the new claim form; no response yet from the company.

[g] Editorial - Online Editor Job Classification: Lois Kirkup advised that she is working on completing the Pay Equity questionnaire for her position.

[h] Editorial - Parking - Court House Reporter: The Guild filed a grievance when the company advised it will not cover the parking expenses for the reporter working at the Court House. The Citizen had provided a parking spot at the Court House, but gave notice it would discontinue paying the parking charges effective October 1/07; no response to the grievance letter yet.

[i] Night Differential - Montreal: Just a heads up that CanWest is trying to cut back / prorate the night differential in Montreal; watch for this here.

6. Arbitrations

7. Committees -

- a. Personnel -
- b. Communications -
- c. Health & Safety - The next Joint H&S committee meeting is October 16; couple of items discussed for Terry Garner to raise at the meeting.
- d. Grievance -
- e. Guild Awareness / Mobilization - Citizen contract bargaining in 2008 – Suggestion

- f. Finance -
- g. Organizing -
- h. Elections -
- i. Bylaws -

8. Internal Guild

a. ONG Local website “*ottawanewsguild.ca*”

History of Local project - Janet Hunter advised that Dan Drolet has been sending chapters of the history to her and she could use some help editing the project; ask for volunteers in next newsletter. We also need to revive our efforts re updating the website and posting info timely to the site. Janet will speak with David Hunter about additional training about posting items online (Pat Cavalier, Nancy Noel, Jackie Beingessner).

b. CWA/SCA Canada - National Representative Council Meeting, Halifax, NS, Oct. 26-28, 2007: Discussed proposing an agenda item for the rep council meeting re newspaper tri-council.

M/ by Gord Holder that the ONG executive committee ask CWA/SCA Canada to put on the agenda for the fall national representative council meeting the issue of reinstating an inter-union council for CanWest papers. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

c. TNG Sector Conference, February 2008 - Providence, RI

Program Booklet Ad: Information has been received from the Providence Newspaper Guild asking Locals to buy an ad in the conference program booklet. Costs range from \$1,000 for a full page ad to \$250 for a quarter-page ad. M/ by Gord Holder that the ONG purchase a 1/4 page ad for \$250.00 in the 2008 Sector Conference booklet. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

9. Outside Issues

a. CLC / ODLC Fall School: Information sheet included on the October 19-20, 2007 courses offered at the fall school.

10. Other Business

Reported that the fridge in the ONG office died this week. Pat Cavalier has obtained prices on a replacement fridge from Leons, Sears and Corbeil. Prices reviewed for bar size (\$240 approx. 4 cu. ft.) or small full-size (\$500 approx. 10 cu. ft.) fridges, plus delivery charges and taxes.

M/ by Jordan Juby to purchase a new 10 cu. ft. refrigerator for the ONG office, at a cost of approximately \$500.00, plus delivery and taxes. S/ by Don Smith. CARRIED.

ONG Vice-President Janet Hunter advised she will be starting her leave on November 1 and has tendered her letter of resignation, stepping down from the ONG executive effective immediately.

M/ by Debbie Cole that the executive committee appoint Nancy Noel as Acting Vice-President and Terry Garner as Acting Secretary, effective immediately, until an election can be held at the next general membership meeting. S/ by Jordan Juby. CARRIED.

11. Lost Time Notification

Lost time recorded for Debbie Cole, Jordan Juby, Claude L'Ecuyer, Nancy Noel, Don Smith.

12. Upcoming Meetings

☆ Next Executive Meeting - **Tuesday, November 13, 2007 - 1:00 p.m.** - Guild Office.
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13. Adjournment

M/ by Terry Garner to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 p.m. S/ by Claude L'Ecuyer. CARRIED.