

# MINUTES: Special Executive Meeting

## Thursday, September 11, 2008

**Present:** Lois Kirkup, Terry Garner, Nancy Noel, Gord Holder, Debbie Cole, Joanne Schnurr, Jackie Beingessner, Claude L'Ecuyer, Charlene Ruberry, Jake Rupert, Don Smith and Pat Cavalier (staff).

**Absent:** Marc Laurin, Jean Renaud.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Lois Kirkup at 2:10 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

M/ by Nancy Noel to approve the agenda. S/ by Claude L'Ecuyer. CARRIED.

3. Ottawa Citizen Unit Negotiations

(a) Bargaining Update: Two days of mediation were held September 8 & 9. A strike vote is needed as a show of strength and voting will take place later this afternoon. The parties are returning to the bargaining table on Wednesday, September 17, with two further dates scheduled for September 22 and 23. The company has said there will be no lockout unless a strike is imminent and the Guild has said it does not intend to go on strike. Our mandate is to get a good contract and a decent wage increase for our members.

(b) Committee Reports: Stated that it is important that the Communications and Mobilization committees continue to be in contact with members throughout this process. Engage our members and keep them informed and involved. We have a good number of volunteers and the phone tree is working well. Also discussed media exposure.

M/ by Gord Holder to thank Jackie, Charlene and Nancy for all their great help on these committees. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

A Strike Finance committee (8 members) was formed at the Citizen unit meeting and is chaired by treasurer Gord Holder. The committee met in the Guild office at noon hour today to draft the local policy in the event of a labour disruption. The committee also reviewed what the actual \$ costs of a top up would be for the Guild in the event of a strike or lockout and what separate bank accounts would need to be established.

Current CWA strike payment policy is:

- After 1 week - \$150.00 Cdn advance from TNG;
- At Day 15 - \$200.00 US per week from CWA;
- At Day 29 - \$300.00 US per week from CWA.

Note that weekly payments from CWA cannot exceed a person's regular weekly wage rate

and that a member must perform their designated strike or lockout duties to receive benefits.

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The Finance committee is proposing a top up from the ONG Defence Fund, to a total of \*\$500.00 per week strike/lockout, as follows:

·After 1 week - \$350.00 Cdn top up from ONG (added to \$150.00 Cdn advance from TNG);

·At Day 15 - \$300.00 Cdn per week top up from ONG (added to \$200.00 US per week from CWA);

·At Day 29 - \$200.00 Cdn per week top up from ONG (added to \$300.00 US per week from CWA).

\*Note - CWA stipulation applies that weekly benefits cannot exceed a person's regular weekly wage rate so top up might have to be reduced accordingly and member must perform designated strike or lockout duties to receive benefits.

The ONG is still governed by its policy that should the value of the Defence Fund fall below \$1,000,000.00 for three consecutive months, the treasurer would be required to begin transferring 5% of the monthly dues revenue into the Defence Fund until its balance reaches the \$1-million requirement, and stays there for three consecutive months, at which point the transfer of funds would cease.

As well as the top up payment, the ONG has committed to strike a committee to assess requests for additional assistance from members in severe financial difficulty (hardship payments would be a loan). As far as medical benefits, the practice of CWA on behalf of Canadian members has been to maintain the extended medical benefits.

M/ by Gord Holder to approve the ONG strike/lockout benefit top up proposed by the Strike Finance committee. S/ by Jake Rupert. CARRIED.

An information sheet detailing the above will be prepared for distribution to the members.

#### **4. Upcoming Meetings**

·Citizen Unit - Strike Vote - Guild office, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. today

·Next Executive Committee meeting - **Tuesday, September 16, 2008 - 11:00 a.m.**

·Next General Membership meeting - **Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 12 noon,**  
Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre

#### **5. Adjournment**

M/ by Jake Rupert to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. S/ by Debbie Cole. CARRIED.