

MINUTES: Executive Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Lois Kirkup at 12:00 noon.

In attendance: Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Julie Oliver, David Reevely, Jake Rupert, Joanne Schnurr, Andrea Sirman. Absent: Jacquie Miller, DLR and Delta reps.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

M/ by Debbie Cole to approve the agenda as amended. S/ by Gord Holder.

CARRIED.

3. **Secretary's Report**

(a) Good Standing Report: Randall Denley in attendance at meeting, returning to good standing. Executive must still arrange for new representatives from DLR International and Delta Reprographics.

(b) Adoption of Minutes:

M/ by Gord Holder to adopt the June 9, 2009 Minutes. S/ by Debbie Cole.

CARRIED.

(c) Correspondence: Thank you letter from CJFE for annual donation.

(d) Congratulations and Condolences:

We need information regarding memorial donation for Pat Dare's step-mother.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

(a) Financial Report: Debbie Cole reported on the statements to June 30, 2009 included in the meeting package. Since printing the report, the bank has refunded \$200 charge for review of 2007-08 financial statements.

(b) ODLC - 2009 Labour Day March & Picnic:

ONG usually makes a \$50 donation each year to the ODLC Labour Day festivities.

M/ by Gord Holder that ONG send \$50.00 donation. S/ by Jake Rupert.

CARRIED.

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5. **Unit Reports**

a) CTV Ottawa:

Unit representatives held meeting with company managers to discuss their plans for the station, but it turned out to be an exercise in frustration. Will try meeting with management again in late July or August. Unit reps have also asked for regular newsroom meetings. Layoff of one member still to proceed, but that member will be kept on to replace another member going on maternity leave. Company had accidentally posted the maternity leave opening, but it was withdrawn. Employees are hearing rumours of impending move of station into same ByWard market building as A Channel. Parking costs would become an issue for unit members.

b) DLR International: Member who had been subject of sick leave grievance has accepted settlement and is no longer working at company. Company is reporting four union-represented employees remaining.

c) Delta Reprographics: No report.

d) Ottawa Citizen

(a) Unit - Canwest update: Conference call of Canwest committee held July 9, regarding local management meetings with union reps. Victoria local reps met with publisher – no mention of seeking concessions, paper still making a profit, web traffic up since company stopped publishing on Mondays. Vancouver papers (not Guild) – no talk of concessions. Regina – new local executive met with publisher, who told them they wouldn't be talking about concessions. Montreal – meeting is scheduled for July 23; company and Guild still in bargaining. Windsor – Canwest committee hearing little from that local, but CWA/SCA Canada rep Dave Esposti is monitoring. ONG reps also met with company reps, but there were no specifics about concessions that might be requested. Contract to remain in force even in the event of CCAA protection for Canwest, but pension questions would still have to be answered. Overall comment is that speculation continues about company making voluntary entrance into CCAA protection in September, though that could come sooner. ONG will have to wait to see when/if that happens before determining next step.

(b) Unit - Vacation policy update: Have not heard of any members affected by proposed policy to force them to use a portion of their 2009-2010 vacation by Aug. 22.

(c) Building Services - Discipline letters/suspension update: Company's VP for HR sent note acknowledging union's concern about that part of the letter requiring member to tell the company when he will be back at work after sick leave. Guild's concerns is the implication for all members. Company VP said that clause would be in effect only for the member involved in this matter, but we are still working on this case. Company and union have agreed to extend timelines for handling the matter.

(d) Editorial - Temporary Employees pay rates: Investigating whether temporary full-time copy editors who have been with Citizen for more than one year have

been given the step-ups stipulated in the contract. Members to be advised to check with newsroom manager.

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6. **Arbitrations**

Ottawa Citizen Unit Bylines grievance: Executive advised of setting of one day for September 22, 2009 and January 14 and 20, 2010, if necessary, for continuing of bylines arbitration hearing.

7. **Committees**

- (a) Personnel
- (b) Communications
- (c) Health & Safety
- (d) Grievance
- (e) Guild Awareness / Mobilization: Mugs deposit - Terry Garner to follow up with collection agency on status of attempt to regain deposit from company that failed to deliver mugs ordered by local.
- (f) Finance: Committee to meet in late July to develop budget for 2009-2010.
- (g) Organizing
- (h) Elections
- (i) Bylaws

8. **Internal Guild**

(a) ONG Website: Andrea Sirman to follow up again with website's designer.

(b) Canwest Caucus - see Citizen Unit.

(c) Report from TNG Sector Conference & CWA Convention by Lois Kirkup: Smallest turnout ever (110 delegates); uninspiring, and downcast atmosphere. Some interesting seminars on bankruptcy/concession bargaining scenarios. Companies in that situation can gut contracts in U.S., but successor rights help protect Canadian unions, and open shops are common in U.S. newspaper industry. CWA Convention was much more upbeat, with progress being reported during the new, more union-friendly Obama Administration. Discussions between ONG president Lois Kirkup and CMG president Lise Lareau led to idea about fall campaign directed at idea of telling readers/viewers about the impact on local coverage from staff reductions, station closings, etc.

(d) CWA/SCA Canada Fall National Representative Council Meeting: Fall meeting is set for October 23-25/09 in Victoria, BC. Local delegates are Kirkup, Cole and Holder.

(e) Rob Davis Memorial Golf Tournament (Local 80400): M/ by Debbie Cole to donate \$50.00 in memory of former president of what had been CWA/SCA Local 80400. S/ by Joanne Schnurr. CARRIED.

9. **Outside Issues**

10. **Other Business**

11. **Lost Time Notification:** Lost time for Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Lois Kirkup, Julie Oliver, David Reevely, Jake Rupert, Joanne Schnurr, Andrea Sirman.
12. **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - August executive meeting is cancelled; next Executive Committee meeting - **12 noon, Wednesday, September 9, 2009.**
 - Next General Membership meeting - **12 noon, Wednesday, September 16, 2009** - Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre.
13. **Adjournment**
M/ by David Reevely to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. S/ by Joanne Schnurr. CARRIED.