

# **MINUTES: Executive Meeting**

## **Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

### **1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Lois Kirkup at 12:05 p.m.

In attendance: Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, David Reevely, Jake Rupert, Andrea Sirman.

Absent: Joanne Schnurr, Julie Oliver, Marc Laurin.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

M/ by David Reevely to approve the amended agenda. S/ by Debbie Cole.

CARRIED.

### **3. Secretary's Report**

a) Good Standing Report: All executive members are in good standing as of end of February.

b) Adoption of Minutes:

M/ by Terry Garner to adopt the February 24, 2009 Minutes. S/ by David Reevely. CARRIED.

c) Correspondence reported. Thank you letter received from Alzheimer Society for ONG donation in memory of Clement Marshall. Thank you letter also from The Salvation Army for donation sent in memory of Lenore Dewan.

d) Congratulations and Condolences:

·Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Ly Guilhauman, sister of Mart Munk, (Citizen/Reader Sales & Service).

·Donation to Alzheimer Society of Canada in memory of Clement Marshall, father of Gail Alexander (Citizen/Reader Sales & Service).

·Basket to Ralph Willsey (Citizen/Editorial). Newsroom voluntary buyout eff.

Dec. 31/07; Citizen/Canwest advised that Ralph has moved from salary continuance and retired effective Feb. 21/2009.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

a) Financial Report: Report to February 28, 2009 presented by Debbie Cole.

She reported that weekly dues remitted by the Ottawa Citizen were down about \$200 per week in wake of recent wave of buyouts. Finance committee will meet to assess impact on the budget. Local delegates to the TNG Sector Conference and CWA Convention in Washington in June need to be elected at the membership meeting. Executive will recommend sending only one delegate to the conferences.

The value of the long-term investments in the Defence Fund at the end of February is \$1,349,648.11.

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b) Minto - Office Lease Proposal: Minto representative has accepted counter offer from ONG regarding five-year lease starting June 2009 and expiring in 2014.

M/ by Debbie Cole to ratify proposed lease with Minto. S/ by Terry Garner.  
CARRIED.

## 5. **Unit Reports**

**a) CTV Ottawa:** Layoffs at affiliated station A Channel worried ONG members, but they are in separate union and there has been no impact to this point. The halt of the production of morning local news inserts into the national Canada AM broadcasts has cost one member additional talent fees, but has not caused a loss of employment.

### **b) DLR International:**

a) Contract Bargaining: Marc Laurin is expected to contact CWA/SCA Canada staff rep Dave Wilson regarding bargaining in the next few days.

**c) Delta Reprographics:** Dave Wilson has suggested that the ONG executive conduct a unit meeting of members at Delta; to be discussed further by executive.

### **d) Ottawa Citizen**

a) Unit - Canwest Update: Canwest has obtained extension for meeting debt covenants until April 6. No numbers on status of company pension plan yet received by union; last report was December 2007, and next report to governing authorities is not required until December 2009. CWA/SCA Canada has prepared document answering several questions about eventualities. After discussion about the need for the union local to be proactive, Jake Rupert volunteered to prepare an executive summary of the CWA/SCA Canada memo before the March 18, 2009, membership meeting.

b) Editorial - Weekend Rotation: Memo to be prepared for members listing rights and responsibilities under the contract.

c) Editorial - FT Temporary positions: In second consultation, legal counsel advised against filing grievance while members remain employed. When they are released from employment, Guild could consider filing grievance seeking severance pay.

d) Editorial - Advisory letter to member: Following minor traffic accident that did not result in damage to Citizen vehicle, letter was sent to member by company

management. Executive member(s) met with management. No disciplinary action taken by company, but advisory letter will remain on member's personnel file.

e) Building Services - Advisory letters and suspension: Member has received letter/suspension regarding frequent late arrivals for shifts and another letter/suspension related to the denial of sick leave. Unit Leader will contact management supervisor to set up meeting when member returns to work from vacation.

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(f) Editorial - Scheduling: Night news desk scheduling has been haphazard since task was assigned to a newsroom manager who does not work nights. Executive to speak with night desk members regarding various concerns and with newsroom manager. Meeting with management proposed.

(g) Vacation: Member refused request to carry over seven days into new vacation year. Member to meet with supervising manager.

6. **Arbitrations**

Ottawa Citizen Unit - Request to Withhold Bylines grievance: Arbitration date set for May 1, 2009. Company representative asked Lois Kirkup about possibility of joint request to withdraw application for arbitration on "without prejudice" basis. Consensus of executive was to decline that request.

7. **Committees**

- a. Personnel
- b. Communications
- c. Health & Safety - Holder agrees to serve as representative on joint committee for purpose of conducting newsroom inspections.
- d. Grievance
- e. Guild Awareness / Mobilization
- f. Finance
- g. Organizing
- h. Elections
- i. Bylaws

8. **Internal Guild**

a) ONG - Local Website: Discussed need to update list of officers. Andrea Sirman to undertake that task.

Local History: M/ by Gord Holder to accept quote from Citizen In-Plant Printing to produce 500 copies of ONG history book at quoted price of \$1925.00. S/ by Terry Garner. CARRIED.

Mug deposit: Documents regarding attempt to have deposit on non-delivered mugs returned by CU Promotions given to Terry Garner for forwarding to collection agent.

b) Canwest Caucus Report: See references to Canwest situation above.

c) CWA/SCA Canada National Representative Council spring meeting to be held in Ottawa on April 17 - 19, 2009. ONG will offer hospitality suite on evenings of April 17 and 18. Delegates (already elected) include Lois Kirkup, Debbie Cole and Gord Holder. Jake Rupert and Andrea Sirman added as observers.

9. **Outside Issues:** none

10. **Other Business**  
Sub-lease with CWA/SCA Canada. Debbie Cole/Finance committee to begin discussions on new sublease as current sublease expires June 2009.
11. **Lost Time Notification:** Lost time for Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Terry Garner, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, David Reevely, Jake Rupert, Andrea Sirman.
12. **Upcoming Meetings:** ONG General Membership meeting, 12 noon, Wednesday, March 18, 2009 - Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre.  
Next Executive committee meeting - Tuesday, April 14, 2009 - 12 noon, Guild office.
13. **Adjournment**  
M/ by Gord Holder to adjourn at 1:40 p.m. S/ by David Reevely. CARRIED.