

“F Y I” Update

April 2006



! The April meeting of the executive committee was held in the Guild office on April 11 and was attended by Lois Kirkup, Janet Hunter, Nancy Noel, Gord Holder, Debbie Cole, Joanne Schnurr, Marc Laurin, Tony Cote, Jordan Juby and Claude L'Ecuyer, and TNG Canada staff rep Dave Wilson.

! Information is posted on Guild bulletin boards about the National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace. On Friday, April 28, individuals and organizations in Canada and around the world will gather to mourn the loss of life and injury to workers due to occupational accidents and injury. The Ottawa & District Labour Council theme for 2006 is ***“Organizing for healthier and safer workplaces”***. In Ottawa, a Memorial Service will take place at 12:30 p.m. at the CLC monument in Vincent Massey Park, located at Heron Road and Riverside Drive. A barbecue will follow, with donations benefitting the Ottawa & District Injured Workers' Group. As an official day of mourning in Canada, Canadian flags in workplaces are often flown at half-staff on April 28 to honour those killed or injured on the job.

! TNG-CWA has issued a call for nominations for the position of Canada East Vice-President. The eastern VP position became vacant at the end of March, following the resignation of Jan Ravensbergen. Candidates for the Canada East VP position will be nominated at the TNG Sector Conference this July in Las Vegas. If there is more than one candidate nominated, a secret ballot election vote will be held. All members of TNG Canada East, (east of the Ontario-Manitoba border) including ONG members, would be eligible to vote in the election.

! The ONG/Ottawa Citizen Pay Equity review process has basically reached a stalemate and the parties have agreed to call in the provincial Pay Equity review officer assigned to the case to help end the deadlock. As Debbie Cole has stepped down from the ONG committee, a replacement Reader Sales & Service department member is needed on the committee. Please advise Debbie Cole or the Guild office if you are interested in serving on the Guild committee.

! Check out the story and photos on the TNG Canada website about the ONG volunteer day at the Union Mission - www.tngcanada.org.

! DLR International contract update: The ONG/DLR contract expired in November 2005. To date, the Guild has had two bargaining sessions with the company. The executive committee has also reviewed bargaining progress reports and the contract changes requested by the employer, and summarized the Guild's positions on the various articles for the negotiating committee.

! The Ottawa and District Labour Council advises that the MAYWORKS 2006 Festival program information and highlights are available at www.mayworksottawa.ca.

! CJOH (CTV Ottawa) will be hosting the CTV Good Morning Canada weekend program for four months from May through August. There are two Guild positions involved with the show: anchor/host and producer – and the company awarded the jobs to two people without posting the positions. A grievance was filed by the Guild because the positions weren't posted in accordance with the collective agreement. In response to the grievance, the company agreed to post the 4-month producer position immediately, but said the hosting job is an assignment, not a position. CJOH however responded with the compromise of splitting the host job in two parts, with the person they awarded the job to hosting for May/June and allowing interested members to put their names forward to anchor the show for July/August. CJOH unit leaders continue to work on a resolution to this issue.

! The ONG has sent a donation to the annual TNG-CWA Freedom Award Fund banquet being held on May 3, 2006, which is World Press Freedom Day. The banquet in Washington is held annually to honour exceptional journalistic achievement in the spirit of Heywood C. Broun, David S. Barr and Herbert L. Block. Broun was the first President of The Newspaper Guild, Barr was TNG's long-time attorney and mentor, and Block was the Guild's longest-tenured member and an award-winning editorial cartoonist. These three men were visionaries who made substantial contributions to a free press and the awards presented in their names honour individuals and organizations that carry on in their traditions.

! The old ONG desktop computer has been formatted and is for sale. The system is six years old. It's an Intel Pentium III, 20GB hard drive; includes CD and CD-RW drives and 3.5" drive and includes a 19" Acer monitor. Asking price is \$250, or best offer. If interested, please send your offer to the Guild office by fax or e-mail by **Monday, May 8/06, at 4:00 p.m.**

Fax - 613-820-4770; e-mail - ong@tngcanada.org.

! ***“Congratulations” & “Condolences”***

- Donation to Palliative Care Unit, SCO Health Services Foundation in memory of retired Citizen newsroom member Bob Mellor.
- Donation to London Region, Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation in memory of Freda Willsey, mother of Ralph Willsey (Citizen/Editorial).
- Basket to James (Citizen/Editorial) & Christine Southgate - baby boy, Finn James.

- Congratulations to ONG member Laura Robin, Citizen travel editor, who was recently honoured with a Canadian Tourism Commission 2005 Northern Lights award. Laura earned second place in the newspaper category for her story “A Woman’s Touch”, an article about the feminine touches that set apart some of Canada’s most exclusive hotels, exploring the ways in which feminine owners and managers are making their hotels feel like home for guests.

- Congratulations also to Citizen Editorial department members Susan Allan, Shelley Page and Robert Sibley, named as finalists for the Canadian Association of Journalists’ annual awards. Shelley Page and Susan Allan are nominated in the investigative journalism category for their series *What Price Beauty?* that looked into the dangers of over-the-counter cosmetics, and long-term health problems from chemicals found in these products. Robert Sibley was nominated in the faith and spirituality category for his series *The Way of the Shikoku*, an 11-part story about walking Japan’s oldest Buddhist pilgrimage route, the Shikoku no Michi. The CAJ Awards will be handed out May 13 in Halifax.

April 25, 2006

