

September 2006

“FYI” Update



± The September meeting of the ONG executive committee was held in the Guild office on September 13 and was attended by Lois Kirkup, Janet Hunter, Nancy Noel, Gord Holder, Debbie Cole, Joanne Schnurr, Marc Laurin, Tony Cote, Terry Garner, Jordan Juby, and Claude L'Ecuyer. Don Smith did not attend.

± An ONG general membership meeting was held on September 13, 2006. The budget for the next fiscal year - October 1/06 to September 30/07 - was approved by the membership and the accounting firm of Bouris, Wilson was appointed to conduct the audit of the ONG financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. The date of the next membership meeting - the annual general meeting - is Wednesday, December 13, 2006. The meeting will be held in the Conference Centre of the Ottawa Citizen.

± A discipline grievance filed at CJOH will not be pursued to arbitration at the request of the member. The Guild withdrew the grievance on a “without prejudice” basis and advised the company in writing that it believed the discipline assessed the member was excessive for the incident.

± The ONG has sent a letter of concern to the Ottawa Citizen about the handling of a bomb threat at the company one night early in September. The Guild believes the company failed to meet its obligations and follow its own procedures and policies for such an event by neglecting to promptly inform all employees in the building of the possible threat, and of their right to decide whether they should leave the building if they felt they were endangered. The Guild believes the company's investigation of the incident was incomplete so it is conducting its own investigation of events and has asked for the company's cooperation in making the management staff available to the Guild for the purpose of its investigation. The Guild has advised the company we believe it is imperative they ensure that all supervisors are educated on relevant company policies, their responsibilities during such incidents, and the rights of all employees in their departments.

± A short bargaining session was held with DLR International on September 29. The Guild presented its final offer to the employer and we are awaiting the company's response.

± The without prejudice agreement between the Guild and the Citizen concerning the scheduling of part-time employees in Reader Sales & Service is further extended until September 30, 2007. The understanding between the ONG and the Citizen is that the company may schedule the part-time CSRs for a regular work week of 21 hours or more per week without having to enroll these employees in the benefits program. Either party has the right to revoke the agreement with 60 days' written notice. This is a situation that will have to be addressed during the next round of contract negotiations.

± **David S. Barr Award** - Scholarship details and the Canadian application form are available on the TNG Canada website - www.tngcanada.org. Students in North America are invited to compete for the Barr award which encourages young journalists to focus on issues of social justice. All entries must be of work that helped to right a wrong; corrected an injustice; or promoted justice and fairness, and all entries must be of work published or broadcast between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006. The amount of the high school student award is \$500 US, and the post-secondary student winner award is \$1,500 US. The application deadline is **January 26, 2007**.

± The **2007 Union Plus Scholarship** application form and details are also available for download from the TNG Canada webpage. Guild members are eligible to apply, but the scholarships are available for individuals accepted into an accredited college or university in the United States. The scholarship application deadline is **January 31, 2007**.

± **“Congratulations” & “Condolences”**

· Donation to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario in memory of Phyllis Marie Young, mother-in-law of Rob Bostelaar (Citizen/Editorial).

· It's congratulations again to the Citizen/Editorial team who worked on the special project on palliative care, *“A Revolution in Dying”*. The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association picked the April 2005 series as winner of its inaugural media award, in recognition of the outstanding coverage of issues related to end-of-life hospice care in Canada. This is the seventh award for this Citizen series.

· It's another award also for Citizen writer Robert Sibley for his 11-part pilgrimage series, *“The Way of the Shikoku”*. Robert won the Templeton Religion Story of the Year Award, which honours a singular piece of printed journalism and is presented by the Religion Newswriters Association. There were ten finalists for the Templeton prize, and Robert was the only journalist representing a Canadian newspaper. This is the fourth honour for this series.



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