

# *F Y I - February / March 2009*



The ONG executive committee has held three regular meetings to date in 2009, on January 6, February 24 and March 17. Executive committee members are: Lois Kirkup, President; Terry Garner, Vice-President; Gord Holder, Secretary; Debbie Cole, Treasurer; Jacquie Miller, Citizen Unit Leader; Joanne Schmurr and Natalie Pierosara, CTV Ottawa Co-Chairs; Members-at-Large - Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Julie Oliver, David Reevely, Jake Rupert and Andrea Sirman. Still to be confirmed are new Unit leaders for DLR International and Delta Reprographics.

## **CTV Ottawa**

Guild unit members were not granted the February 16 Family Day holiday, even though it was given to CEP union members who had recently negotiated a new collective agreement. The Guild did ask management for the Family Day stat for ONG members, but the request was denied.

The local morning inserts into the national Canada AM broadcast were cancelled in mid-March. CTV Ottawa said they were looking at this as a formatting change and that there would be no impact in Ottawa in terms of loss of employment, although the change did cost one member additional talent fees .

## **Delta Reprographics**

The Guild's outstanding dues grievance was settled with Delta before arbitration. Dues owed to the ONG were received in February.

## **DLR International**

Before an arbitration hearing date scheduled for December, the parties reached agreement resolving a grievance by the Guild claiming that a member had not been paid at the appropriate rate for the duties performed. Under the settlement, the company paid an agreed upon amount to the member. The second grievance concerning sick leave pay for a member has also been settled, with the medical professional upholding the Guild's position; the member was to be paid for sick leave owing.

The ONG/DLR contract expired in mid-November 2008. Bargaining of the new contract has not yet begun, but a meeting is scheduled for mid-April with the unit chair and CWA/SCA Canada staff rep Dave Wilson.

## **Ottawa Citizen**

The Bylines grievance arbitration hearing is set for May 1, 2009; Jake Rupert will attend for the executive.

...../2

Ten ONG members were granted buyouts effective December 31, 2008: 5 in Editorial; 1 in Financial Services; 2 in Building Services; 2 in Reader Sales & Service. As well, one newsroom member was transferred to Reader Sales & Service, two RS&S members transferred to Building Services positions, and one Financial Services member transferred out of Guild jurisdiction.

The new ONG/Ottawa Citizen contract booklets (effective July 21, 2008 - July 20, 2013) have been distributed to members in the workplace. If you haven't received a copy of the new contract, contact the Guild office and we will send a copy to you.

Canwest Update: At the end of February, Lois Kirkup went to Toronto to join with CWA/SCA Canada Director Arnold Amber and Canadian Media Guild President Lise Lareau at a meeting with Leonard Asper and other Canwest representatives. Information included explanation of some of the complex Canwest financial matters, dates/deadlines and explanation of covenants. Canwest was negotiating with banks on loans and has obtained an extension from the banks. The next key date is April 6. We are in a wait-and-see situation. CWA/SCA Canada has hired a lawyer and obtained answers to several questions. In the event of bankruptcy protection/bankruptcy, CWA/SCA Canada would attempt to become a member of creditors committee and has been gathering membership and financial information from all Guild locals to be prepared to act quickly, if and when required. In response to some questions from Citizen unit members, the ONG prepared a handout for our Canwest members for the March 18 general membership meeting (*copy attached*).

A vacation bulletin was issued in March to all Citizen unit members. If you have any questions concerning vacations, please check with a member of the executive. Guild members are reminded that they are expected to use up all of their current vacation allotment by May 31, 2009, so please make arrangements with your supervisor asap to use up the balance of your 2008-2009 vacation days.

Citizen reporters working their weekend rotations are reminded to file for any premiums/differentials they would be entitled to, and to file for overtime if your schedule has you working a sixth shift in the work week. If you have any questions about the weekend rotation, please contact an executive member.

ONG donations:

The ONG sent a donation to the CWA 2009 Eduardo Diaz Union-to-Union International Solidarity Fund. The Diaz international fund is used to help finance projects around the world for specific union needs for which there is no money, and priority is given to assist the living standards of working women.

Renewal of ONG membership for 2009 and donation to the CJFE - Canadian Journalists for Free Expression. ([www.cjfe.org](http://www.cjfe.org))

Upcoming events:

**CWA/SCA Canada National Representative Council meeting - Ottawa, ON, April 17-19, 2009.** The ONG is hosting the spring National Representative Council meeting and will host a hospitality suite at the Minto Suites Hotel (185 Lyon St. North) on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 17 & 18. ONG members are invited to drop by to meet with Guild members from other CWA/SCA Canada Locals across Canada. ONG delegates to the meeting are Lois Kirkup, Debbie Cole and Gord Holder, with Jake Rupert and Andrea Sirman to attend as observers.

...../3  
pg. 3

***Congratulations & Condolences***

Basket to Connie Defalco (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

Donation to The Salvation Army, Ottawa Booth Centre, in memory of Lenore Dewan, mother

of Daniel Dewan (Citizen/RS&S).

Basket to Stephen Boucher (Citizen/Building Services) - sick leave.

Donation to Ottawa Hospital Foundation (Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre) in memory of Wayne Alexander, husband of Gail Alexander (Citizen/RS&S).

Basket to Dave Rogers (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

Donation to Britannia United Church in memory of Bob Lumsden, father, and father-in-law, of Greg Lumsden (Citizen/Financial Services) and Lynn Lumsden (Citizen/Editorial).

Basket to Nancy Noel (Citizen/Financial Services) - surgery.

Donation to Kemptville District Hospital Foundation in memory of Rhonda Boucher, mother of Stephen Boucher (Citizen/Building Services).

Basket to Graham Hughes (Citizen/Editorial); took voluntary buyout Dec. 31/08 and retired Jan. 13/09.

Basket to Martti Lahtinen (Citizen/Editorial); took voluntary buyout Dec. 31/08 and retired Jan. 13/09.

Basket to Danny Laplante (Citizen/RS&S); took voluntary buyout Dec. 31/08 and retired Jan. 13/09.

Basket to Alan Jenkins (Citizen/In-Plant Printing) - surgery.

Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Ly Guilhauman, sister of Mart Munk (Citizen/RS&S).

Donation to Alzheimer Society of Canada in memory of Clement Marshall, father of Gail Alexander (Citizen/RS&S).

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.

Donation to University of Ottawa Heart Institute in memory of Jean Jamieson, mother of Gary Jamieson (Citizen/RS&S).

Congratulations to Citizen writer Chris Cobb, awarded a *Kaiser Foundation Fellowship* to research and report on efforts to provide clean water and cheap sanitation facilities for communities in sub-Saharan Africa. Chris's research will focus on the work of the Ottawa-based charity WaterCan, and he expects the Kaiser fellowship will take him to Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

Congratulations to Citizen writer Andrew Duffy on winning a \$20,000 research grant from the *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)*. Andrew, one of 11 Canadian journalists to receive a Tier 1 CIHR Journalism Award, will write about the smoking epidemic among Canada's Inuit.

Congratulations to Citizen journalists who received nominations for National Newspaper Awards. David Pugliese was nominated in the investigation category; Andrew Duffy was nominated in the long features category; and Andrea Sirman and Vito Pilieci, along with manager Derek Shelly, were nominated in the multimedia feature category, for marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Superman's debut with a multimedia flash-based site. Winners of the NNAs will be announced May 22 in Montreal.

March 30, 2009

