

MARCH - APRIL 2010 - F Y I

} The March 24 meeting of the Executive committee was attended by Debbie Cole, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks and David Reevely. Sam Chalati, Blair Crawford, Joanne Schnurr, Andrea Sirman and DLR rep did not attend.

} The April 13 meeting of the Executive committee was attended by Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks, David Reevely and Joanne Schnurr. Sam Chalati, Randall Denley, Andrea Sirman and DLR rep did not attend.

} The national union, CWA/SCA Canada, held a leadership school earlier this year in Toronto, involving current presidents and other representatives from member locals. President Lois Kirkup was the ONG rep. Discussions centred around Canwest and the industry as a whole, plus how to make our participation in Canwest more visible and how to run a local in these changing times.

} The 2010 TNG Sector Conference and CWA Convention will be held this July in Washington, D.C. President Lois Kirkup and executive at-large member Blair Crawford were elected as the Local delegates to the conferences at the March 24 General Membership meeting.

} The next General Membership Meeting of the ONG is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2010, starting at 12 noon. The meeting will be held in the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre.

} **CTV Ottawa**

The grievance filed by the Guild concerning failure to post the Chief Anchor position was on hold for a number of weeks following the fire at CTV Ottawa. The parties are scheduled to meet on April 22 to discuss the case further.

Guild members continue to share workspace downtown with A-Channel. Some ONG members are also being forced to work offsite or on the road, rather than in the shared office space. Because of the fire damage to the Merivale Road building, CTV Ottawa will not return to that location and will continue to share space with A-Channel in its Byward Market location. CTV corporate headquarters in Toronto hasn't recently updated employees on future plans for CTV Ottawa.

} **DLR International**

CWA/SCA Canada staff rep David Wilson advises the parties are close to reaching a new three-year deal.

} **Delta Reprographics**

The employer remains a couple of months in arrears in remittance of union dues to the ONG.

} Ottawa Citizen

Canwest update There are a number of bidders for the newspaper group, but only rumours about the identify of those bidders to this point. The bidding process was to be completed by April 30, but an extension of that deadline is a possibility. The CCAA protection has been extended to June 30.

Vice-President Terry Garner says there have been emails circulating with regard to the representation of non-union employees being represented in the Canwest CCAA/bidding process. Terry Garner and Lois Kirkup report that the judge overseeing the case has acknowledged two groups in connection with meetings with the monitor; one is for retirees who were non-unionized employees, and one is for current non-unionized employees. There have been questions about whether CWA/SCA Canada has been granted intervenor status in the proceedings. CWA/SCA Canada has retained a lawyer who has been attending the hearings. The lawyer did find in documents a clause suggesting that a new buyer of the newspaper group could change benefit plans; the union lawyer argued that point before the judge, who agreed that those plans were covered by collective agreements. CWA/SCA Canada then approached Canwest, whose representatives agreed with the union position. Regarding pensions, collective agreements call for pension agreements. Any discussion with a new buyer would include the liability of the pension agreements; they cannot wind up the plan, but the issue is whether they would be able to change it. This issue will have to be monitored.

Building Services member grievances settled: In one case, the member agreed to take the penalty for reporting late for work. Concerning the discipline letter re sick leave, the company has revised the letter to the member; it remains a letter of warning, but the most contentious points have been removed and it contains a list of requirements under the company's sick leave policy. The Guild obtained a legal opinion concerning the request for overtime grievance; the executive committee will not be proceeding to arbitration on this issue.

} Congratulations & Condolences

Flowers to Andrea Sirman (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

Basket to David Dutton (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

Congratulations to Citizen photographer Bruno Schlumberger, nominated for two National Newspaper Awards. Bruno Schlumberger was nominated in the feature photo and news feature photo categories. In the feature photo class, Bruno's photo of a homeless man hunkered down as the snow piles up around him was nominated. His news feature nomination is for a photo of an 85-year old war veteran at a war memorial ceremony. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Toronto on May 14.

April 15, 2010

