

MAY - JUNE 2010 FYI UPDATE



▷ The May meeting of the executive committee was held in the Guild office on May 11 and was attended by Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, Joanne Schnurr and Tony Cote. Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Jeff Parks, David Reevely, Andrea Sirman, Sam Chalati and Marc Laurin did not attend.

▷ The executive committee also met in the Guild office on June 8 with Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller and Julie Oliver in attendance. Joanne Schnurr, Jeff Parks, David Reevely, Andrea Sirman, Sam Chalati and Marc Laurin did not attend.

▷ The ONG general membership meeting was held in the Citizen conference centre on June 16. Membership was updated on Guild activity over the past couple of months.

▷ Former ONG member Tony Cote made presentation to the May 11 executive meeting about the CWA/SCA Canada retiree chapter. A number of members have returned applications nationally, including a handful of former ONG members. Costs of the chapter are being paid by CWA/SCA Canada. One of the goals of the group is to have retiree representation on local executives, partly because the issue has come to the fore during discussions about pension situations of Canwest newspapers. Tony Cote proposed creating a retiree position on the ONG executive. The executive believes such a move would likely require changes to the Local s bylaws, and any such changes must be in accordance with the TNG and CWA constitutions. The matter was referred to a re-created bylaws committee comprising executive members Lois Kirkup, Gord Holder, Terry Garner and Debbie Cole, with Tony Cote as observer. (See Retiree info, as well as the latest Guild news, on the CWA/SCA Canada website: www.cwa-scanada.ca).

▷ A new three-year collective agreement was reached with DLR International. The contract is effective November 18, 2009 to November 17, 2012. There are no wage increases in years 1 and 2, and there is a 1% increase in year 3. Other changes include revised language in the sick leave clause and a letter of understanding reached concerning an employee s wage rate.

▷ Late remittance of dues collected from employees continues with Delta Reprographics.

▷ CTV Ottawa

The non-posting of the Chief Anchor position grievance remains unresolved; the Guild is still working to resolve the matter with management on the issue of compensation for affected members. Some unit members have expressed frustration with perceived lack of gains from the grievance process.

▷ Ottawa Citizen

Canwest update - The announcement of the winning bid for the Canwest newspaper division was made in May; Paul Godfrey is the public face and John Paton is the key financial figure. The sale is expected to close July 15. The ONG has requested a meeting with publisher Jim Orban to discuss future plans for the Citizen. CWA/SCA Canada director Arnold Amber was also seeking a meeting with Paul Godfrey. The Guild has tentatively booked the Ottawa Citizen conference centre for noon hour on Monday, July 19, in case we need to hold an information meeting for Citizen unit members regarding the Canwest sale.

Financial Services - One full-time member has conditionally transferred to a non-union position in Human Resources and the company has hired a part-time replacement (3 days/week).

Reader Sales & Service - Country district supervisors are being asked to submit cost evaluations on home delivery in areas outside Metro Ottawa.

Editorial - A member received a letter from the company about additional medical substantiation for sick leave and the Guild has responded on the member's behalf. Another member who applied for LTD had their claim denied; Guild legal counsel is assisting with the member's case. There have been increased scheduling issues lately in the newsroom and overtime shifts have been required due to staff shortages. The Guild has requested a meeting with management to raise our concerns.

▷ Congratulations & Condolences

Basket to Howard Kaplan (CTV Ottawa) - retirement.

Basket to Nicki Thomas (Citizen/Editorial) - illness.

Donation to St. Patrick's Basilica Organ Fund in memory of Daniel Scheer, brother of Jim Scheer (Ottawa Citizen/Editorial - salary continuance).

Congratulations to Citizen photographer Bruno Schlumberger for his two awards at the National Newspaper Awards ceremony held May 14 in Toronto. Bruno won in both the Feature Photography and News Feature Photography categories.

Congratulations to Citizen journalist Glen McGregor recently honoured at the Canadian Association of Journalists' annual awards ceremony May 29 in Montreal. Glen received the CAJ award in the Computer Assisted Reporting category for his collaboration with the Halifax Chronicle-Herald's Stephen Maher on a series of stories that used electronic records to show how a disproportionate share of the federal stimulus money was spent in ridings held by Conservative MPs. Glen had also received two other CAJ nominations: for a series of stories that used liquor inspection records to show the on-going conflict between Ottawa-area bars and the provincial agency that regulates them (also in the computer assisted category); and for a daily excellence award for coverage of a collision last summer on March Road in Kanata that seriously injured five cyclists. Congratulations also to Citizen senior writer Jennifer Green who was nominated by CAJ in the Faith and Spirituality category for her article 'We Pray to the Same God', published in March 2009.

Congratulations to Citizen journalist Maria Cook who will receive the 2010 President's Award from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for her work in architectural journalism. Maria is being honoured for her article, 'In an open oasis, the life and times of Ottawa; Where will the Lansdowne Live proposal leave history?' Maria will receive her award at the RAIC's annual meeting June 25 in Saskatoon.

June 17, 2010

