

October - November 2010

"FYI" Update



> The October meeting of the executive committee was held in the Guild office on October 19 and was attended by Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Jeff Parks, David Reevely and Sam Chalati. Joanne Schnurr, Julie Oliver, and DLR rep did not attend.

> The November meeting of the executive committee was held in the Guild office on November 9 and was attended by Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks and Joanne Schnurr. David Reevely, Delta and DLR reps did not attend.

> The next General Membership meeting of the ONG (annual general meeting) has been re-scheduled to **Friday, December 17, 2010**, starting at 12 noon, in the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre. Proposed items of business: Financial audit for 2009-2010; Executive election for Vice-President and Member-at-Large positions; 2011 executive honorariums; presentation of TNG 25-year pin. An election will also be held for the Citizen Unit Joint Health & Safety Committee representative.

The following proposed Bylaws changes will be presented at the membership meeting.
(additions in bold/italics)

Article 3

Section 3.01

The affairs of the ONG shall be managed by a committee composed of the Local Officers, as described in section 5, each unit leader, **five four** members-at-large, **and** one Human Rights & Equity member-at-large, **and one Retiree member-at large**. Positions of members-at-large may be filled by department leaders as described in section 4.04. This retiree member-at-large shall be a former member of the ONG.

Section 3.14 Retiree Member

The retiree chapter representative shall have the right to speak and vote at executive meetings, but shall not have the right to hold a table officer's position or to be elected as a delegate to CWA Convention, TNG Sector Conference or CWA/SCA Canada Representative Council meetings.

Renumber Sections 3.14 Others Present and 3.15 Powers to become 3.15 Others Present and 3.16 Powers.

➤ **CTV Ottawa**

- The grievance over the failure to post a vacancy for Chief Anchor is basically resolved, but the unit and company are still bouncing around possible dates for a meeting with the members.
- Newsroom ergonomics issues continue to be raised at the health and safety committee level. Guild members are reminded of the importance of reporting any ergonomics issues/problems they are experiencing in the newsroom to their unit health and safety rep and to human resources so that problems can be documented and addressed.
- The CTV Ottawa collective agreement expires December 31, 2010 and the unit is organizing its bargaining committee. Members were asked to submit their goals and issues for bargaining a new contract to the Guild Unit Chairs.

➤ **Ottawa Citizen**

- A total of 17 ONG members were granted voluntary buyout packages, with 12 Guild members leaving at the end of October, and the other five people expected to leave in December. The breakdown of Guild members taking the buyout includes one member from In-House Printing; four in Financial Services; two in Reader Sales & Service; and 10 in Editorial. Employees in Financial Services have been advised that restructuring will be done at Postmedia newspapers and that functions will be centralized whenever possible. Decisions about changes should be known by the end of January. Members have been told that more buyouts will be offered if there are positions to be eliminated.

- CWA/SCA Canada local presidents from Ottawa, Victoria and Montreal, CWA/SCA Canada director Arnold Amber and senior Postmedia official Paul Godfrey met in Toronto on September 24. Godfrey restated his earlier comment that any job function that could be outsourced/centralized would be, as well as his comment that Postmedia newspapers would be “hyper-local”. Godfrey also said that he wanted to look at each newspaper in its own market, adding that local news would always carry newspapers and justify their existence. He said that the parent company intended to produce 25 per cent of its profits from digital operations. It was also indicated that the Citizen would soon have a new publisher to replace Jim Orban, who resigned after the Postmedia purchase of the newspaper chain was completed.

- www.ottawanewsguild.ca Check out the updated ONG website. Members are asked to give some thought to items you would like to see featured on the site and send your ideas to the Guild at ong@cwa-scacanada.ca.

The latest Guild news and detailed information on the scholarships listed below is available on the following websites: www.cwa-scacanada.ca, www.newsguild.org, www.cwa-union.org.

- **TNG 2010 David S. Barr Award** - The Newspaper Guild-CWA has announced the 2010 David S. Barr Award for student journalists in high school and college. Detailed information is posted on Guild bulletin boards. Applications are available online from TNG (www.newsguild.org). Entries must be of work published or broadcast between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 that helped to right a wrong; corrected an injustice; or promoted justice and fairness. The application deadline is January 28, 2011. The amount of the award for the high school student winner is \$500 and \$1500 goes to the college student winner.

➤ **CWA Joe Beirne Scholarships**

The CWA Joe Beirne Foundation was established in October 1974 by the Communications Workers of America Executive Board to honour the name and memory of the founding President of CWA who served for more than 30 years.

The Joe Beirne Foundation's Board of Directors each year approves the awarding of 15 partial college scholarships of up to \$3,000 US each. The winners, to be chosen by lottery drawing, also receive second-year scholarships for the same amount, contingent upon satisfactory academic achievement.

Eligible for the scholarships are CWA/SCA Canada members and their spouses, children and grandchildren, including the dependents of retired, laid off or deceased members. Applicants must be high school graduates or high school students who will graduate during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to school may also apply. Applications forms are available online from CWA/SCA Canada at www.cwa-scacanada.ca, as well as under the Members section at www.cwa-union.org. The Beirne scholarship deadline is March 31, 2011.

➤ CWA/SCA Canada has extended its laid-off worker training/education subsidy program through 2011. CWA/SCA Canada established a program as the recession swept the country, leading to widespread job cuts, especially in the media industry. Any member of CWA/SCA Canada who becomes jobless due to layoff, buyout or early retirement is eligible for reimbursement of up to \$500 upon proof of payment for an education course or any type of training. Guild members can contact the national office for further information at info@cwa-scacanada.ca

➤ **"Congratulations" & "Condolences"**

- Donation to Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation in memory of David Elder (former Citizen/RS&S and long-time executive member).
- Basket to Chris (Citizen/Editorial) & Karen Yzerman - marriage.
- Donation to Oxfam Canada in memory of Julie Mason, mother and mother-in-law of Glen McGregor and Shelley Page (Citizen/Editorial).

If you are aware of an ONG member in your workplace who should be acknowledged with our congratulations or our condolences, please pass this information along to a member of the executive committee or contact the ONG office. Your assistance is appreciated.

