

SUMMER 2009 FYI UPDATE



▷ The June 9 ONG General Membership meeting was held at noon hour in the ONG office. Members were brought up-to-date and talked about the Canwest situation. Also discussed were Citizen vacation policy issues and the newsroom reorganization. The ONG/Ottawa Citizen Request to Withhold Bylines arbitration hearing started May 1.

▷ The September 16 General Membership meeting was held at noon hour in the Citizen Conference Centre. The accounting firm of Bouris, Wilson was appointed to conduct the audit of the Guild's financial statements for the fiscal year October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009. The membership approved the proposed budget for 2009/2010. Also discussed were ideas to help the ONG mark its 60th Anniversary on December 1, 2009. If you have any ideas/suggestions, contact a member of the ONG executive, or call or email the Guild office. Due to the resignation of Jake Rupert, there is a vacant Member-at-Large position on the executive committee. If you are interested in this position, please contact a member of the ONG executive.

▷ **CTV Ottawa**

Challenging staffing issues continue for the CTV Ottawa unit. The Guild was to meet again with management in September to assess staffing levels and the impact on operations. Unit reps have also asked for regular newsroom meetings.

▷ **Delta Reprographics**

The Guild tried unsuccessfully to set up an after work meet and greet with Delta employees in June and will try again to arrange an informal get-together after work this fall. An election needs to be held for a Delta Unit Leader.

▷ **DLR International**

A letter of understanding was signed last spring to extend the DLR contract (which expired in November 2008) for one year until November 17, 2009. The parties agreed they will meet on or around the November expiry date to bargain new terms for the agreement. The DLR group also needs to elect its Unit Leader to serve on the executive committee.

▷ **Ottawa Citizen**

Canwest update: Company restructuring/debt extensions/lending talks and financial deadlines appear to have been the norm. The next Canwest deadline is September 30. Guild Locals in the Canwest chain have been participating in regular CWA/SCA Canada conference calls.

Request to Withhold Bylines arbitration: Lois Kirkup attended the continuation of hearings that wrapped up on September 22. Final arguments of the parties will be submitted in writing to the arbitrator.

Agreement between Canwest and Quebecor means the Ottawa Citizen will take responsibility for home delivery, but the Ottawa Sun will handle dealer accounts, starting later this fall. ONG executive members expressed concern about the impact on Guild members, and eventually the Citizen itself, and met with company management earlier in September.

A couple of discipline grievances for a Building Services member remain ongoing. One file involves a suspension for lateness/attendance and the second grievance concerns an unpaid sick leave day.

H1N1 - ONG Citizen Joint Health & Safety Rep Terry Garner advises that the Citizen is implementing flu preventative measures for counter-area staff and will distribute packs to all employees. More hand sanitizer stations will also be installed throughout the building. The next H&S committee meeting is scheduled for the end of September.

▷ Executive Member-at-Large Andrea Sirman has been working on revamping the ONG website. If you have suggestions for particular items you would like to see addressed on the site, please contact the Guild office.

▷ ***Congratulations & Condolences***

Donation to St. George's Church in memory of Elizabeth Provick, mother of Bill Provick (Citizen/Editorial).

Basket to David (Citizen/Editorial) & Susan Reevly - baby boy, Thomas.

Basket to Kim Auclair (Citizen/Financial Services) - sick leave.

Basket to Mark (Citizen/Editorial) & Ginny Sutcliffe - baby boy, Jack.

Basket to Paul Gessell (Citizen/Editorial) - retirement (May 1/09).

Donation to Bruyere Health Centre Foundation in memory of Dr. Wilma G. Stewart Dare, step-mother of Patrick Dare (Citizen/Editorial).

Basket to Pauline Colwin (Citizen/Editorial) - sick leave.

Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Christine Morelli, wife of Randi Morelli (Citizen/Editorial).

Donation to Ottawa Hospital Foundation in memory of Mary Collins, mother of Kit Collins (Citizen/Editorial).

Donation to Canadian National Institute for the Blind in memory of Madonna Cole, grandmother of Steve & Debbie Cole (Citizen/RS&S).

Basket to Natalie (CTV Ottawa) & Jay Pierosara, baby girl, Emily.

Basket to Jake Rupert (Citizen/Editorial & Executive Member-At-Large) resigned to take job at the City of Ottawa.

Flowers to Bobbi Leblanc (Citizen/RS&S) - sick leave.

Congratulations to Jennifer Green, Citizen faith and ethics writer, nominated for the *Cornell Award* for religion writer of the year at mid-sized publications. Jenny is also the only Canadian nominated for the *Supple Award* which recognizes the winner's writing skills and grasp of the religion beat.

The Ottawa Citizen was recently nominated in the Multimedia Feature Presentation category for the *2009 Online Journalism Awards* for its project about the photography of Yousuf Karsh. The *Karsh Generation* is an interactive website that tells the story of the works and life of this famous portrait photographer, and how his portraits touched the lives of thousands of families in Ottawa.

Congratulations go out to Citizen staffers involved in this team effort: Peter Simpson, project editor; Paul Gessell, senior writer; Liisa Tuominen, senior researcher; Andrea Sirman, flash design and development; Lois Kirkup, web project manager; Ute Mikula, Laura Payton and Jesse Bird, writing and research; Kirstin Endemann, photo production; Rob Cross and Dennis Leung, map art; as well as Derek Shelly, then web/features editor. The Online Journalism Awards are presented by the Online News Association and the School of Communications at the University of Miami.



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