

SUMMER 2010“F Y I” UPDATE



┆ The August 10 ONG executive committee meeting was attended by Sam Chalati, Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks, David Reevely, Joanne Schnurr. No DLR rep attended. The ONG executive also met on September 14 with Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Terry Garner, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Julie Oliver and Joanne Schnurr in attendance. Delta and DLR reps, Jacquie Miller, Jeff Parks and David Reevely did not attend.

┆ A General Membership meeting of the Guild was held September 22 at the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre. Items of business included approval of the 2010-11 Budget and appointment of the firm Bouris, Wilson to conduct the audit of the 2009-10 financial statements. The membership also elected Lois Kirkup and Gord Holder as delegates to the TNG Sector Conference in February in Orlando, with Debbie Cole elected as alternate, and Lois Kirkup was elected as ONG delegate to the CWA Convention in Las Vegas in July. The next ONG General Membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

┆ **CTV Ottawa**

- The grievance over the failure to post a vacancy for the Chief Anchor position is close to being resolved, although a settlement has not yet been signed. The Unit Chair hopes to arrange a meeting with management to finalize the settlement. Management feels it has previously apologized sufficiently for the non-posting of the co-anchor position. The member generally acknowledged to have been most affected by the non-posting has been given the title of co-anchor, but the company is requiring her to waive overtime and some other contract provisions to mimic the other co-anchor's contract. The company has also agreed to replace absent co-anchors with suitable candidates up to several weeks per year, with usual payment of talent fees. Members' request for a meeting with management to clear the air stalled because of summer vacations, but it's hoped that such a meeting can be held soon.

- Newsroom Ergonomics: Problems were brought up at the health and safety committee but the committee's response was that desk lighting should be sufficient. Unit members will propose an ergonomic assessment at next health and safety committee meeting.

┃ **Delta Reprographics**

The Unit Chair reports that business has been slow. Late remittances to the Guild of dues collected from employees continues to be an issue with Delta.

┃ **DLR International**

Copies of the new three-year ONG/DLR contract were signed and have been distributed to members.

┃ **Ottawa Citizen**

- Postmedia update: Top company official Paul Godfrey visited the Citizen on August 2 and talked about the company's focus on centralization whenever it made financial sense to do so. He also talked about newspapers as continuing to be content and sales companies. Godfrey and fellow executive John Paton have previously talked about cutting newspapers' delivery costs. CWA/SCA Canada Postmedia Caucus Local representatives from Ottawa, Montreal and Victoria and the director of CWA/SCA Canada, were to meet with Godfrey in Toronto on September 24.

Salary continuance: Indications were that the Citizen intended to pay the two affected members whose payments were caught up in the Canwest CCAA process, but were awaiting final approval from senior management at Postmedia. On September 23, ONG president Lois Kirkup signed a letter of agreement with the Citizen concerning the outstanding severance amounts which are to be paid to the two affected members on October 1.

- Voluntary Buyout Offers: More than 40 people applied for buyouts under the company's "voluntary staff reduction program". There has been no indication yet about what the company will look like after buyouts and what the workload for remaining employees/members will be. Postmedia conducted layoffs at non-union papers in Edmonton and Calgary. ONG reminded its members that the buyouts were completely voluntary and members couldn't be forced to take buyouts if they preferred to continue working, as well as of their right to Guild representation when talking with the company about buyouts.

- Editorial: Senior writer had LTD claim denied by ManuLife, but with advice of ONG legal counsel, the claim was being revised; the case was still active. An Online department member has recently had her LTD claim approved.

- Newsroom Training: Scheduling of training for staff remains unclear. Night desk members have been told that additional requests for time off during training period will be refused except in cases of emergency. A posting for four temporary copy editors was put up to cover Saxotech training period for current members/employees.

- Financial Services - B-3 Agreement: One person who had been splitting time between switchboard and higher classification will now be paid at higher classification full-time.

- The ONG has requested a meeting with Citizen management to discuss its areas of concerns regarding employee morale, workload and related issues.

┃ TNG Sector Conference, July 2010, Washington, DC - ONG Secretary Gord Holder was

elected as an interim member of the Sector Election and Referendum Committee. The conference featured a lot of negative news, but few answers on how to fight back so far. Some minor modifications were made to Guild Mobilization and Defence Fund premiums. A more centralized election process was confirmed; locals will be able to use in-house or mail balloting, but will be responsible for costs. Resolutions passed at the meeting condemned media arrests at G20 Summit in Toronto and made a commitment to human rights and equity at the local level. One of the winners of the Guild Freedom Awards was a student from Queen's University in Kingston.

└ CWA Convention, July 2010, Washington, DC - A long-running campaign to obtain a vote on the CWA executive board for the director of CWA/SCA Canada was finally completed. The next annual convention will be held in July 2011 and then CWA will move to biennial conventions, with the following meeting slated for 2013.

└ **ONG Website**

The website is currently being revamped and updated. If members have ideas on what you would like to see featured on the site, please contact an executive member or the Guild office.

As well, check out www.cwa-scacanada.ca and www.newsguild.org for the latest Guild news.

└ **"Congratulations" & "Condolences"**

- Flowers to Zev (Citizen/Editorial) & Gabrielle Singer - baby boy
- Flowers to Joanne Scheel (At-Large; CWA/SCA Canada staff) - surgery
- Donation to Ottawa Humane Society in memory of Heather Campbell-Shore, mother of Brian Shore (Citizen/Editorial)
- Basket to Kathleen (Kit) Collins (Citizen/Editorial) - retirement June 1/10
- Donation to DeHaven Baptist Church in memory of John R. Fendley, father-in-law of Danna Zabrovsky (Citizen/Editorial)
- Donation to University of Ottawa Heart Institute in memory of Robert Bruce Noel, brother of Nancy Noel (Citizen/HR)
- Donation to Shepherds of Good Hope Foundation in memory of Donnie Campbell, brother of Nancy Campbell (Citizen/RS&S)
- Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Donald Jamieson, brother of Gary Jamieson (Citizen/RS&S)
- Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of George Aloysius McDonnell, father of Debbie Walsh (Citizen/RS&S)
- Donation to Canadian Diabetes Association in memory of Edgar Stimpson, father of Scott Stimpson (Citizen/RS&S)
- Donation to Ontario Heart & Stroke Foundation in memory of Marie-Claire Barrette, mother of Claude Barrette (Citizen/Fin. Serv.)
- Donation to United Way Ottawa in memory of Carl B. Crawford, father of Blair Crawford (Citizen/ Editorial)

Sept. 23, 2010

