

MINUTES OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

1. Membership meeting called to order by President Lois Kirkup at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
M/ by David Reevely to approve the agenda. S/ by Brian Shore. CARRIED.
3. **Adoption of Minutes**
M/ by Gord Holder to adopt the Minutes of the December 16, 2009 General Membership meeting. S/ by David Reevely. CARRIED.
4. **President's Report**
 - a) Executive activity since last general meeting: President Lois Kirkup reported that, as expected at time of December membership meeting, Canwest did file for CCAA protection for publishing group. There are some bidders for the newspaper group, but only rumours about the identity of those bidders to this point. The bidding process is scheduled to be completed by April 30, if there are no delays, but an extension of that deadline is a possibility. During teleconferences involving members of CWA/SCA Canada's Canwest caucus, CWA/SCA Canada director Arnold Amber brought up the idea of contacting the bidders and asking them for meetings to determine their thoughts about the newspaper group and the industry, not issues related to bargaining. However, members of the caucus decided not to do that at this point. Discussion among members at this meeting about whether to participate led to a consensus that it would be better to wait until a final bidder/bidders are determined.

CWA/SCA Canada held a leadership school in January, 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. Discussion about how bargaining tactics and overall dealings with employers may have to change. For some locals, becoming less confrontational may be difficult.
5. **Financial Report**
 - a) Update: Treasurer Debbie Cole reported that there were no extraordinary items in the financial report dated Feb. 28, 2010, which was the end of the fifth month in the current fiscal year. So far, it appears that finances for this fiscal year should be fine. Some investments in the defence fund have been moved around at the suggestion of the investment company representative and have increased the expected annual yield to about four per cent from previous level of two per cent.

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6. Unit Reports

a) **CTV Ottawa:** Grievance about how collective agreement was not followed in the posting of the chief anchor's position and the hiring of the new chief anchor. Grievance process kind of stalled because of the fire at CTV Ottawa in February. No intention to seek reposting of position, but ONG is focusing on possible remedy/remedies for affected members.

b) **DLR International:** Negotiations toward new collective agreement are continuing. CWA/SCA Canada staff rep Dave Wilson is handling the negotiations.

c) **Delta Reprographics:** No report.

d) **Ottawa Citizen:** Vacation date request reminders are being/have been distributed to members. One member in Reader Sales & Service has accepted a six-month trial transfer to the advertising department; this is an example of the fallout from the joint distribution agreement between Canwest and Quebecor (Ottawa Sun).

7. New Business

a) Election of Delegates for Sector Conference and CWA Convention: M/ by Jacquie Miller that ONG nominate Lois Kirkup and Blair Crawford as local delegates to the 2010 TNG Sector Conference and CWA Convention in Washington in July. S/ by Debbie Cole. CARRIED.

b) Election of Executive Member-at-Large: Because of a vacancy on the local executive, the executive appointed Jeff Parks (Citizen/Building Services) to fill the position on an interim basis. Local bylaws require that we now seek nominations to fill the vacancy. M/ by Gord Holder that Jeff Parks be nominated for the vacant member-at-large position on the ONG executive. S/ by Terry Garner. No other nominations were received, so Jeff Parks is acclaimed to the position.

c) 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.

8. Adjournment

M/ by David Reevely to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. S/ by Matthew Pearson. CARRIED.

9. Citizen Unit Meeting - No separate meeting required.