



## **OTTAWA NEWSPAPER GUILD**

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# **APRIL - JUNE 2011 - "F Y I"**

- The April 19 meeting of the Executive committee was attended by Sam Chalati, Tony Cote, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver and Joanne Schnurr. Debbie Cole, Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Jeff Parks, David Reevely and DLR rep did not attend.
- The May 17 meeting of the Executive committee was attended by Sam Chalati, Debbie Cole, Tony Cote, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jacquie Miller and Jeff Parks. Blair Crawford, Randall Denley, Julie Oliver, David Reevely, CTV Ottawa and DLR reps did not attend.
- The June 22 meeting of the Executive committee was attended by Debbie Cole, Tony Cote, Blair Crawford, Gord Holder, Lois Kirkup, Jeff Parks and Jonathan Rotondo. Jacquie Miller, Julie Oliver, David Reevely and DLR and Delta reps did not attend.
- The Vice-President position on the ONG Executive committee remains vacant. As well, Randall Denley has resigned from the executive, resulting in a vacant Member-at-Large position. If you are interested in serving on the ONG executive committee for the balance of the term ending December 31, 2011, please contact a member of the executive or the Guild office. It's a good chance to try out a position for the short-term.
- ONG President Lois Kirkup has been acclaimed to the position of Deputy Director of CWA/SCA Canada. Arnold Amber is stepping down as Director of CWA/SCA Canada and the national election process to fill that position continues. The two candidates running for Director are Ron Carroll of the Montreal Newspaper Guild, a copy editor at the Montreal Gazette, and Martin O'Hanlon of the Canadian Media Guild, who is parliamentary editor for The Canadian Press in Ottawa. Because of the Canada Post labour dispute, the National Elections Committee has extended the voting period. Friday, July 22 is now the deadline for ballots to be received at the designated post office box. Ballots will be counted by the committee on July 23, followed by the announcement of the election results. ONG ballots from its in-plant voting have now been mailed to the post office box, and ONG members who received a mail ballot have until July 22 to return their ballot in the pre-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes.
- Report from CWA/SCA Canada National Representative Council meeting in Montreal, QC, April 15-17, 2011. Lois Kirkup and Gord Holder attended the NRC meeting for the ONG. They reported that a lot of work got done at the three-day meeting and the seminar speakers were quite good. One former employee of the Journal de Montreal reported on the end of a long, bitter labour dispute, cautioning against relying on legal points in such a campaign and recommending instead that Locals try to win the hearts and minds of members. A researcher from McGill University described a story on the portrayal of mental-health issues in the media. Derek Finkle, an agent for freelancers who work for major publications, described the work of

his agency, The Canadian Writers Guild; a link on the Canadian Media Guild website allows writers to apply for membership in his agency.

ONG President Lois Kirkup was acclaimed as Treasurer of CWA/SCA Canada, replacing Gord Holder, who left the position after 13 years.

➤ On May 9, CWA/SCA Canada launched **The Kingston Project**, a campaign to highlight deterioration of what was once a top-calibre newspaper and which aims to help restore greatness to *The Kingston Whig-Standard*. There has been a lot of buy-in from the community. See more info at [www.cwa-scacanada.ca](http://www.cwa-scacanada.ca)

➤ The next General Membership meeting of the ONG is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 12 noon in the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre.

➤ **CTV Ottawa**

- Copies of the new 2011-2013 collective agreement have been printed and distributed to members.

- Jonathan Rotondo is the new Unit Co-Chair and says he is looking forward to working within the local, learning about union movement and matters. He says there's a youth movement coming through the company, and some of the new members are interested in participating in the union process. Discussions continue regarding the issue of junior reporter being selected for summer replacement shifts rather than part-timers. Jonathan attended steward training and his first executive and general membership meetings on June 22.

➤ **DLR International** - no report

➤ **Delta Reprographics**

The ONG/Delta Reprographics contract expired June 10, 2011. Delta members are to elect their bargaining committee and draft their proposals for negotiations. A pre-bargaining questionnaire has been sent to the Unit Co-Chairs for the members. CWA/SCA Canada staff rep Dave Wilson will be handling the negotiations.

➤ **Ottawa Citizen**

- Editorial - Photographers grievance update: Member-at-Large Julie Oliver and Unit Chair Jacquie Miller represented ONG at Standing Committee. After Julie's presentation, the company has agreed to re-evaluate the photographer's job. A couple of photographers will fill out pay-equity assessment forms and the grievance has been put on hold by the Guild, but can be revived, if necessary, pending the results of the re-evaluation.

- The Guild and the Citizen have reached agreement on the Letters Editor, E-2 position. Since the structure in the Editorial Pages department has changed, the E-2 work was distributed amongst several members of the Editorial Board. It has been agreed that the Letters Editor is a Guild position, and should it be filled by one person in the future, he/she will be placed in the E-2 classification in the Guild and the Company has offered on a without prejudice basis to pay the Guild the equivalent of E-2 monthly dues.

- President Lois Kirkup, Secretary Gord Holder and Citizen Unit Chair Jacquie Miller met on June 10 with Citizen Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Gerry Nott and VP of Human Resources Debbie

Bennett to discuss workloads, training and perceived stress on ONG members. Nott and Bennett made no concrete commitments to changes. There was some discussion about the need for training; Jacquie Miller offered to help identify those who were struggling with new assignments and/or needed training. Nott and Bennett also said, in a letter before the meeting, that there was no increase in EAP cases due to work-related stress; ONG representatives offered letter in return to seek details on related matters such as sick leave. Lois Kirkup described this meeting as the start of discussions on these issues, with follow-up sessions expected to take place. Debbie Bennett also disclosed that the company's liability regarding timebank/vacation had not been substantially reduced despite past declarations that it would do so.

The Guild executive has also discussed the idea of conducting a survey of Citizen members to collect information regarding the impact of workload, training issues. It was suggested that this survey be done in mid to late September, after the bulk of the summer vacation period had ended.

### ➤ ***Congratulations & Condolences***

- Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Fung Tai Leung, mother and mother-in-law of Dennis Leung and Charlene Ruberry (Citizen/Editorial)
- Donation to Camp Trillium in memory of Eleanor Wilson, mother of Janet Wilson (Citizen/Editorial)
- Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Alice Asquini, mother-in-law of Paul Brent (CTV Ottawa)
- Basket to Natalie Pierosara (CTV Ottawa) - sick leave
- Basket to Andrew (Citizen/Editorial) & Andrea Seymour - baby boy
- Fruit basket to David Reevely (Citizen/Editorial) - surgery
- Basket to Greg Lumsden (Citizen/Financial Services) - back surgery
- Donation to Canadian Cancer Society in memory of Norma Weedmark, mother of Pat Hyndman (Citizen/Newsroom Office Manager)
- Basket to Peter Simpson (Citizen/Editorial) - illness
- Flowers to Bobbi Leblanc (Citizen/RS&S) - illness
- Congratulations to Citizen senior writer Robert Sibley on recent award nominations. Robert was nominated for a *Canadian Association of Journalists Award* and was a finalist in the "faith and spirituality" category for his story, "*Reborn from the Belly of the Earth*", on the plight of a group of Chilean miners trapped underground by a cave-in for more than two months. The U.S.-based *Religion Newswriters Association* has nominated Robert Sibley in the newspaper category for a series of columns he wrote in 2010. As well, Sibley was nominated by the RNA in the category of non-fiction books on religion for his recent book, *A Rumour of God*. The winners will be announced publicly at the RNA's annual convention in September.

