

# MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## Wednesday, December 14, 2011

1. Membership meeting called to order by Debbie Cole at 12:06 p.m.
2. **Adoption of Agenda**  
M/ by Jeff Parks to approve the agenda. S/ by Lionel Fortin. CARRIED.
3. **Adoption of Minutes**  
M/ by Dawn Butler adopt the Minutes of September 21, 2011 General Membership meeting. S/ by Bruce Campbell. CARRIED.
4. **President's Report**
  - (a) Debbie Cole was elected President at the September general meeting, completing the term of Lois Kirkup, who was on leave of absence. As well, Rob Bostelaar had been elected as a member-at-large. The executive had appointed Jeff Parks as vice-president on an interim basis. All terms ends Dec. 31. Elections were to be held later at this meeting.  
Two members on LTD had returned to work recently at the Citizen. Some issues had developed, but ONG executive is committed to ensuring that members' rights are protected.  
A temporary full-time employee in Citizen Editorial had been hired as a permanent employee.  
The Citizen letters editor position had been in flux. A member was in the position on a temporary basis, which had been extended, and the position was being reviewed.
  - (b) Presentation of TNG-CWA 25 Year Pin: Norm Provencher (Citizen/Editorial) was out of town so executive was to arrange presentation of his 25-year membership pin at another time.
5. **Financial Report**
  - (a) Update: [see attachment] President/Treasurer Debbie Cole reported that there was nothing surprising about the first two months of the current fiscal year. The Defence Fund was valued at \$1.568 million, mostly invested in fairly liquid GICs, as of Nov. 30.

(b) Audit Report - Financial statements for 2010-2011:

Copies of audited financial statements are available. Executive members had passed a motion confirming the draft statements, as per new accounting rules. No changes were made to the statements by the auditors. A variance in arbitration costs (downward) from the previous fiscal year was attributed to the awarding of legal costs in one of the Citizen LTD cases, which lowered costs for past year.

(c) Executive Honoria for 2012:

M/ by Chris Vernell. S/ by Joanne Laucius. That ONG executive honoraria for 2012 be confirmed at the current levels. CARRIED.

## 6. **Unit Reports**

(a) CTV Ottawa - The unit members had held an election on the morning of Dec. 14, electing Jonathan Rotondo and John Hua as co-chairs. ONG executive will be trying to arrange for them to attend the TNG-CWA New Officers' Training Seminar in March 2012.

(b) DLR International – No report.

(c) Delta Reprographics – CWA/SCA Canada staff rep Dave Wilson is handling contract bargaining on behalf of ONG.

(d) Ottawa Citizen - See Presidents Report above.

## 7. **New Business**

(a) Elections Committee: M/ by Gord Holder, S/ by Joanne Laucus. That Chris Vernell be named chair of elections committee. No further nominations. Chris Vernell was acclaimed to the position.

(b) Executive Committee Elections for 2012-14 Term:

President: M/ by Dawn Butler, S/ by Lionel Fortin to nominate Debbie Cole. Acclaimed.

Vice-President: M/ by Debbie Cole, S/ by Dawn Butler to nominate Jeff Parks. Acclaimed.

Secretary: M/ by Debbie Cole, S/ by Jacquie Miller to nominate Gord Holder. Acclaimed.

Treasurer: M/ by Bill Barnard, S/ by Dawn Butler to nominate Peter Bennet. Acclaimed.

At-Large:

M/ by Gord Holder, S/ by Jacquie Miller to nominate Julie Oliver. (Julie Oliver was not at the meeting, but had indicated via email that she would accept a nomination; Since elections are voted on tomorrow, I'm letting you know that I would like to stay on as Member-at-Large. Julie)

M/ by Tony Cote, S/ by Joanne Laucius to nominate Rob Bostelaar.

M/ by Jacquie Miller, S/ by Bobbi Leblanc to nominate Joanne Laucius.

All Acclaimed.

Secretary Gord Holder reported that executive had the right to make temporary appointments for the two remaining vacancies, those appointments ending at the next general membership meeting.

Retiree at large: M/ by Rob Bostelaar, S/ by Bill Barnard to nominate Tony Cote.  
Acclaimed.

7. Proposed Bylaws Change - Article 5.06

M/ by Gord Holder. S/ by Jeff Parks. To change the section of the bylaws dealing with ONG signing officers.

Article 5.06 - All the Local Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) shall be signing officers on Local accounts. The Executive Committee may designate ONE OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND one staff person to also hold signing authority. The Local Officers (DELETE)and(END DELETE), (ADD COMMA) any designated EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND staff person shall meet within two weeks of any change in the officers, DESIGNATED EXECUTIVE MEMBER or designated staff person to sign the requisite papers. All persons with signing authority shall be bonded in a sum to be set annually by the Executive Committee.

Amendment: M/ by Tony Cote. S/ by Chris Vernell. That the phrase "may designate one other executive member" be changed to "shall designate one other executive member". Accepted as friendly amendment.

CARRIED.

8. Adjournment: M/ by Gord Holder. S/ by Lionel Fortin. CARRIED.  
Meeting ended at 12:33 p.m.

9. **Ottawa Citizen Unit Meeting**

Citizen Unit meeting called to order at 12:33 p.m.

(a) Election of Citizen Unit Leader: M/ by Jeff Parks, S/ by Many, to nominate Jacquie Miller. Acclaimed.

(b) Election of Joint Health & Safety Committee Representative & Alternate:  
M/ by Bobbi Leblanc, S/ by Jacquie Miller to nominate Jeff Parks as H&S rep.  
Acclaimed.

M/ by Lionel Fortin, S/ by Dawn Butler to nominate Bruce Campbell as H&S alternate rep. Acclaimed.

(c) Tony Cote, former Citizen Unit member and the Retiree at-large member of the executive, made a brief presentation on the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada health-care initiative in Ottawa on Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

Day 1 included workshops and a presentation on the health care system by Roy Romanow. Day 2 featured meetings with 110 MPs and Senators to lobby them on health-care reform. The national health care accord between the federal and provincial governments expires in 2014 and is being renegotiated. The CURC campaign seeks to improve the accord, such as by adding pharmacare.

A similar program last year dealt with pension issues.

CURC (spearheaded by Jerry Jones, retired Canadian Media Guild member) is trying to get more retirees involved in the chapter. Efforts include looking at offering services/benefits such as discounts on various services and programs. One option being considered is piggybacking on the Union Benefits program already available to current union members.

10. **Adjournment**

M/ by Gord Holder, S/by Bobbi Leblanc, to adjourn at 12:42 p.m. CARRIED.