



OTTAWA NEWSPAPER GUILD
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MINUTES: Executive Meeting Wednesday, July 17, 2013

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Debbie Cole at 12 noon.

In attendance: Peter Bennet, Debbie Cole, Tony Cote, Gord Holder, John Hua, Lois Kirkup, Joanne Laucius, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks.

Absent: Rob Bostelaar, Delta and DLR reps.

2. Approval of Agenda

M/ by Lois Kirkup to approve agenda. S/ by Tony Cote. CARRIED.

3. Secretary's Report

(a) Executive Committee - Good Standing Report. All current executive members were in good standing.

(b) Adoption of Minutes: M/ by Gord Holder to adopt the June 18, 2013 Minutes. S/ by Jeff Parks. CARRIED.

(c) Correspondence: Thank-you card and letter from Pat Cavalier (At-Large) and Meals on Wheels for recent donation in memory of Angus O'Connor. Email received from CWA/SCA Canada director Martin O'Hanlon regarding shutdown of a handful of players and 360 total layoffs at Sun Media, as well as a second about the withdrawal of CWA/SCA Canada from the International Federation of Journalists in protest of the election process at the IFJ's 2013 Congress. A separate notice was received from CWA/SCA Canada about the posting of a six-month position for an organizer who would target freelance workers.

(d) Congratulations and Condolences:
No new additions at this time.

4. Treasurer's Report

(a) Financial Report: (attachment) Treasurer Peter Bennet reported that the local was slightly in a surplus for the month of June, though the deficit for the year remained at about \$13,000. The budgeted deficit for the fiscal year had been \$10,000, but it was not expected that there would be any significant General Fund expense items for the rest of the current fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Transfers to the Defence Fund from the General Fund for the month of June were \$3,700, bringing the total for the fiscal year to \$32,000.

Defence Fund investments were down in value in June, but an overall market rebound in July was expected to improve the overall picture. The \$32,000 transferred from the General Fund went chiefly to expenses for arbitration/grievances and bargaining. The overall value of the Defence Fund remained \$1.65 million.

Finance committee members were to schedule a meeting for August to develop a budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

(b) CJFE - Canadian Journalists for Free Expression - 2013 membership: M/ by Peter Bennet. S/ by Gord Holder. To renew annual \$200.00 membership/donation to CJFE. CARRIED.

5. **Unit Reports**

a) CTV Ottawa: Unit Co-Chair John Hua reported that the overall situation remained quiet. One long-time member was retiring after a 45-year career. Issues expected to arise in the fall included vacant positions and sick-leave absences. Management had indicated it was working on a plan to address those issues, and that plan was expected in September. Unit reps were considering asking for a meeting with management to discuss staffing levels at that time.

b) DLR International: No report.

c) Delta Reprographics: A cheque sent to the Local by the company for dues owed had cleared, but no member information data has been forwarded, so it remained unclear if the company was up to date on remittance of members' dues. Treasurer Peter Bennet was to arrange with Delta to pick up that information.

d) Ottawa Citizen

(a) Contract Bargaining Update: President Debbie Cole reported that five days of bargaining with the company had been held. It became clear that company was not going to back off its demands with regard to changing job-security language. The Citizen Unit bargaining committee had filed an application for conciliation to the Ontario Ministry of Labour. A memo was to be sent to Citizen members upon expiration of the current collective agreement on July 21.

(b) Financial Services - Layoff notice/Transfer: Company had recently notified Vice-President Jeff Parks and Member-at-Large Rob Bostelaar of a plan to lay off one of three members in the Financial Services department. This member was offered a transfer for as much as 16 months to a non-Guild position in Reader Sales. At that point, the member was to be transferred back to the Business Office and then laid off.

(c) Editorial: A member who had been a reporter (E-3) was transferred to the Citizen's editorial board and was not told by the company that he was no longer in Guild jurisdiction. Unit Chair Lois Kirkup was to talk with the former member to assess the situation.

6. **Arbitrations**

7. **Committees**

- (a) Personnel
- (b) Communications
- (c) Health & Safety
- (d) Grievance
- (e) Guild Awareness / Mobilization
- (f) Finance - schedule budget prep meeting
- (g) Organizing
- (h) Elections
- (i) Bylaws
- (j) Retirees – Hollinger Pension update: Retiree Member-at-Large Tony Cote said that a report in May that the Hollinger pension plan would not be wound up had been overtaken by recent events. On June 14, it was announced that the pension plan had reached an agreement with an annuity company and announced that the pension plan would be wound up. Instead of receiving monthly pension benefits, participating members would be receiving monthly annuity payments.

8. **Internal Guild**

- (a) TNG-CWA Residential New Local Officers Seminar, Sept. 20-23, Washington, DC
No action.
- (b) CWA/SCA Canada looking for host local for 2014 National Representative Council (NRC). President Debbie Cole recommended that ONG submit a bid to host the event. M/ by Julie Oliver. S/ by Gord Holder. CARRIED with one abstention.

9. **Outside Issues**

- (a) ONG Lease: Citizen Unit Chair Lois Kirkup to join committee of Rob Bostelaar and Joanne Laucius, then to talk with Martin O’Hanlon, director of CWA/SCA Canada.

10. **Other Business**

- 11. **Lost Time Notification:** Lost time for Debbie Cole, Gord Holder, John Hua, Lois Kirkup, Joanne Laucius, Julie Oliver, Jeff Parks.

12. **Upcoming Meetings:**

- After discussion, it was agreed to cancel the August 20, 2013 executive meeting; if a meeting is necessary before the September meeting, one would be scheduled.
- 📎 Next Executive Committee meeting is **Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 12 noon** in the Guild office.
- 📎 Next General Membership meeting is **Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 12 noon** in the Ottawa Citizen Conference Centre

13. **Adjournment**

M/ by Gord Holder to adjourn at 1:18 p.m. S/ by Julie Oliver. CARRIED.