



OTTAWA NEWSPAPER GUILD
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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

1. Membership meeting called to order by Debbie Cole at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Adoption of Agenda**
M/ by Lois Kirkup to approve the agenda. S/ by Tony Cote. CARRIED.
3. **Adoption of Minutes**
M/ by Lois Kirkup to adopt the Minutes of December 18, 2013 General Membership meeting. S/ by Rob Cross. CARRIED.
4. **President's Report**

(a) Executive activity since last general meeting: President Debbie Cole reported there have been further membership reductions with the loss of 8 part-timers in Reader Sales & Service and 2 part-timers in Building Services. The members had no job protection but they were given a buyout option. The Guild is left with one part-time member in RS&S who works a 4-hour shift on Sundays. This will impact RS&S department members this summer when employees have to cover off for each other for vacations. Everyone in RS&S is a long-term employee and gets six-weeks vacation.

Also a problem in Building Maintenance with no one to cover off if someone is off; if someone is away sick etc. people left on shift are filing for overtime.

There have also been more buyouts offered in the newsroom and we understand that 9 members (8 full-time and 1 part-time) have opted for the VBO. Most of those people are gone as of the end of February, but a couple won't be leaving until June. Four reporters, plus one manager from Postmedia bureau, have joined the newsroom. The company has hired two temporary full-time members for 8-week terms (E-1 and E-5 positions). Job postings have also gone up for two temporary full-time E-4 positions, one reporter and one videographer, for 6-month terms. The company will re-assess after that time and these could be turned into permanent jobs.

The CTV Ottawa Unit contract expired Dec. 31, 2013. Two days of negotiations took place in February, with bargaining sessions continuing on March 19 and 20. Similar to our negotiations with the Citizen, the company is hardlining.

The CTV Ottawa Unit has filed a grievance on jurisdiction; one of the radio people who works for Bellmedia was in Sochi covering the Olympics and doing TV coverage spots which is Guild jurisdiction.

Debbie Cole reported there is a new look to the website thanks to Tony Cote who has also established and been updating the ONG facebook page and asks that Guild members 'like' us on facebook – it's a good way to keep up with Guild and labour information.

Debbie Cole advised that the current ONG office lease will expire at the end of June and as part of our costs savings mode we are currently looking for new office space, led by the national office. CWA/SCA Canada is looking at purchasing office space in the west end and the ONG is looking for future savings through renting space from the national union. Lois Kirkup reported that the national union is looking at purchasing office space on Prince of Wales Drive, about a 20-minute drive from the Citizen. Debbie Cole said it has been wonderful to have the Guild office so close to the Citizen, but seeing as it's a better financial option for the national union to purchase office space, we would likely be moving a bit further from this area.

5. **Financial Report**

(a) Update: (attachment) Treasurer Peter Bennet advised that we are pretty well on target with the budget for this point of five months into the fiscal year. He pointed out one figure on the financial update of \$5,357.57 under Guild Awareness which is payment for the ONG scarves, an expense paid this month on behalf of the Special Projects account. Peter advised that we have since made the transfer of funds to reimburse the General Fund for this expenditure.

Regarding the Defence Fund, the market has done quite well and we have made money on the Guild investments for the past couple of months. The Defence Fund net income is almost \$52,000 for this fiscal year.

6. **Unit Reports**

(a) CTV Ottawa: See President's report.

(b) DLR International: No report.

(c) Ottawa Citizen: See President's report.

Extensive discussion also took place concerning student placements in the newsroom; Guild will check into this further and pursue the matter. Guild reps also had recent discussions with human resources about management exclusions, ratio of managers to Guild members etc. and is awaiting the official response from the company.

7. **New Business**

(a) Executive Committee Elections: Member-at-Large Vacancies - No action.

Debbie Cole advised that Julie Oliver had resigned from her executive Member-at-Large position.

Debbie Cole reported that at the upcoming National Representative Council meeting of CWA/SCA Canada, the national body, is looking at reducing the number of membership meetings Locals are required to hold each year. The ONG is also considering reducing the number of its executive committee members. We have not had a full complement of executive members for a number of years, and with the greatly reduced membership in the ONG, the current number of executive committee members may not be appropriate anymore.

8. Citizen Unit Meeting - No separate unit meeting held.

9. CTV Ottawa Unit Meeting - No separate unit meeting held.

10. **Adjournment**

M/ by Lois Kirkup. S/ by Dennis Leung. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.
CARRIED.