28th Sector Conference Celebrates Longevity, Honors Former Staff

On August 5, 2017, the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector-CWA (PPMWS) held its 28th Annual Conference in Pittsburgh. This year’s Conference delegates honored some of the Sectors’ long-time members with continuous service awards, reviewed and passed proposed changes to the by-laws as recommended by the Committee on Laws and Finance, and passed two resolutions honoring recently retired Sector Representative Linda Morris-Cooley and deceased Sector Administrator R. Hunter Phillips.

Laws and Finance Committee

Prior to the Conference, the Committee on Laws and Finances met on January 5, 2017, to review the Sector’s annual audit report prepared by the Certified Public Accounting company, Gorfine, Schiller and Gardyn. The committee found no discrepancies or abnormalities in the report.

Balances reported were: Strike Fund $4,303,146.00; Operating Fund $844,286.00; Total Expenses $190,965, a reduction year-over-year of 19 percent. The committee approved the audit report.

The Committee then reported on proposed revisions to the Sector by-laws, which included Don McConnell, chairman; Michelle Tovo, secretary; Art Delanni; Pat Earley; and Steve Stasenko.

Absentege Ballot for Local Union” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets as follows:

(4) members who are unemployed or otherwise unable to vote [including members residing in the Union Printers Home].

Referred to, and Approved by, the Committee on Laws and Finance

PROPOSITION No. 3

By Committee on Laws and Finance

Amend Article V, Sec. 7 — “Priority” by deleting matter enclosed in brackets as follows:

Sec. 7. Journeymen and apprentices [admitted as residents of the Union Printers Home and journeymen and apprentices] in the armed forces of the United States or those who may engage in war work for the American Red Cross, or other similar accredited agencies shall have their priority and/or situations protected for such time as they are so engaged: Provided, Journeymen serving in the armed forces whose priority is protected under the provisions of this section may, while so engaged, seek work within the jurisdiction of a sister local subject to conditions prescribed by the Sector President.

Referred to, and Approved by, the Committee on Laws and Finance

Members of the Committee on Laws and Finances included Don McConnell, chairman; Michelle Tovo, secretary; Art Delanni; Pat Earley; and Steve Stasenko.

CWA/ITU NPP

Sector Representative Steve Delanni acted as temporary chair to open the Conference. And Richard Rosenblatt, Sector Counsel, gave an educational and informative presentation on labor law. The Conference opened with the Invocation given by Pastor Matt Dean from the Calvary United Methodist Church.

In addition to by-law changes, delegates heard from the Committee on the CWA/ITU Negotiated Pension Plan (NPP). In its final report, the Committee explained that the Plan is in critical status and that the trustees developed a rehabilitation plan in 2010. A full copy of that plan is available by request from the NPP office.

Briefly, the rehabilitation plan changed the Early pension by increasing the minimum retirement age to 62 and removing the subsidy. As well, the 60-month guarantee was removed from the LIFE/5 form of pension. Although the trustees decided against mandatory contribution increases under the rehabilitation plan, decreases in contribution rates or the exclusion of covered employees are not permitted.

As of December 31, 2016, 253 employers were obligated to contribute to the Plan. The employers that contributed more than five percent of the total contributions in 2016 were: The Buffalo Evening News and The New York Times.

Total benefits paid from January 1, 2017, through June 30 amounted to $43 million. As of June 30, 2017, the net assets available for benefits was $652.7 million. This is an increase in the Plan’s net assets of $3 million during the first half of this year after paying benefits.

Seventeen thousand nine-hundred eighty-two (17,982) pensioners and beneficiaries collected benefits for the year ending December 31, 2016.

As of June 30, 2017, there were 17,669 pensioners and beneficiaries collecting benefits. A reduction of 313 in the first half of this year.

Two-hundred fifteen (215) new pensioners were added to the rolls.
during the first half of this year adding $116,598 in monthly benefits and one-hundred thirty-three (133) beneficiaries or survivors added $48,087 in benefits. This resulted in a total increase of $164,685 in monthly benefits added from January 1 through June 30, 2017.

Six-hundred fifty-six (656) pensioners and beneficiaries have died or exhausted their benefits totaling $205,788. This is a net monthly decrease of $41,103 in monthly benefits.

There were 3,663 active participants who were mailed Annual Pension Statements in February of this year. The Plan collected $4.4 million in withdrawal liabilities during the first half of 2017. By law, an employer that withdraws from a multiemployer plan is assessed Withdrawal Liability for its pro rata share of any unfunded vested liability as determined by the actuarial valuation as of the last day of the preceding year. Assessment of Withdrawal Liability would apply even if the business closes or when the last covered employee retires.

Concluding its report, the Committee thanked NPP Chairman Art DeIanni and recognized the Covered Employee Retirees.

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RESOLUTION #2
Sector Staff Retirement

WHEREAS, Sister Linda Morris-Cooley served honorably as a Staff Representative of the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector since 1999, and has participated in negotiations for countless contracts, grievances, arbitration cases and effects bargaining for PPMWS members; and

WHEREAS, Sister Morris-Cooley devoted more than 30 years in the labor movement, and began her career in the circulation department as a district manager, and became a member of the Central Illinois Typographical Union. As a member, she served on the executive board and on the negotiations and legislative committees at her union before becoming its president in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Sister Morris Cooley has been an essential member of the Sector team that provided direction and logistical organization for locals and members, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector 28th Biennial Conference, meeting on this 5th Day of August 2017, hereby extends our deepest appreciation to Sister Linda Morris-Cooley in recognition of her long and faithful service. We salute you on the occasion of your retirement and wish you well in all your future endeavors.

Service Awards

During the Conference, President Wasser presented long-time members John Ebeling, and Bob Stevenson 65-year and 60-year continuous service awards, respectively. Each was presented with a watch to commemorate their service. See related articles.

CTU-101-12 President Bob Stevenson received his 60-year continuous service award from Sector President Dan Wasser

Bob Stevenson, President of America’s Oldest Continuous Local Union, Presented with 60-Year Award

CTU 101-12 is America’s oldest union, formed as the Columbia Typographical Society in Washington, DC, on January 7, 1815.
Sixty-year member Bob Stevenson, president of CTU 101-12, is proud of his Local’s history and the history of the International Typographical Union, which, he said, has wonderful traditions.
Stevenson began his career in the 50’s as an apprentice in Pittsburgh, at the Homestead Messenger (a suburban paper in Pittsburgh). His uncle got him into the newspaper trade.
“If you wanted a career in the trades, especially in the Pittsburgh area, you needed to be related to someone in the trades. Your father, or someone in your family, needed to get you in there,” Stevenson said. “I didn’t know anything about the newspaper business other than reading newspapers, but once I got in there, I loved it.”
Stevenson also had wanderlust.
“I was at the Homestead Messenger for approximately 6 years, and then I moved to a bigger Pittsburgh paper. Then I found out you could take your trade and travel, and that’s what I did.”

Stevenson started traveling as a tramp printer, plying his trade all over the country.
“I went from coast to coast, north to south. I would spend a short period of time in different places. I spent several years on the west coast, thinking I would settle down there, but then I moved back east.”
“I fell in love with the ITU and with the trade. Here I am in my 60th year and I just still have a love for it.”
Stevenson retired from the Washington Post after 30 years, but still heads up CTU 101-12. He briefly moved to the Florida Keys, living aboard his sailboat, and now lives on his boat in Baltimore Harbor.
Despite his retirement, Stevenson is still very active in the union. He serves on several committees for the Sector, including the pension plan committee. Stevenson was presented with his 60-year award at the Sector Conference in August.

Steve Delanni
Atlanta Typographical
I am in the process of working with the membership and print shops at Local 14320, Atlanta Typographical Union #48, on getting all new Contracts in place for Superior Printing, Smith and Watson, Best Print & Design and Ricks Custom Printing. These shops have been without up-to-date contracts for many years and we are working on getting them the proper representation that our members deserve. We are also working on getting these shops set up with the CWA Printing Labels, which will allow for more exposure within the CWA and the possibility of more work for our members.

CWA Local 14351
Local 14351 is in discussions with the company for the first time in many years for a potential wage package. The Local submitted a request for information and is in the process of receiving some necessary information from the Company before moving forward with negotiations.

CWA Local 14156
An agreement with JB Foley has been made for a new collective bargaining agreement for a three-year term through 2020. An entire new agreement needed to be negotiated with Local 14156 since the merger with Rhode Island. The new agreement calls for wage increases, better benefits packages (vacations, sick, etc.) and finally gives the members protections that they did not have before.

Express Printing
A new agreement was reached with Express Printing for a four-year term through June 2021 with Local 14156. The Contract calls for wage increases and an increase in the number of holidays. We were also able to improve some of the working conditions by bringing the new contract in line with other recently negotiated deals in the area.
They Like Us, They Really Like Us

U.S. Labor Union Approval Rating Highest in a Decade

Support for labor unions is at its highest level in a decade. A Gallup Poll released for Labor Day found 61 percent of adults in the U.S. approve of labor unions, the highest percentage since 2003, when approval was at 65 percent. The poll shows an increase from last year of 5 percent and 13 percent from 2009 when union favorability was at an all-time low of 48 percent.

The annual poll showed that more Americans, 39 percent, want unions to have a greater influence nationally. That is the highest figure recorded in the 18 years that Gallup has asked the question.

CWA Families Need Our Help

Families in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, including many CWA families, continue to struggle in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Residents, many of whom lost nearly everything, also must cope with growing health and environmental hazards brought on by flooding and huge volume of trash that can’t yet be removed.

CWA District 3 is working with locals to assess the needs of CWA members in Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Southeast, following the destruction caused by these devastating hurricanes.

CWA is monitoring this situation to determine how we can help. Please check the CWA-union.org website for updates on how you can help your brothers and sisters in need.

A fund has been created for victims of Hurricane Harvey. The CWA Solidarity Fund, 100 percent of which go to CWA members affected by the hurricane, are still needed. You can donate to the solidarity fund at: https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/cwa-hurricane-harvey-relief-fund.

Can You Help NPP Locate These Participants?

The following individuals have benefits payable from the CWA/ITU Negotiated Pension Plan (NPP), but the Plan Office has not been able to locate them. If you have information about any of these participants or their family members, please call the Plan Office toll-free at (877) 429-2488.

Name .......................................................... Last Known Local
Alvarado, Antonio .................................................. 198
Allmandinger, Clarence ......................................... 174
Bacarella, Stella M .................................................. M2
   (S.A. of Samuel Bacarella)
Barish, Harold L .................................................... 650
Berchia, Trudy R ..................................................... M11
   (S.A. of Donald J Berchia)
Bermudez, Maria .................................................. 99
   (S.A. of William E VanOppens)
Bischoff, Dolores H ............................................... 103
   (S.A. of Donald J Berchia)
Bocchiaro, Carmen ............................................... 103
Bundy, Thomas ..................................................... M9
Cirulnick, Gloria ................................................... 6
   (S.A. of Dave Cirulnick)
Clark, James J ........................................................ M6
Denney, William F .................................................. 103
Duke, Royce H ....................................................... 101
Ellard, John Joseph ............................................... 18
Galloway, Herschel ............................................... 213
Herrera, Andres .................................................... 7777
Kaplan, Philip H ..................................................... 6
Lundmark, Carl John ............................................. 101
Marquis, Naomi .................................................... 7777
   (S.A. of Delmer Marquis)
McClane, Arlene ................................................... 1108
Mills, Melvin ......................................................... 103
Reeves, Gabriella .................................................. 650
   (S.A. of David A Reeves)
Reyes-Telles, Paul .................................................. 650
Schultz, Mary Lou ................................................... 439
   (S.A. of Theodore L Schultz)
Thomas, Stanley ................................................... CWA
Tiller, Donna M ..................................................... 7777
Tucker, Corinne E ................................................... 21
   (S.A. of Vernon Earl Tucker)
VanOppens, Cathryn .............................................. M2
   (S.A. of William E VanOppens)
Walters, Harley Reed ............................................. 895
Wright, Agnes A ................................................... 6
   (S.A. of Emanuel A Wright)