

# GUILD LEADER

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## **ProJo Prepares for Layoffs; Worcester, Pawtucket & Woonsocket Also Cutting Staff**

The other shoe of the Journal staff cuts is about to drop: ProJo management has informed the Guild that they are preparing to lay off staff.

The Company has not identified the extent and areas of the cuts. The Guild hopes, but can't promise, to provide members with more details by the end of next week.

A key aspect of the layoff is application of the contract's layoff language, which dates to 1960, when the first contract was signed. This section of the contract has never been invoked.

Any layoff plan will be reviewed by the Guild and the Company to ensure there is no dispute over contract language or seniority lists. Journal officials have repeatedly said they are looking to avoid conflicts during what is a difficult time for everyone.

The dropping of shoes is not limited to Providence.

In the local's Worcester unit, the Telegram & Gazette has announced it is seeking to cut 14 to 17 newsroom positions out of 127 news department jobs. These reductions follow three previous cuts this year that eliminated seven newsroom jobs earlier this year. The T&G also laid off 17 Guild-represented circulation department workers.

The T&G said the staff cuts will be accompanied by an elimination of zoned editions.

Last week, RISN, the owners of the Woonsocket Call and Pawtucket Times informed the Guild they were seeking to cut up to eight positions between the two papers.

Last year these northern Rhode Island papers eliminated half their jobs.

### **Reception Scheduled for September 12**

To honor our departing colleagues and their contribution to the newspaper craft, the Guild will hold a reception September 12 from 4 until 8 p.m. at the Guild office, 270 Westminster St.

Beer, wine, soda and snacks will be served. The reception is open to all Journal workers, regardless of Guild membership or management status.