

GUILD LEADER

On the web at www.riguild.org

Volume XIX, Issue 9

Providence Newspaper Guild TNG-CWA Local 31041

September 10, 2008

Guild-ProJo Agree on Severance Options for Laid-Off Workers

The company and the Guild have agreed that laid off workers at the Providence Journal will have the option of receiving the severance package being offered to A.H. Belo workers at other papers.

The Belo severance packages calls for 1.25 weeks pay for every year of employment up to 20 years with 2.5 week's pay for every year over 20. The maximum payout is capped at 35 weeks.

Unlike the buyout offered last month, there is no payment for medical coverage. Those accepting the severance package will have to sign a waiver releasing the company from any financial claims. The waiver also means that if there are rehiring the company is not obligated to call back those who sign it.

Financially, this is a better deal than our contract, which calls for two weeks' severance

pay. But, the contract stipulates any laid off worker be put on a recall list and be called should the worker's job open up again before anyone else is hired. This option will still be available to members if they want it.

And because this is an involuntary layoff, those losing their jobs will be eligible for unemployment benefits, regardless of which option is selected.

The Executive Board voted unanimously to present the option to those member facing layoffs. Nothing in the contract concerning layoffs has changed. All this does is add another option to those who are affected the most.

As of yesterday, the company was still assessing its needs and options. Still undetermined are the number of layoffs, the process to be used or even when we will know.

September 12: Farewell Reception 4 to 8 p.m.

On Friday from 4 to 8 p.m., the Guild will be hosting a reception for those who are taking the buyouts and those who are not. Members and non-members, supervised and supervisors are welcome. There will be beer, pizza and other munchies and a chance to reminisce.

The Guild office is located at 270 Westminster St. If you go out the main doors on Fountain Street, go straight down the side street next to the donut shop, crossing Washington Street and going straight until you hit Westminster, the building will be across the street on your left. The Guild is on the second floor. The elevator is being repaired, so you will need to go up the stairs.

October 8: Membership Meeting at noon

The Executive Committee has voted to retain Guild Administrator Tim Schick and extend his contract through the end of 2009. Under the Guild's bylaws, this decision must be reviewed at a membership meeting. If members disagree with the decision, they have 15 days from the date of the meeting to file a petition, signed by 33 percent of the membership calling for a referendum.