

GUILD LEADER

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Providence Newspaper Guild TNG-CWA Local 31041

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PNG administrator Tim Schick to take Guild national staff job

Tim Schick, Providence Guild administrator of 19 years, has accepted a job with the national union and will step down as the local's administrator on April 22.

Schick asked for and was granted a three month unpaid leave of absence to assure a smooth transition. His assignment for The Newspaper Guild's national office will be as a regional staff representative for New England, working out of the Providence Newspaper Guild's office. During that time he will be available to advise us on issues that will come up while we look for a successor.

The Executive Board accepted Schick's resignation with deep regret. His encyclopedic knowledge of our contracts, his meticulous record-keeping and keen political insights made him a crucial part of our local's success and a fixture in the statewide labor movement over the last two decades.

"There is no one who has been in the local for the last 19 years whose life wasn't made better because of Tim Schick," Guild President John Hill said. "We will hire someone to take his place, but he is irreplaceable."

Schick is a passionate supporter of our members' rights, but never lets his passion blind him to the reality of the situation in front of us. He was never afraid of a fight, but always went into them with a clear head and plan.

It was his record keeping, institutional memory and attention to detail that was a major reason why we were able to get nearly three dozen unfair labor practice charges filed against the company during the standoff of 1999-2003. His foresight in storing what during past negotiations seemed to be some much paperwork meant our files were full of

documentation from previous negotiations that backed up our claims when the company had, in most cases, literally nothing.

The Executive Board will begin advertising the position almost immediately and will accept applications until May 3. Schick will be available throughout that process to advise the board and will be around for a time after to help with the transition to a new administrator.

A.H. Belo Pay Cuts

The Executive Board voted unanimously yesterday to appoint a special three-member committee to meet with the company to discuss Belo's request for voluntary wage cuts of, for most of our members, 2.5 percent.

At least 75 members have turned in questionnaires about what the committee should seek in return for the wage cut, and members who have not turned in one, either by faxing it to the Guild office at 421-9495, are urged to do so, today if possible. The more information we have on what you want, the better we will be able to represent your interests.

Whatever offer comes out of the meetings with the company's representatives will be submitted to a membership vote.

Reception for recently laid off colleagues

The Guild will hold a reception April 17 for employees laid off last month. The event will be at Blake's Tavern at Washington and Mathewson streets beginning at 5 p.m.