

August 2014



# Our Voice

OF THE WORCESTER UNIT, PROVIDENCE NEWSPAPER GUILD

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## PROVIDENCE EXPERIENCES 'ASSET SALE' FIRSTHAND

Many of the doubts and fears that accompanied the transition to a new owner at the Telegram & Gazette are playing out in Providence, where the Gatehouse newspaper group is finalizing a purchase of the Providence Journal.

Our Local's members in that unit are solid and mobilizing even before the sale is official, possibly facing the task we have of negotiating a contract with a new owner and the prospect of changes that will affect the entire readership in the communities of Rhode Island.

The Providence unit has a tradition of successful mobilization in the past and to some extent will gain insight from our experience in Worcester.

We wish them the best outcome.



### VISIT RIGUILD.ORG

For easy access to the contract we are negotiating to replace, but also for information on how the local to which we belong works on behalf of all we represent.

## It's back to the bargaining table

**The Guild and the Company (Halifax Media Group) met on August 12 and 13 to begin negotiating a new contract. These sessions were cordial and seemed productive.**

**The Guild's bargaining team consisted of Rick Eggleston, Brian Nelson, Bill Thomas, Bob Datz, PNG Administrator Betsy Regan and local President John Hill.**

**The Company's representatives flew in from Florida and included Corporate Human Resources Director John Kirkman, Ocala Star Banner Executive Editor Doug Ray, T&G Managing Editor Karen Webber, and company lawyer Mark Neuberger.**

**In the morning and afternoon sessions on Tuesday the Guild presented what is basically an entirely new contract comprising 27 articles.**

**Among our proposals, the Guild is seeking a three-and-a-half year contract retroactive to June 2, 2014 and ending Dec. 31, 2017. We are addressing issues that arose before and since the latest change of ownership. Those are too numerous to list here.**

**The Company's negotiators indicated they could agree to some articles as written and said they wanted to do some tweaking on others. The two sides tentatively scheduled another round of meetings for Sept. 9 and 10.**

**We continue to seek your input. There is a Worcester Unit membership meeting scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Guild Office, 32 Franklin St., 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.**

**Please try and attend; your ideas help us know what to push for at the bargaining table. We know everyone is working harder and feeling the loss of our colleagues since the sale, but that's all the more reason to carve out the time.**



*Thanks to administrator Betsy Regan and member Paula Owen for organizing two job placement workshops for the folks who were laid off.*