

July, 2017



Our Voice

THE WORCESTER UNIT, PROVIDENCE NEWSPAPER GUILD

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Stand Up for Press Freedom!

Now more than ever, the right to report facts and to tell the truth matters. News matters!

We call on all of you to join us in fighting attempts by government and other powerful institutions to undermine freedom of the press.

Please consider signing the petition at <http://righttoreport.org/petition-right-to-report/> sponsored by the NewsGuild and National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, sectors of the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Key dates

Next Unit meeting: Let's try Thursday, Aug. 31, 6:30 p.m. at Nick's Bar & Restaurant, 124 Millbury St., Worcester.

Next bargaining session: Thursday, Sept. 7, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. T&G 5th floor conference room.

Mobilizing our Local and springing into action

Bargaining update

It was a busy June for the Worcester Unit, as we met with GateHouse twice for contract negotiations. In our June 7 meeting, the company presented us with a package proposal that included several of the tentative agreements (aka T/As) we had reached in past meetings, including the five additional sick/personal days and two floating holidays that were a direct result of our successful Where's The Fairness mobilization effort in April and May.

Among the latest T/As reached in bargaining on June 7 and 29 were non-discrimination, vacations, grievance procedure, bereavement, as well as two general provision items in bylines and maintaining a Guild bulletin board in the newsroom.

There is, however, much work left to be done at the bargaining table, the most daunting of which is wages. As everyone is well aware, it's been more than 10 years since anyone has had a raise. WTF — Where's The Fairness in that?!

Congratulations!

Congrats to Worcester Unit chair Rick Eggleston and vice chair Christine Hochkeppel. Both were sworn in as members of the Providence Newspaper Guild executive board in June.

After serving three years as an executive committee member, Rick was elected PNG vice president. Christine, in just her first year as a Guild member, was elected to the PNG executive committee.



2017-18 Providence Newspaper Guild executive board

From left: Secretary Amanda Milkovits (ProJo), committee member Nonea Jean McFarlane (Woonsocket Call), President John Hill (ProJo), Vice President Rick Eggleston (T&G), committee member Tim Murphy (ProJo), committee member Washawn Jones (ProJo), committee member Christine Hochkeppel (T&G). Not pictured: PNG administrator Betsy Regan, Treasurer Greg Smith (ProJo), committee members Maribeth Garlick (ProJo), Jeanne Mullaney (ProJo) and Cyndy Taylor (Brockton Enterprise).

