

forum



Local 32035

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild

October 18, 2004

Executive Council Nominations Open

Membership to Nominate Officers, At-Large Delegates to 2005 Board

Nominations for at-large officers and at-large members of the 2005 WBNG Executive Council will be received at the local's **Nov. 6** general membership meeting to be held at the Guild's Baltimore office.

Per the WBNG bylaws, an annual secret-ballot election is required for the at-large offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and for the five at-large delegate seats. The winners will take office at the **Jan. 29, 2005**, membership meeting.

Nominations for the officer and delegate seats also may be received by petition of a minimum of 25 members in good standing. The petition must be filed with the local's secretary no later than 15 days after the floor nominations have been officially reported in the Guild Forum. A Forum will be forwarded via first-class **November 19**, giving members until **Dec. 4** to file petitions.

If at the close of the "petition period" there is no contest for an office, the WBNG Elections and Referendum Committee shall declare the nominee (or nominees) for that office elected.

Nominees who have indicated in writing their willingness to serve but who are not present at the November meeting will be informed (in writing) by the secretary within three days (by **Nov. 8**). They are required to accept a nomination in writing within seven days (by Nov. 15) or be disqualified.

The WBNG board has 25 seats: Units with more than 50 Guild members get one council representative for their first 50 members and one representative for each additional 200 members. These units must hold their own elections for delegates to the 2005 WBNG board.

The Post unit is allowed two delegates; the SUN, two; and BNA,

OFFICIAL NOTICE

**WBNG Membership Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-Noon**

415 St. Pauls Place
Baltimore, Maryland
(for directions, see page 2)

Agenda

- Nominations for Local 32035 At-Large Officers, At-Large Delegates, and 2005 convention delegates.

- Discussion of the Guild's proposed Green Zone policy on political activity.

- Proposed by-law change on freelance membership

Refreshments Provided!

one. The AFL-CIO, ANA, and UFCW units automatically receive one delegate each.

Unaffiliated members and members of the 18 smaller units covered by Guild agreements comprise the local's 253-member-strong "At-Large Units" unit, which is entitled to one board representative for every 50 members.

*The at-large "unit" will elect its delegation after the WBNG local-wide election **Jan. 6**.*

The Nov. 6 meeting also will feature nominations for three delegates to the 2005 TNG Sector Meeting, **May 5-8** in Victoria, British Columbia. Under the WBNG constitution, one of the duly elected TNG delegates will also go to the CWA convention in Chicago, **Aug. 29-31**.

Proposed Green Zone Subject of Discussion at November 6th Meeting

Increasingly, TNG locals are discussing and formulating "Green Zone" policies to clarify the scope and the limits of Guild local activism in politics, community and civic affairs, and issue advocacy.

Our membership came together at the September meeting to discuss our role in advocating for issues that have an impact on workplace benefits, economic security, health care, workplace rights, due process, fair ethics policies, and other worker protections.

A few members believed the local should limit its role to collective bargaining and support of rights and benefits at Guild covered workplaces. Others expressed that we cannot strengthen our members' economic benefits by ignoring the reality of the larger issues that directly impact workplace rights, the cost of benefits, and the power of the employers.

On the flip side of this bulletin, you'll find the proposed Guild Green Zone that will be the subject of discussion and debate at the November 6 membership meeting. Please read it carefully and share your views at this important meeting. The members will also determine at that meeting whether the final proposal will be voted upon at a general membership meeting or sent out for referendum.

— Lori Calderone
Administrative Officer

Proposed Guild Green Zone Policy

For discussion at the November 6, 2004 membership meeting.

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, a broad based union of journalists, advertising sales staff, professional staff, administrative and customer service support staff, and technical professionals, recognizes the necessity for the Guild to take positions on issues which affect the economic and social well-being of our current and future members, as well as the well-being and security of our families. We also recognize that professional ethics and standards of our journalist members often require abstaining from community, civic, and partisan matters that create a conflict of interest. Our mission to protect and enhance the well-being of our members cannot be achieved merely by bargaining and enforcing contracts. Rather, we must judiciously support the broader issues which directly impact both our power at the table and the employer's options at the table. Further, we must support the concerted actions of other unionized workers wherever possible if the labor movement is to reach its greatest potential and bring economic and social justice to the workplace.

All of our members are free, of course, as Americans, to take their own positions and act upon them. WBNG's actions are not the actions of each individual of the union, just as a politician's actions are not the actions of each and every voter who cast a vote his way. The Local must take actions and support causes after sensitive and deliberate debate reflecting the concerns of our individual members, yet must not shy away from supporting in a broader arena the very issues for which we fight at the bargaining table.

We therefore agree that:

The Executive Council of WBNG may elect to take the following actions under the following situations:

- 1) Inform and educate Guild members on issues which support workers.
- 2) Endorse, announce to members, and participate in concerted actions that support workers issues locally and nationally.
- 3) Invite any publicly known individual to demonstrate support for any Guild contract or other campaign (after receiving approval from the unit leadership, where there is a unit).
- 4) With notice to membership as provided in the by-laws (15 days) and opportunity for membership input at a membership meeting (specially called, if necessary) endorse legislation relating to issues commonly appearing at the bargaining table (i.e., health care, retirement security, living wage, etc.).



Directions to Baltimore Guild Office

415 St. Paul Place

From DC area:

- Take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Rt.295) north to Baltimore. The Parkway empties into Russell St. Continue on Russell St. for a few blocks until you get to Pratt St.
- Make a right turn onto Pratt St. Continue on Pratt St. for seven blocks until you get to Calvert St.
- Make a left turn onto Calvert St. Continue for twelve blocks on Calvert St.
- Turn left on Franklin Park anywhere, or..
- Proceed to St. Paul, at top of hill; turn left, and park anywhere (meters are running, quarters only).

The sign on the building reads: Caligary and Caligary; Guild office is upstairs.

Former WBNG Guild Leader Dies

Warren E. Howard, Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild President from 1974-1975, passed away on September 30 in Washington, DC. Howard began his career at the Washington Star in 1968 as copy editor and remained at the Star until it closed in 1981. Howard also served three years as the Guild's Mid-Atlantic Region International vice president. During his tenure there, he helped create the Guild's Human Rights Committee and served as its chairman. Howard was named Guildman of the Year in 1974. Contributions to the United Negro College Fund in the name of Warren E. Howard will be appreciated by the family.

Support The Union Choice For Charitable Giving!

Designate Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan AFL-CIO Council, **code 8253**, or Baltimore Central Labor Council Community Services Agency, **code 6161**, to support union workers in need!