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Local 32035

Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild

Jan. 17, 2007

Front Page, Guild Service Awards Entry Deadline Set for Feb. 2

It's Front Page Awards time again for the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild. These awards, in a wide range of categories, honor the best work by Guild members, mainly rank-and-file employees covered by WBNG contracts. We also have Guild Service awards, which honor outstanding dedication to the workers and causes that the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild stands for.

The Front Page Awards honor the best work done by members in our bargaining units for their employers. Here are the cash prizes for the winning entries:

- \$250 Bill Pryor Memorial Grand Prize for Writing
- \$250 Bill Pryor Memorial Grand Prize for Photography
- \$250 John Albano Memorial Grand Prize for Art

The Guild Service Awards honor the best work done by members on behalf of their fellow Guild members in their units, the union, and the community. Any Washington-Baltimore Guild member in good standing may be nominated for a Guild Service Award and any member in good standing may write a nomination letter outlining the activities and achievements.

The winners will receive these cash prizes:

- \$250 Guild Member of the Year
- \$150 Shop Steward of the Year
- \$150 Herb Block Memorial Award for Community Service
- \$100 "Build the Guild" Award for Bargaining Unit of the Year
- \$100 Customer Service Professional of the Year
- \$100 Unit Officer of the Year
- \$100 Organizer of the Year

Front Page Awards entry rules are fairly simple:

- * All entries are free.
- * You may enter up to three works in one category.
- * You must submit **two** copies of each entry for judging. "Print" clippings are preferred; computer printouts are permitted.
- * Judges have the right to move entries into different categories.
- * Judges also have the discretion to not confer an award in any category.
- * All work must have been published during the year 2006.

The Front Page Awards are open to all members of the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, and to all who work under a Washington-Baltimore Guild contract. Only Guild members who win in their respective categories, though, are eligible for the Grand Prizes in writing, photography and design.

If you were bought out, laid off, promoted to an exempt spot, or even dismissed during calendar 2006, you may still be eligible to enter as long as your submitted work was performed while you were under the Guild contract.

But to win, you've got to enter. Start leafing through your clip file for your best work from the past year. If you are entering material for consideration in other awards forums, you really should also enter it in the Front Page Awards.

Entries must be received no later than the close of business **Friday, Feb. 2**. You can deliver them in person, or mail them, to: WBNG Front Page Awards, 1100 15th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005. Entry forms are available at the union office and at www.wbng.org.

For the complete list of the Front Page and Guild Service awards, see next page.

Front Page Awards Ceremony Set for March 26

The Front Page Awards ceremony will be held Monday, March 26, in the Gompers Room just off the lobby of AFL-CIO headquarters, 815 16th St. NW. The reception will start at 6:30 p.m.; the awards will be given to winners starting at 7:30 p.m.

If you have questions or desire more information, contact either of the Front Page Awards Committee's co-chairs: Mark Gruenberg (202-898-4825) press_associates@yahoo.com or Mark Pattison (202-541-3263) mpattison@catholicnews.com.

Editorially Speaking

As many as 27 Front Page Awards will be distributed to Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild members. To honor work done for bargaining-unit employers, 13 awards are for writing, seven are for photography, and seven are for art and design. One \$250 "grand prize" is awarded in each of the three editorial categories.

WRITING

Morton Mintz Award
for Investigative Reporting
Bernie Harrison Memorial Award
for Commentary
Frank C. Porter Memorial Award
for Labor and Business Reporting
Criticism
Feature Writing
Headline Writing
International News Reporting
Local News Reporting
National News Reporting
Non-Daily Specialized
Technical Reporting
Public Service Reporting
Sports Reporting
Unit Publication

PHOTOGRAPHY

Black & White Photography
Feature Photography
Local News Photography
National News Photography
Picture Story
Portrait Photography
Sports Photography

ART

Advertising Design
Editorial Cartooning
Illustration Design
Labor Promotional Campaign
Marketing and Promotion Design
News Graphics Design
Web Site Design

Service Honors

Seven Guild Service Awards honor work done by members on behalf of their fellow Guild members. The service awards are all cash awards.

Member of the Year (Dan de Souza Memorial Award)
Shop Steward of the Year (Nadine Grinder Memorial Award)
Unit Officer of the Year
Organizer of the Year
Customer Service Professional of the Year
Herb Block Award for Community Service
"Build the Guild" Award for Bargaining Unit of the Year

GUILD Forum

The **Guild Forum** is published by the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild, 1100 15th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20005-1707. Tel.: 202-785-3650 Web Site: www.wbng.org

WBNG is Local 35 of The Newspaper Guild; Local 32035 of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, CLC. WBNG is solely responsible for **Guild Forum** content.

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

WBNG Membership Meeting
Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.
Washington Guild Office
1100 15th St. NW, Suite 350

Agenda includes installation of 2007-08 Executive Council and nominations to the TNG Sector Conference (July 13-14) and CWA Convention (July 16-17), in Toronto.

For further information:
202-785-3650

Forum Stops the Presses

For budgetary reasons, this will be the last *Guild Forum* to be distributed to members in a "print" edition. If you are unable to gain access to the online *Forum*, please contact the Guild office.

AFP, CNS Units Sign Two-Year CBAs

Guild units at two Washington-based news services ratified new collective bargaining agreements late last year.

Members of the Guild unit at **Catholic News Service** unanimously ratified a two-year contract Nov. 16. Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2006, it runs through the end of 2007. Members got pay raises of 3.8 percent retroactive to a year ago, and received another raise, of 3.6 percent, effective the first day of 2007.

The deal was reached after CNS management withdrew its proposal that would have allowed it to unilaterally terminate or reduce the defined benefit pension. CNS had refused to budge off the demand during more than 12 months of bargaining.

When management declared that its demand on pension coverage was “non-negotiable,” members and supporters from other Washington-area unions rallied four times in October and November outside the headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which operates the news agency. Every CNS Guild member – many clad in red shirts – took part in at least one demonstration, and they were joined in the marching, chanting, and singing by several Conference employees who do not have union representation.

Catholic News Service staff has been represented by the Guild since 1972. The contract that expired at the end of 2005 was the first ever to have lapsed by more than a few days. The contract covers 20 employees.

The Guild unit’s bargaining team consisted of unit Chair (and 2006 WBNG Shop Steward of the Year) Cassandra Shieh, unit Vice Chair Jerry Filteau, Mary Esslinger, Gloria Moore, and WBNG Local Representative Paul Reilly.

“I give the CNS members a lot of credit for still producing good work for the benefit of their clients through all this,” Reilly said. “There’s a lot of cohesiveness in this unit, and there was never any doubt in my mind that we would prevail.”

The Guild rep noted that talks on a replacement contract at Catholic News Service are set to begin in late 2007 – less than a year after this one was finally ratified.

Concluding their bargaining process on a two-year successor agreement ahead of deadline, Guild members at **Agence France-Presse** on Dec. 19 ratified a contract that provides annual raises of at least 3.3 percent and significantly increases job security.

The first 3.3 percent across-the-board increase went into effect in January; the second will be effective a year from now. If the Consumer Price Index increases 3.5 percent or more, the 2008 raise will provide an inflation adjustment that could result in as much as a 6-percent increase.

Among other improvements in the 2007-08 contract is a new health plan that features lower co-payments and some additional benefits. A free HMO plan will remain an option for employees in the Washington area. Premiums for the PPO plan will remain unchanged for 2007 (\$30/month for individual coverage; \$80/month for family), but may rise to \$35 and \$90 per month, respectively, in the second year if plan costs rise 5 percent or more.

Other highlights of the new AFP agreement are job security provisions that include an increase in the severance cap from 40 weeks to 52 weeks and an increase in layoff notice from 60 days to 90 days; an increase from two weeks to three weeks of vacation leave for new employees; sponsorship of “green cards” for foreign nationals who come to the U.S. for long-term assignments, along with \$1,000 toward associated fees; and a transit allowance increase from \$72 to \$100 a month for those living outside the District.

The contract replaces a two-year agreement ending Dec. 31, and covers about 70 employees in five bureaus, primarily in Washington. The WBNG bargaining committee consisted of unit Chair Rob Lever, Erika Compart, Nicholas Kamm, Jim Slater, and WBNG rep Reilly, who served as lead negotiator.

All in a Day’s Work: E-L&A Unit Bargains, Ratifies New Contract

Members of the Guild unit at E-L & Associates unanimously ratified a new two-year pact in December. The agreement runs from Jan. 1, 2007, through Dec. 31, 2008, replacing a two-year agreement that expired Dec. 31.

E-L & Associates is a partnership entity that provides editorial content for the Housing Development Reporter information service. The service was originally part of the Bureau of National Affairs. HDR provides readers with the latest news on

federal housing programs, legislation, community development and related tax and legal matters. Another venture, the HDR reference file service, is a compendium of laws, regulations and federal programs pertaining to housing and community development.

Bargaining took place in a single afternoon in December, and the two editorial employees ratified the new deal that same day. The Guild has represented the shop since 1980.

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild represents 26 bargaining units (25 employers). These are the start and end dates of each unit's latest contract.

UNITE HERE Local 25	Jan. 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006
AFL-CIO	April 1, 2005 to Sept. 30, 2006
Int'l Labor Comm. Assoc.	May 1, 2004 to Oct. 31, 2006
Dept. for Prof. Employees, AFL-CIO.....	July 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2006
Working for America Inst.	July 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2006
Am. Postal Workers Union	May 21, 2003 to May 20, 2007
Baltimore Sun	June 25, 2003 to June 24, 2007
Radio Free Asia	Oct. 31, 2004 to Sept. 30, 2007
United Food and Commercial Workers.....	Oct. 7, 2004 to Oct. 6, 2007
United American Nurses	March 24, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2007
Catholic News Service	Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2007
National Labor College	April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008
United Way of America	May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2008
American Rights at Work	July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008
MCCSSE (SEIU Local 500)	July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008
CASA de Maryland	Oct. 14, 2005 to June 30, 2008
Washington Post	Nov. 8, 2005 to Nov. 7, 2008
Jobs With Justice	Aug. 7, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2008
Agence France-Presse.....	Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008
E-L & Associates.....	Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2008
Am. Nurses Association.....	Feb. 15, 2006 to Feb. 14, 2009
Solidarity Center	Sept. 26, 2006 to Sept. 25, 2009
Research Associates of America.....	Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2009
BNA (formerly Bureau of National Affairs).....	March 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2010
BNA Correspondents	July 15, 2006 to July 14, 2010
Kaiser Coalition	April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2011

Fingerhut Unit Goes Out of Business

A WBNG unit that has numbered as many as 20 workers since it was first under a Guild contract in 1995 has fallen victim to a company's changing business plan and its move out of downtown Washington.

The public relations section of Fingerhut, Powers, Smith & Associates, a communications firm dealing primarily with labor unions and labor-related clients, had been represented by the Guild in a series of contracts, including one signed last year that was to run through most of 2009.

But the company recently dissolved its PR section, and then moved its operations to northern Virginia. The only Guild member to remain with the company had switched to the firm's lobbying wing.

Guild staff and the sole survivor-member agreed that it would be difficult to organize the lobbying section of the company, especially with the relocation to a right-to-work state.

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Address Correction Requested