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Local 32035

Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild

Aug. 24, 2007

# Two Guild Shops Gear Up for Bargaining

Two of the seven WBNG units with more than 50 members are gearing up for contract talks.

sults of an online survey in which more than two-thirds of the members participated.

The 100-member Guild unit at Radio Free Asia began talks in August over a three-year contract that expires Sept. 30. On Sept. 10, negotiations begin at the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, where a three-year deal that expires Oct. 6 covers about 70 Guild members.

The UFCW represents 1.3 million workers in retail trades food processing, health care, insurance, and garment manufacturing. The Guild has represented the UFCW headquarters professional and support staff employees since 1999.

The Guild's UFCW unit is seeking wage increases, improved travel benefits, and more vacation and sick leave. It also will try to bargain restrictions on non-bargaining unit employees hired to perform work normally done by Guild members. The unit seeks to incorporate these employees into the WBNG contract.

At Radio Free Asia, a Guild contract covers about 125 employees. Unit Chair Karma Zurkhang, Vice Chair Liu Hong, and Guild Local Representative Paul Reilly took part in a lobbying effort that resulted in full funding for the operation being approved by Congress in June. There is worry, however, that the Republican-dominated Broadcasting Board of Governors will try to cut funding for the 2009 budget year.

Local Administrative Officer Cet Parks is the lead negotiator of a team that includes UFCW Unit Chair Andre Roberson, unit members Shannon Harris, Annie Kim, Brian O'Konski, Seth Payer, and Tyler Shannon, and Guild staffer Tiffany Harris. Bargaining proposals were based in large part on the re-

This will be the second contract negotiated by the Guild, which organized the RFA unit in 2004. Zurkhang, Hong, and Reilly are joined on the RFA bargaining team by unit members Poly Sam, Thao Dao, Bhungyal Bhungyal, Huidong Cao, and Ko Ko Aung.

## AFL-CIO Unit Wins Contract – Finally

After working without a contract for more than nine months, the Guild membership at the AFL-CIO ratified a collective bargaining agreement July 18 by a vote of 104 to 15. The 30-month contract includes raises totaling 8.5 percent.

“Make whole” language on the switch in health insurance guarantees that the labor federation will make up whatever amount United Healthcare, the new carrier, falls short on compared with ULLICO, the former carrier.

The agreement, retroactive to Oct. 1, 2006, was tentatively agreed to in February, but ratification was delayed by last-minute differences over contract language and loose ends regarding a switch in the employer's insurance carrier.

The contract includes no-layoff protection for senior employees with 10 or more years of service, and offers closer parity for project, fund, and temporary employees, with these “PFTs” now receiving the same healthcare benefits and vacation time (prorated) as is provided to regular employees covered by the Guild agreement.

Contract highlights include wage increases of 2.75 percent (Oct. 1, 2006), 2.85 percent (Oct. 1), and 2.75 percent (Oct. 1, 2008). The agreement expires March 31, 2009.

In addition, a PFT who works longer than three years in a funded position becomes a regular employee.

## WBNG Units: Collective Bargaining Update

Dept. for Prof. Employees, AFL-CIO.....	July 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2006
Working for America Institute.....	July 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2006
American Postal Workers Union .....	May 21, 2003 to May 20, 2007
Radio Free Asia .....	Oct. 1, 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
American Nurses Association.....	Feb. 15, 2006 to Feb. 14, 2009
AFL-CIO .....	Oct. 1, 2006 to April 1, 2009
Solidarity Center .....	Sept. 26, 2006 to Sept. 25, 2009
International Labor Communications Association.....	Nov. 1, 2006 to Oct. 31, 2009
Research Associates of America.....	Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2009
BNA (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
Baltimore Sun .....	June 25, 2007 to June 24, 2011

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**WBNG Membership Meeting: Saturday, Sept. 8, 10 a.m.**

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**Address Correction Requested**

## G U I L D f o r u m

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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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