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Local 32035

Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild

Sept. 4, 2008

Five WBNG Units Seal New Deals

A contract covering 35 employees at the Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild's newest bargaining unit is among five agreements signed at Guild shops since July.

Change to Win

Workers at Change to Win in late August overwhelmingly approved an initial contract with the labor federation. The three-year deal features an overall first-year salary increase of nearly 5.5 percent, retroactive to Jan. 1. With upgrades, some employees are seeing a 20 percent raise.

The contract calls for across-the-board 2 percent salary increases in the second and third years. It also provides for improved health insurance coverage, with CtW paying the monthly premiums for employees and their dependents.

CtW staffers gained union representation in June 2007. During 10 months of often challenging negotiations, CtW more than doubled its workforce.

The contract covers about three dozen researchers, organizers, communications workers, lawyers, and administrative staff.

American Rights at Work

Workers at the advocacy group American Rights at Work in July won a new contract calling for raises totaling more than

18 percent over three years. In addition to annual 6 percent increases, the new pact upgrades salaries for three positions.

The ARAW contract also extends Guild jurisdiction to cover temporary employees, and protects against consultants being hired to do Guild work. Other improvements include doubling of layoff severance; compensatory time for working weekends; and doubling—to \$2,000 annually—the individual education reimbursement

The Guild represents about 13 workers at ARAW. The contract was unanimously ratified July 23.

Casa of Maryland

After several weeks of rallies and protests, the Guild won a new contract with Casa of Maryland that hikes wages by more than 13 percent and that for the first time helps pay for health insurance for dependents of WBNG-represented employees.

The three-year contract includes 4 percent annual raises. Upgrades for several positions and a 5 percent increase for employees making less than \$32,000 boost the overall first-year increase to an average of 4.8 percent.

For the first time, Casa will now pay a portion (40 percent) of the health insurance premiums for employee dependents. Em-

ployees' health insurance is 100 percent paid by Casa.

The previous contract expired June 30, and Casa Guild unit members were relentless in pushing for an acceptable agreement. One mobilization highlight: About 20 Guild members crashed a Casa Executive Board meeting that had been moved to a "secret" location.

The new contract covers approximately 45 employees of the immigrant-support organization, including attorneys, organizers, educational staff, and clerical workers.

MCCSSE (SEIU Local 500)

The Montgomery County Council of Supporting Services Employees unit has a new two-year contract, featuring a 5 percent raise in the first year, and a wage-reopener in the second.

Signed in August, the agreement covering about a dozen employees is the first Guild contract in memory to be settled in a timely fashion.

"We were able to reach a good agreement within five weeks this time," said Sue Gindes, the unit chair. "I would have to say that this is a solid contract, with significant gains in salary, education and vacation benefits, and car allowances as well."

United Way of America

An agreement with a 4 percent raise across the board at the first of the year; and 3.5 percent raises on New Year's Day in 2010 and 2011 (or proportionally higher if non-union employees get a larger percentage increase) are among the highlights of the latest three-year contract at United Way of America.

Laid-off employees now go on a two-year rehire list and get full health insurance coverage for three months.

The new UWA contract, which covers eight professional employees, runs from May 1, 2008, to April 30, 2011.

Former Sun Unit President Jerry Borstel Dies

Gerard (Jerry) Borstel, 84, died at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital (Rockville) on July 22 from complications of a stroke.

As president of the Baltimore unit of what was then the American Newspaper Guild, Mr. Borstel led the Guild in a 49-day strike in 1965 against the Sunpapers, then published by A.S. Abell Co. in 1965. It was the first ever against the company, and the rival *News American* locked out the Guild in sympathy.

"Fellow picketers remember Borstel as a mild-manned Sun sports copy editor who was a forceful leader during our strike," said *Evening Sun* veteran Jim Bready. In an obituary, the *Washington Post* quoted a son, Christopher L. Borstel, as saying that his father considered the successful strike to be "his greatest achievement."

A year before the strike, Mr. Borstel, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., played a major role in the merger of the Baltimore and Washington newspaper Guilds.

Collective Bargaining Update – 25 WBNG Units

Washington Post	Nov. 8, 2005 to Nov. 7, 2008
United American Nurses	March 24, 2005 to Dec. 31, 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 March 31, 2009
National Labor College	April 1, 2008 to March 31, 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
Catholic News Service	Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2009
Radio Free Asia	Jan. 31, 2008 to Jan. 30, 2010
BNA (Bureau of National Affairs)	March 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2010
Dept. for Prof. Employees, AFL-CIO	July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010
MCCSSE (SEIU Local 500)	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010
BNA Correspondents	July 15, 2006 to July 14, 2010
United Food and Commercial Workers	Oct. 7, 2007 to Oct. 6, 2010
American Postal Workers Union	May 21, 2007 to Nov. 20, 2010
Change to Win	Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010
Kaiser Coalition	April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2011
United Way of America	May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2011
Baltimore Sun	June 25, 2007 to June 24, 2011
Casa of Maryland	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011
American Rights at Work	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011

OFFICIAL NOTICE

**Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild Membership Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.**

Baltimore Guild Office: 415 St. Paul Place

**Agenda includes reports on bargaining,
organizing, grievances, and WBNG finances.**

For further information: 202-785-3650

Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild
CWA Local 32035, AFL-CIO, CLC
1100 15th St. NW, Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20005-1707

Address Correction Requested

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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
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LOCAL 35 OFFICERS

President: Bill Salganik

Salganik@comcast.net

Vice President: J. Darlene Meyer

dmeyer@wbng.org

Secretary: Mark Pattison

mpattison@catholicnews.com

Treasurer: Sheila Lindsay

SLindsay@ana.org

WBNG STAFF

Cet Parks, Administrative Officer

cparks@wbng.org

Rick Ehrmann, Local Representative

rehrmann@wbng.org

Paul Reilly, Local Representative

preilly@wbng.org

Joe Kahraman, Local Rep./Organizer

jkahraman@wbng.org

Nancy Banks, Office Manager

nbanks@wbng.org

Elsie Thull, Bookkeeper

ethull@wbng.org