

FORUM



CWA-TNG Local 32035

Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild

Nov. 1, 2009

AFL-CIO Unit – WBNG’s 4th Largest – Ratifies One-Year Contract Extension

In voting in late September, the 120-member WBNG unit at AFL-CIO headquarters ratified a one-year extension of the Guild contract with the labor federation; for the first time the collective bargaining agreement there includes a successor clause.

The agreement, which covers professional employees at the headquarters building near the White House as well as field staff around the country, was approved by a vote of 74 to 9, with the vote taking place at headquarters and by mail; the votes were tallied on Sept. 30.

Although the contract includes a wage freeze, “The most important thing to the members in these negotiations was job security,” said AFL-CIO Guild-unit Chair Amy Lampkin.

The new contract expires March 31, 2010 – the previous agreement expired last March, but remained in place as negotiations continued. A tentative agreement was reached in early September.

For the first time, the contract includes a successor clause that “makes sure the contract is secure if there is a change in administration, a merger,” or creation of a different organization, AFL-CIO Human Resources Director Samantha Connolly told BNA, which follows labor issues in

several of its publications (professional staff at BNA also are under a WBNG contract).

Connolly told BNA that the clause was sought by the Guild when negotiations began, and includes timelines for providing the union with information and disclosure.

Connolly was referring to ongoing discussions among the AFL-CIO, Change to Win (another shop where professional staff are WBNG-represented), and the National Education Association that might ultimately unify the labor movement into a single organization (*see below*).

What’s What at Change to Win

In 2005, the Service Employees International Union, Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers, UNITE HERE, Carpenters, and Laborers pulled out of the AFL-CIO. These six of the federation’s dozen largest unions, along with the 5,500-member United Farm Workers organization, formed Change to Win, an alternative to the half-century-old AFL-CIO.

CtW was hailed by supporters as a “second CIO,” with a focus on organizing the unorganized as a way of putting life back into the labor movement. Four years after its founding, however, the organization itself had lost half a million members; another million members were lost to disaffiliations last summer, and only the tiny farm-workers union is not at odds with the leadership nowadays.

UNITE HERE in particular had been

upset with the SEIU and what it called “raiding” – SEIU attempts to take over existing hotel-worker organizing drives and allegations of plans to start its own.

In his acceptance speech at the AFL-CIO convention in mid-September, newly elected President Richard Trumka called on the seven unions in Change to Win to re-affiliate. UNITE HERE, which along with the Carpenters had left the fledgling federation, promptly announced that it was back on board.

Meanwhile, 10 of the nation’s largest labor unions (six AFL-CIO and four from CtW) have been meeting with the non-affiliated National Education Association at meetings set up by American Rights at Work, the organization run by retired 13-term Congressman David Bonior, who would like to see all of organized labor under one big tent.

Collective Bargaining Update

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild bargains and enforces 25 collective bargaining agreements with 24 employers. These are the dates of the signed contracts. (**Number of WBNG members in the unit.**)

National Labor College (20).....	April 1, 2008 to July 31, 2009
Solidarity Center (24).....	Sept. 26, 2006 to Sept. 25, 2009
Int'l Labor Comm.Association (2)	Nov. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2009
United American Nurses (9).....	March 24, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2009
Agence France-Presse (46).....	Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2009
Catholic News Service (17)	Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2009
Radio Free Asia (108).....	Jan. 31, 2008 to Jan. 30, 2010
BNA (281)	March 1, 2006 to Feb. 28, 2010
AFL-CIO (120)	April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010
Dept. for Prof. Employees, AFL-CIO (3).....	July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010
Local 500 SEIU (17)	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010
Working for America (3)	Jan 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010
BNA Correspondents (22).....	July 15, 2006 to July 14, 2010
United Food and Commercial Workers (76)	Oct. 7, 2007 to Oct. 6, 2010
American Postal Workers Union (14)	May 21, 2007 to Nov. 20, 2010
Change to Win (21)	Jan. 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2010
American Nurses Association (112).....	Feb. 15, 2009 to Feb. 14, 2011
Kaiser Coalition (18).....	April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2011
United Way of America (8)	May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2011
Washington Post (336)	June 8, 2009 to June 7, 2011
Baltimore Sun (208).....	June 25, 2007 to June 24, 2011
Casa of Maryland (46)	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011
American Rights at Work (16).....	July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011
E-L & Associates (2)	Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2011
Jobs With Justice (11).....	Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2011

Official Notice

WBNG General Membership Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m.

Baltimore Guild Office, 415 St. Paul Pl.

Presentation by WBNG's Elise Bryant on human rights in the workplace, and consideration of the local's proposed strategic plan.

For more information, 202-785-3650.

G U I L D

Forum

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