



May 15, 2008

Hey folks,

The Guild is here for many things, one of which is to keep you informed about what's going on at The Sun and company-wide. Here's a few updates. Any questions? See a shop steward, Guild leader or Lynn Anderson or Tanika White.

Happy Spring!

New Vacation Policy in Effect – Use 'Em or Lose 'Em!

In case you hadn't heard, a new vacation policy kicked in May 1. From here on out, employees must use all of the vacation time they accrue between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009, or risk losing the vacation days.

In the past, we were able to carry-over unused vacation. That will not be the case any longer.

However, if you still had some left-over vacation days as of April 30, 2008, don't fret. You will still be able to use those days but don't wait too long. If you don't use them by April 30, 2011, they will be gone forever.

This new policy is spelled out in our contract under Article 9, Sect.

9.6. If you still have some questions, or need a copy of the contract, please see Lynn Anderson or Tanika White.

Towson bureau back in Towson

Sun management announced this week that they have finalized the deal on a new Towson bureau location, but the new office won't be fully operational for at least another month.

The Susquehanna Building, at 29 W. Susquehanna Ave., is a short walk from the county courthouse, county office building and other Towson sites that reporters and advertising reps may need to utilize on a regular basis.

The Sun expects to start using the new office space next week, although the phones, computers

and data lines won't be in place until next month.

Health fees arbitration

The Guild's challenge to Tribune's premium surcharge for spouses has reached the arbitration stage, with the first day of hearings held May 7.

Tribune is charging an extra \$75 a month for employees who include their spouses on the Tribune health plan if the spouse has health coverage available from his/her own employment. The Guild says that this is violating the contract's four-percentage-point cap on the employees' share of health premiums; it has meant increases in premium share of 8.27 to 12.69 percentage points.

In the first day of hearings, a Hopkins expert on health finance, Gerard Anderson, testified that the surcharge was, in fact, premium. The Sun will present its case when the hearings resume, which is scheduled for October. The Guild pressed for an earlier date (and continues to do so), but so far October is the first month when dates are available for the arbitrator and both parties. If the Guild is successful - as it was in challenging Tribune's attempts to jack up premiums for employees hired after 1996 - members who are paying the fees stand to get a refund. Several Teamster locals and the New York Guild have similar cases pending against Tribune.

National Guild Election Final Results

Voting for national Guild positions has come to a close and results can be viewed at:

<http://www.newsguild.org/results2008.html>

Vote totals were obtained directly from the locals in most, but not all, cases, and are believed to be accurate but cannot be considered final until the Sector Election and Referendum Committee certifies the results today, Thursday, May 15.

Here are the unofficial totals:

President

WBNG

Lunzer: 148 votes

Foley: 349 votes

National

Lunzer: 57% percent of the vote

Foley: 43% percent of the vote

Secretary-Treasurer

WBNG

Rothman: 223 votes

Stephens: 246 votes

National

Rothman: 61.9% percent of the vote

Stephens: 38.1% percent of the vote

Sector Chair

WBNG

Knox: 285 votes

Kirkup: 208 votes

National

Knox: 63.5%

Kirkup: 36.5%

Region 2 Vice-President

WBNG

Winton: 146 votes

Lindsay: 332 votes

National

Winton: 34.9%

Lindsay: 65.1%

Thanks to all who came out and cast a vote!

Sun reporter dies

On a much sadder note, The Guild has learned that Chris Ewell -- a dependable Guild member and a great friend to many -- died Saturday morning of brain cancer. Chris, 33, had been battling a brain tumor for several years and was in a hospice.

Chris covered a variety of sports while at paper, including Maryland football, small colleges, the Blast and AAU sports. He also was a mobilizer who could be depended on to do all manner of tasks, both big and small, to help protect the rights of his co-workers, and the integrity of the journalism at The Sun.

Arrangements are pending, but the family is planning a memorial service in Baltimore on June 7th.

The Ewell family's address is 8309 E. 85th Street, Raytown, MO, 64138

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, IL, 60018.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ewell family. And we thank Chris for all his hard work. We'll miss you, Chris.

COMING IN NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN

Next month, we plan to have updates and information on lots of goings-on in commission sales and inside and outside advertising -- as well as a list of winners from the Guild's recent Front Page Awards, of which Sun employees were big winners!!!