

WBNG NEWS

The Voice of Our Union

Join a Committee

We invite all members to consider joining the local's new committees. Committee information is listed below:

• Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee's role is to interpret the bylaws of the WBNG when there are questions, and to discuss and create proposed changes to the bylaws. Any member may join the committee, submit questions on the bylaws, and suggest changes to the bylaws. We hold meetings monthly (as needed). If you are interested reach out to chair Sam Nelson at nelson238@gmail.com

• Communications

The Communications Committee will work to ensure we have the tools and processes we need to increase member engagement with the local. Over the next year, we plan to improve our member data and list management systems, and we'll work to modernize our communications with members. If you've got something to add to the group, we'd welcome your input and contributions-- reach out to Grace Sheedy at grace.c.sheedy@gmail.com.

Dear Members,

On behalf of myself and the newly installed officers of the Washington Baltimore News Guild, thank you so much for entrusting us to lead our union for the next year. Consider this the first installment of a monthly newsletter, intended to inform members of the goings-on of our local, highlighting volunteer, educational, and a variety of opportunities within WBNG.

Long before we were sworn in on Feb. 17, our executive council got to work building new committees, establishing relationships with sibling and parent union officials, and overall planning for our future.

We are all fiercely committed to growing our union through robust organizing, arming our members with the latest education on how to fight for our rights in the workplace, and stabilizing our finances— all during a global pandemic that has made all of this a unique, but formidable challenge.

Our intent through all of this is to unite our journalism and non-profits units, and rely on our strengths to craft contracts that promote diversity, equity, equal pay, strong anti-retaliation measures and great workplace benefits.

United together, we will grow as a body and ensure a better future for our union siblings who will inherit the fruits of our labor. We're so excited to get to work!

In Solidarity,

Fatima Hussein
President, Washington Baltimore News Guild

• Finance

The Finance Committee is, more or less, Local 32035's annoying fiscal parent, constantly saying: "I know you say we need to do this ... but can we afford it?" This year, we will be planning our 2022 budget and plotting a strategic financial plan for the local's future. We will also work closely with the Organizing Committee to make sure we are bringing in shops that make sense. If any of this sounds remotely exciting, please join up! Email Treasurer Justin Moyer: justinmoyer@gmail.com.

• Human Rights

Help our union update its bylaws on harassment policies, develop best practices for our union and member units to hold ourselves accountable on the issues we preach in the workplace, including equity, diversity and freedom from harassment. For more information, contact chair Carl Charles at carl.Solomon.Charles@gmail.com

• Education

Help the Local plan steward, harassment and other important trainings. To join, or for more information, contact Vice President Katie Mettler at kemettler@gmail.com.

• Front Page Awards

Help plan the Front Page Awards, a celebration of members' contributions to journalism and the labor movement in the Washington Baltimore area. For more information contact chair Peter Brusoe at pwbrusoe@gmail.com.

Welcome Evan Yeats to Our Local

Evan Yeats is our newest staffer at WBNG who joins us in March. Originally from Iowa, Evan has lived in DC for more than a decade now. His first union membership was at AFSCME, working as an overnight police dispatcher while in college. After a stint as an award-winning radio reporter, he became a labor communicator, organizer and representative and worked as the Communications Director for a team that won the first-ever contract for civilian municipal workers in Texas. He worked for more than a decade at the United Food and Commercial Workers where he worked on campaigns for bargaining, organizing and workplace safety that helped tens of thousands of retail, food manufacturing and meatpacking workers find their voice at work. At the UFCW, he was a long-time WBNG leader including and winning Unit Officer of the Year (2012) and leading to the Unit of the Year (2013) at the WBNG Front Page awards. Lately, he has been consulting on bargaining for news workers in California, Hawaii and Florida. He lives in Takoma, DC with his wife and three children.

Join the Organizing Committee!

Our local's leadership is committed to doing smarter, strategic organizing to build power in our current units and grow our membership by bringing new units into our Guild. That's why members from different shops in our Local have come together to form the WBNG Organizing Committee. Together, we're committed to training our membership on how to organize their co-workers to win stronger contracts, and help guide our Local's organizing work so that we continue to build power within our newsrooms, nonprofits, and unions. Interested in getting involved or learning more? Please reach out to Graham at graham.fortier@gmail.com.

Introducing the Small Units Caucus!

Everyone, but especially those from small units with less than 50 members, are invited to join a new caucus meant to gather members for discussions on how the local can better serve this group. We are particularly interested in hearing from our very small units, with less than 15 members, to give them a much bigger voice. If you're interested in learning more, contact your President, Fatima Hussein at fatimashussein@gmail.com.

If you have any other questions, concerns or general inquiries, contact us at Local32035@wbng.org.