



# REPORTER



Vol. 103, No. 3



September-December, 2009

2009 CWA Winning Newsletter for "General Excellence"

## Paper's Continuation Hinges on Union Negotiations

President's

Column

By Steven

D. Berman



The question today is, are we breathing air into a corpse or have we provided the life blood through our concession agreement to keep the Chicago Sun-Times Media Group, Inc., and, therefore, the Chicago Sun-Times and Aurora Beacon-News alive and providing continued employment.

Sun-Times Media Group, Inc., Chairman of the Board, Jeremy L. Halbreich, told employees in July, "we continue to reduce the rate of cash burn at the Company and in conjunction with this improvement, we have seen a significant improvement in our cash flow." "This is precisely the reason for which we asked all employees to make sacrifices on behalf of the Company." But just a month later, in August, Halbreich acknowledged that cash was perilously low and he insisted he was near cutting a deal with a suitor, willing to save the Company.

Since Marshall Field III introduced the Chicago Sun in 1941, there has been four sales of the Chicago Sun-Times. In 1984, the Field family sold the paper to Rupert Murdoch for an estimated \$90 million dollars, after the Field brothers, Marshall and Teddy, could not agree on the future of the paper. Murdoch was forced to sell the paper in 1986, when he purchased television station Fox WFLD. The paper was then sold to the investment group of Alder & Shaykin for \$145 million dollars. On February 28, 1994, American Publishing Co., a U.S. subsidiary of Vancouver-based Hollinger Inc., announced the purchase of the Chicago Sun-Times, along with the Pioneer Press and Star Newspapers for a reported \$180 million dollars.

Aurora Beacon-News chapel members entered into concession bargaining from March 23, 2009 until mid-June, after all the other Union's representing employees at the Chicago Sun-Times Media Group, Inc., had reached concession agreements with the Company. No. 16

### At Press Time

The Sun-Times has reported that an investment group led by Chicago businessman, Jim Tyree will file a bid to buy the Chicago Sun-Times Media Group, Inc. The report said that the offer will be contingent on making permanent concessions, already obtained by the Sun-Times. The group may seek additional concessions but could nix a deal, if they go too far.

It has been reported that without a sale, the Sun-Times would be forced to close sometime this Fall. Bankruptcy court filings showed that in July, the Company had a monthly negative cash flow of \$3.8 million, with a little over \$19 million in the bank.

Mr. Tyree was quoted this Spring saying "What I think our group could bring to the table is strategic planning and capital planning to look at it a different way, an innovative way."

Tyree went on the say "We'll do everything we can to put a fair deal together."

bargaining became more complex, because Chapel members were working under a contract that was set to expire on July 1, 2009.

Just weeks prior to the contract expiration, the Union Scale Committee reached an agreement with the Sun-Times that mirrored concessions already granted by other Union members, but the Union was able to obtain a new one year contract that provides for wage and benefit increases. The settlement was approved by the Chapel and the Union's Executive Committee in August.

I wish to thank the Beacon-News Chapel and especially Chairperson, Alison Johnson, for keeping focused on obtaining the best possible agreement under these most trying times.

Chicago Sun-Times Chapel members showed their dedication and commitment to the newspaper by beginning to take 5 days off without pay while the Union began negotiations over the Company's request for economic relief, following the Beacon-News settlement.

Your President met with Sun-Times management on August 26th, after a long delay, because the Sun-Times failed

to supply the Union with information needed for bargaining. The Union presented an 11 point proposal for relief at the meeting which covered both Company and employee interests. Unlike the Beacon-News negotiations, Sun-Times members are covered under a Supplemental Agreement that provides for job guarantees. At this point in time, the Company is studying the Union's proposal and no new meetings have been set.

County of Cook Offset Print Shop and Cook County Sheriff's Print Shop negotiations continued on May 28th, at which time the County presented the Union with its wage proposals. The substandard proposal provided for no wage increase for 2009, a 1% wage increase on June 1, 2010, 1.5% wage increase on June 1, 2011 and a 2% wage increase on June 1, 2012. The County proposed a freeze on Step increases in 2009 and the elimination of the insurance opt-out payments in 2010.

Continued on Page 2

### TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION HEADQUARTERS RELOCATED

On July 13, 2009, CTU made a seamless move from our former Headquarters in Chicago to our new offices at 1580 S. Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 208, Libertyville, Illinois. The Union elected not to renew its lease at the Chicago location due to the continued substantial yearly rent increases, the majority of which was attributed to City and County taxes and yearly reassessments.

The lack of membership use, the current national economy and the downturn at city newspapers, were all factors, affecting the considerations made at the May, General Membership Meeting, approving the relocation. No. 16 will now enjoy a two-thirds reduction in its yearly rental expenses.

No. 16 became the last printing trades craft union to leave Chicago, following the Photo Engravers, Paperhandlers and Pressmen who have resides in Carol Stream, Illinois for a number of years now. The Chicago Mailers Union currently resides in Hinsdale, after moving from Carol Stream, Illinois.

I wish to thank Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Tovo and Vice President, Norb Bernauer for their hard work in providing a smooth uninterrupted transition.

## Executive Committee Report

Monday, June 8, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Steven D. Berman. All members were present. (All recommendations are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Recommendations:

1. Approval of the payment of all bills for the period ending May 31, 2009.
2. Approval to change July Executive Committee Meeting from July 13th to July 6th due to Headquarters changing its location.
3. Approval of May 17, 2009, Union Meeting minutes.

## Executive Committee Report

Monday, July 6, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Steven D. Berman. All members were present. (All recommendations are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Recommendations:

1. Approval of the payment of all bills for the period ending June 30, 2009.
2. Approval of Beacon-News Contract modifications.
3. Approval of renegotiated Life Insurance policy for full-time Officers.
4. Approval of quarter page ad in the Labor Day edition of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

## Executive Committee Report

Monday, August 10, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Steven D. Berman. All members were present (All recommendations are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.)

Recommendations:

1. Approval of the payment of all bills for the period ending July 31, 2009.
2. Approval of dates for 2010 Executive Committee Meetings and 2010 Regular Union Meetings (Printed elsewhere in this Reporter).

## Executive Committee Report

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Steven D. Berman. All members were present. (All recommendations are unanimous unless indicated.)

Recommendations:

1. Approval of the payment of all bills for the period ending August 31, 2009.
2. Approval of renewal of insurance program presented by the American Income Life Insurance Company, by authorizing Secretary-Treasurer to mail promotional material at no cost to the Union.
3. Approval of \$250 assessment payable to the Chicago Allied Printing Trades Council.

## President's Column Continued

The County did agree to continue to honor the prevailing wage rate provisions in the Sheriff's agreement, which provided for a 3% wage increase, effective June 1, 2009.

On July 26, 2009, the parties met to review and discuss the County's nine proposals on amending the current Offset and Sheriff's print shop agreements. Due to the County's inability to clarify a number of its proposals and the need to supply the Union with additional information, no counter proposals regarding the Offset Print shop were submitted by the Union.

Negotiations had begun last November and the Union had submitted its initial proposal at a March 19th meeting.

Since this issue will be the last Reporter of the year, my family and I, along with Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Tovo and her family, and your Officers, want to wish our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May 2010 bring you and your family good health, happiness and prosperity.

*Fraternally, Steven D. Berman*

### NOTICE TO RETIREES ANNUAL DUES TABLE

Retirees—Less than 60 Years Membership—as CWA Members	
Local.....	\$ 20.40
CWA .....	24.00
Total .....	\$ 44.40
Retirees—Less than 60 Years Membership—Not CWA Members	
Local.....	\$ 20.40
Total .....	\$ 20.40
Retirees—More than 60 Years Membership—as CWA Members	
CWA .....	\$ 24.00
Total .....	\$ 24.00
Retirees—More than 60 Years Membership—Not CWA Members	
Local.....	\$ 12.00
Total .....	\$ 12.00

The Reporter is the Official Publication  
of  
**Chicago Typographical Union  
No. 16/CWA 14408**  
Organized 1852

1580 S. Milwaukee Avenue • Suite 208  
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Michelle Tovo, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor

#### TELEPHONE

President ..... **847-247-8855**  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... **219-345-2183**

#### OFFICERS

STEVEN D. BERMAN ..... President  
NORB BERNAUER ..... Vice President  
MICHELLE TOVO ..... Secretary-Treasurer

**Executive Committee**—Paul Lehrer, Marcel Skonieczny, Dan Sommers.

**Board of Trustees**—Edward Shonk (Chairman); Robert Pacione.

**Election Board**—Lee Walsh (Chairman); Robert Pacione.

Internet home page: [www.chicagotypographical.org](http://www.chicagotypographical.org)  
Send Your E-Mail to [ChiTypo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ChiTypo@sbcglobal.net)

*Secretary-  
Treasurer's  
Column  
By Michelle  
Tovo*



I would like to thank the members for sending me to the 23rd Sector Conference and the 71st CWA Convention. Please read the committee report on page 3 of the Reporter. It was an honor and a pleasure to have represented our local in these exciting times.

**To All Pensioners:** This will be the last Reporter for the year, so please make a note on your calendar to send your dues in by January. Please make checks payable to Chicago Typographical Union No. 16/CWA 14408 and remit them in care of the Secretary-Treasurer's Office.

If you are in doubt as to your dues status, please refer to the dues table printed in my column. I will also be mailing out letters with your dues amount and a return envelope.

If you need additional information please call 219-345-2183.

**Members who are planning** to retire in 2010 and thereafter should contact the CWA/ITU Negotiated Pension Plan, toll free at 877-429-2488 or write to the Plan at 831 South Nevada Avenue, Suite 120, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903, at least two months in advance of your retirement date.

Due to the current complexities, changing benefit formulas, privacy concerns, and the chance of misinformation being transmitted, the local no longer will be assisting members in obtaining and completing pension applications.

**Due to the continued** rising cost of postage, monthly Proprietor dues reminders will no longer be mailed out. Instead the monthly dues rate notices will appear in each REPORTER and should be maintain for future reference. Call 847-247-8855 if you have any questions.

*Fraternally, Michelle Tovo*

### DUES

Month of October, 2009 – 2.61%

#### MEMBERS working at the trade

CWA, .61%      No. 16, 2%

#### PROPRIETOR Members at the Trade

CWA      .61%      \$16.60  
No. 16      2%      80.90

**Total      \$97.50**

#### PROPRIETORS and Members Not at Trade

CWA      \$10.00  
No. 16      2%      70.34

**Total      \$80.34**

# REPORT OF DELEGTE TO 23rd SECTOR CONFERENCE AND 71st CWA CONVENTION, WASHINGTON, DC JUNE 20-24, 2009

## SECTOR CONFERENCE June 20, 2009

The twenty-third Annual Conference of the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector was held in Washington, D.C., on June 20, 2009.

Robert Stevenson, President, Columbia Typographical Union No. 101-12, and Mark B. Pullium, Sr. President Washington Mailers Union No. 29, welcomed delegates and guest to the Conference. Guest speakers included Joslyn Williams, President, Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO, Jeff Rechenbach, CWA Secretary-Treasurer, Larry Cohen, CWA President, Annie Hill, CWA Executive Vice-President.

CTU No. 16 Secretary-Treasurer Michelle Tovo was presented with two awards. No. 16's *Reporter* received an award for General Excellence and No. 16's website received an award for Information

[www.chicagotypographical.org](http://www.chicagotypographical.org)

The Committee on Laws/Finances reported on the following funds of the Sector:

ITU Segregated Fund has a balance of \$868,031.00 as of May 31, 2008. There were approximately 357 members owed approximately \$215,165.00.

The Operating Fund had income of \$71,397.00, including interest income of \$33,482.00 and expenses of \$128,254.00 and a balance of \$816,940.00 as of May 31, 2008.

The Strike Fund had investment income of \$206,328.00 and expenses of \$385,602.00 and a balance of \$4,451,279.00 as of May 31, 2008.

The CWA/ITU Negotiated Pension Plan Committee reported the following:

The investments has an overall negative return of -26% for 2008. The Committee reported that the Board of Trustees has consistently maintained a disciplined policy of diversifying investments in order to protect against declines in one or more sectors of the financial markets, but this diversification did not shield the NPP as stock, corporate bonds, real estate, hedge funds and private equity all experienced losses in 2008, as illustrated above. The NPP bond portfolios did contain allocations to U.S. Treasury Bonds, which had the only positive return of the major assets classes.

For the five months through May 31, 2009, the NPP had investment gains of \$10 million, contributions of \$6 million,

and paid out \$38 million in benefits and expenses.

The return on investments for the year to date through May 21, 2009 is estimated to be 1.6%. The Plan's assets are approximately \$709 million as of that date.

The Board of Trustees will continue to monitor the Plan's investments and consult with the NPP's actuary and other advisors to protect the Plan's ability to continue to provide benefits consistent with its financial and actuarial condition. The NPP does have the advantage of being a long-term investor and will hopefully continue to ride out economic downturns as it has in the past.

### Proposition No.1

That the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector 23rd Annual Conference, meeting on this 20th day of June 2009 hereby extends our deepest appreciation to our Brothers R. Hunter Phillips, Albert E. Rudy and Sister Lee Thompson in recognition of their long and faithful service. We salute you all on the occasion of your retirement and wish you well in all your future endeavors.

### Proposition No. 2

That we present this signed resolution as a token of the many positive contributions you (R. Hunter Phillips/ Albert E. Rudy/Lee Thompson) have made to out members, their union and our industry.

### Proposition No. 3

That the role of the Printing Publishing and Media Workers Sector, as a full partner in the future structure of the Communications Workers of America must be maintained, including the preservation of a seat on the CWA Executive Board specifically designated for the PPMWS consistent with the terms of the Merger Agreement.

### Proposition No. 4

That the Printing, Publishing & Media Workers Sector of the Communications Workers of America endorses the Employee Free Choice Act, and calls on all our members and their families to contact their lawmakers to urge them to vote to enact it as the law of the land.

## CWA CONVENTION June 22-24, 2009

President Larry Cohen instructed the delegate in the importance of being on

"offense, not just defense". Cohen said "We can't hold on to our standard of living just by playing defense-it has not worked for the last 25 years, and will not work any better this year. We are mostly playing defense at the bargaining table, not just because we have the worst economy in 75 years, but because the private sector is 7 percent organized, down from 35 percent when it peaked in the year after D-Day, and before Taft-Hartley, and after 60 years of court decisions that strengthened management control and weakened bargaining and organized rights."

President Cohen went on to inform the delegates, "For five years, CWA has helped lead the battle for the Employee Free Choice Act. We have done an amazing job of building the Million Member Mobilization, signing up 120,000 out of 1.5 million total commitments from all unions and allies. In fact, CWA has been supporting and working for the three main components of the Employee Free Choice Act – majority sign up, first contract arbitration, and meaningful penalties for employer law breakers, since 1992 when we formed a group of unions to endorse this approach."

Delegates were told "So as summer begins, it is up to us, and what we do this week will make all the difference. We have meetings scheduled with several hundred Members of Congress. Key elected leaders will be with us, including the Vice President, Speaker of the House, Majority Whip, and acting chair of the Senate Health and Labor committee."

"We come here representing fewer members than last year, but more determined than ever to turn that around with aggressive organizing and passage of the Employee Free Choice Act. We come here with the toughest negotiations in recent years but more determined than ever to build our unity and our union. We come here with great political opportunity. We come here building a political movement that is true to working families, and ready when necessary, to confront corporate greed." "But most of all, we come here knowing that our work is critical. We realize that we must help lead the campaign to revitalize the economy. We understand that we must be the spark of hope even in this time of despair for so many."

Fraternally submitted,  
*Michelle Tovo*

## REGULAR UNION MEETING

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009  
10:00 a.m.

### Chicago's Essex Inn

800 South Michigan Avenue  
Park East Walk, 2nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois

## DONATIONS

On behalf of the Union, the undersigned acknowledges with sincere appreciation donations made by members and received during the months of May, 2009.

*Michelle Tovo, Secretary-Treasurer*

### May, 2009

#### UPH Donation

Edward Kusmider.....\$ 20.00  
\$ 20.00

## Calendar of Meetings

(At headquarters unless otherwise noted)

**Executive Committee** – 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 9, 2009, Monday, December 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 4, 2010.

**General Membership Meeting** – January 31, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

**Reporter deadline** – 12:00 noon, Wednesday, January 11, 2010.

## Amos Jay Cummings Post

The Post meetings have moved to the Harold Washington Library, Van Buren and Wabash, 5th floor - room 5 south - section Government Publication, at 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next meetings of the Post are scheduled for October 7, 2009, November 4, 2009, December 2, 2009 and January 6, 2010.

## Holiday Notice

Union Headquarters will be closed on:

Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27,  
in recognition of the Thanksgiving Day Holiday;

Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25,  
in observance of the Christmas Holiday;

Thursday, December 31, 2009 and  
Friday, January 1, 2010, for the New Year Holiday.

## News and Comments

Congratulation to September 60-year members **Daniel Potempa** and **Charles Anderson**; 50-year **Walter Perek**; October 70-year member **Edward Hauser**; 50-year member **Julia Mann**; November 60-year member **Ralph Gregory**; 50-year member **Kenneth Morrison**; December 60-year member **Edward Gorham**; 50-year member **Gregory Biegalski**.

(Pins and Certificates will be MAILED out to those who are receiving them).

## 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 4, 2010

February 8, 2010

March 8, 2010

April 12, 2010

May 3, 2010

June 7, 2010

July 12, 2010

August 9, 2010

September 7, 2010

October 4, 2010

November 8, 2010

December 6, 2010

## 2010 REGULAR UNION MEETINGS

January 31, 2010

May 23, 2010

September 26, 2010

## Death Roll

**O'Neill, Lawrence**, Pensioner, formerly, Chicago Tribune died April 30, 2009; aged 95. Initiated by CTU on June 29, 1941.

**Bernier, Donald**, Pensioner, formerly, Chicago Sun-Times died May 15, 2009; aged 72. Initiated by CTU on October 22, 1967.

**Byrnes, John, P.**, Pensioner, formerly, Chicago Sun-Times died May 19, 2009; aged 91. Initiated by CTU on February 27, 1949.

**Jupp, Arthur**, Pensioner, formerly, Rydertypes, Inc. died June 30, 2009; aged 91. Initiated by CTU on March 4, 1958.

**Schmal, Richard**, Pensioner, formerly Chicago Sun-Times died August 2, 2009; aged 85. Initiated by CTU on July 30, 1961.

## DUES

Months of November and  
December, 2009 – 2.61%

### MEMBERS working at the trade

CWA, .61%      No. 16, 2%

### PROPRIETOR Members at the Trade

CWA      .61%      \$16.60

No. 16      2%      61.40

**Total      \$78.00**

### PROPRIETORS and Members

Not at Trade

CWA      \$10.00

No. 16      2%      56.33

**Total      \$66.33**

CHICAGO TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION NO. 16/CWA 14408  
1580 S. MILWAUKEE AVENUE • SUITE 208  
LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS 60048

FIRST CLASS MAIL

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

CHICAGO, ILL.

PERMIT No. 4366