



# The Portland Newspaper Guild - Local 128

## The People Behind the Paper

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31 Exchange St., second floor • Portland, Maine 04101  
207-772-1202 • [www.local128.org](http://www.local128.org) • [union@local128.org](mailto:union@local128.org)

### NEW MEMBER:

Welcome to the Portland Newspaper Guild.

You arrive at an exciting time as the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram and MaineToday.com are under going many alterations as the technological landscape rapidly changes. The Guild is dedicated to making sure the values of our members are upheld as we all work together to be successful into the future.

The Guild has a storied history in Portland spanning over 65 years. In this time we've created a strong voice in the workplace, allowing our members to be secure and focus on producing outstanding newspapers and Web sites that truly connect the communities of southern Maine.

The Guild has worked to protect rights, secure safe working conditions and negotiate better pay and benefits for its members. Guild members have a 37.5-hour workweek, above-average wages, quality health insurance, and a 401k with a 25 percent company match to mention a few perks, and members also have the peace of mind to know they won't be singled out or reprimanded unfairly without an avenue of recourse.

The Guild represents more than 400 workers in the maintenance, distribution, news, advertising, circulation and business offices at the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, MaineToday.com and the Waterville Sentinel. We are not some distant bureaucracy – we are our members. The day-to-day operations of the Guild are run by the volunteer Executive Board, which is comprised solely of our members. And the ultimate authority and power of the Guild resides with the membership, which meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month at the State of Maine room across the street from the newspaper's main building at Portland City Hall.

All members pay the same percentage of their paychecks each week in dues (currently 1.75% + \$.12), which were voted on by the membership. There's also a one-time \$5 administration fee that's taken out your first week of paying dues. Our dues investments give us many resources, including a full-time Administrative Officer at the Guild office to help with any questions and concerns, a lawyer on retainer to help us with legal questions as they arise, and the resources that are available through our parent union The Newspaper Guild-Communication Workers of America, who we call on for everything from health and safety issues to collective bargaining.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the current contract that covers everything from working conditions to vacations to health care benefits and wages. I encourage you to read this document and to let me know if you have any questions. You will notice that this contract expires on May 31 of 2007. We are currently in negotiations for a new contract, so please return your paperwork as soon as possible so we can get you on the e-mail and mailing lists and keep you up to date on the status of these talks.

In closing, I want to again welcome you to the newspaper. I'm sure you'll find your fellow employees and Guild members are very professional, very capable, and they care deeply about the business we're in. The Guild is always looking for members to serve on committees or be involved in many different capacities. You don't need to be a labor expert to be involved, so please let us know if you'd



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be interested in getting involved, and you're always welcome to sit in on Executive board meetings to see how the Guild functions.

Below you'll find your shop steward's name. Your shop steward is your immediate link to the Guild. I'm sure your shop steward will be stopping by soon to introduce him/herself, and you'll be hearing from the Guild to personally welcome you and answer any questions you might have.

Please feel free to contact me or anyone on the Executive Board (see enclosed) any time you have questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Munroe  
(791-6079 or [kmunroe@local128.org](mailto:kmunroe@local128.org))  
President, Local 128, Portland Newspaper Guild

DATE:

SHOP STEWARD: