

Times Union Employees Seek Your Assistance

The Albany Newspaper Guild, which represents 240 employees of the Albany Times Union - including reporters and several other job categories - is in very difficult contract negotiations with the Times Union management (Hearst Newspapers.) The Guild needs all the support it can get from local union members.

If you subscribe to the Times Union, please consider signing a card pledging to cancel your subscription if asked to do so by the Newspaper Guild. (Please see below for how to obtain a card.) The Guild is asking people to NOT cancel their subscriptions until asked to do so. A circulation boycott is a serious measure, but the Guild hopes that the collection of several hundred cards signed by Capital Region subscribers will show the Times Union management that the Guild has strong support in the community.

If you don't subscribe to the Times Union, but would like to show your support for the Guild anyhow, please call the Times Union at 454-5694, ask to be switched to the office of publisher George Hearst, and tell him to settle a fair contract and keep local jobs in the region.

The Albany Newspaper Guild has made a number of concessions during bargaining, including the switchover to a new health insurance plan that is costing Guild and non-Guild employees far higher deductibles. Management, however, canceled the Guild's contract and has declared that dues collection will be voluntary, and that no grievances will be filed, until a new agreement is reached. Management also wants to cut 60 to 80 jobs, and outsource a number of jobs to the Hearst newspaper in Houston, Texas.

For more information on the Guild's negotiations, please see the blog on the Albany Newspaper Guild Web site (<http://www.albanyguild.org/>). To obtain a circulation boycott pledge card, please contact UUP and Newspaper Guild member Darryl McGrath in the Journalism program at dmcgrath@albany.edu. (Please contact Darryl via e-mail, NOT by leaving a message on her campus phone.)

Thank you for your support!