

PHILLY PAPERS LOSE JOBS



It looks like more bad news is coming to workers in the field of journalism as more workers are being put out of a job in the name of the bottom line. In this case the company that is getting rid of workers is the Philadelphia Media Network. The executive met with leaders for the workers Guild in order to talk about cuts to the news rooms at the Inquirer, the Daily News and Philly.com. Overall these news rooms will cut about 37 jobs. Of course, the company is not looking to layoff if they can avoid it, they are hoping to buy out older workers into early retirement. The cuts are happening not because of closures, but because the news rooms of the three publications will be merging in order to use all of their resources more effectively. Here is a full copy of the letter that has been sent to the workers. It was originally published by Poynter: Dear Guild member, This afternoon Guild leaders met with Philadelphia Media Network officials including the editors of the Inquirer, Daily News and Philly.com to hear the company's plans for "One Newsroom." These plans include the devastating reduction in force of 37 positions. The company identified that its combined newsroom functions could result in layoffs in the following classifications: Reporters, Writing Reporters, Rewrite, News Artists, Photographers, Photo Printers, Copy Editors/Readers, Make-Up Persons, Desk Assistants, Cartoonists, Editorial Writers, Editorial Clerks and Philly.com Multi Media Content Producers. Before any individuals would be targeted for layoff, the company is first instituting a Voluntary Separation Program. Details of the buyout package will be distributed soon by Human Resources. The more members who step up for voluntary buyouts, the less involuntary newsroom layoffs there will be. The buyout window is open from Feb. 16, 2012 to Feb. 29, 2012. On March 1, 2012 PMN will notify the Guild of any members who have been targeted for layoff in any category. As per our contract layoffs in any category would be handled by seniority with the least senior person being first affected. In most cases, part-time employees would be laid-off before the dismissal of full-timers in their group. The last day of work for either volunteers or those laid off would be March 31, 2012. The company's decision to decimate our already-shrunken ranks is hard to comprehend given the ever-competitive 24/7 nature of today's media landscape. However, PMN has the contractual right to reduce the work force, and the Guild will work to make sure any job eliminations are conducted in accordance with our Collective Bargaining Agreement. If you plan to apply for the voluntary separation program, you are to do so through Human Resources, but please first contact Guild Executive Director Bill Ross at the Guild office 215-928-0118, cell 267-240-8540 or BRoss@local-10.com. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In solidarity, Dan Gross, President, Bill Ross, Executive Director, and the Executive Board of the Newspaper Guild/Communications Workers of America Local 38010

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