



By Patricia Doxsey, 31180 President

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Negotiations, Outsourcing, and Severance Pay

We don't like the Journal Register Company's plan to shut down production operations at the Daily Freeman plant in Kingston. We don't think it's the right move for the paper, the community, or the more than 60 employees who will lose their jobs as a result.

On Thursday, a majority of the Guild's executive board, acting as a negotiating committee, took our concerns about the effects of this plan directly to the Company. We spent a significant amount of time with Publisher Ira Fufeld and company attorney Michael Rybicki discussing the proposal to move production of the paper to Troy and to outsource the trucking of the paper back to Kingston.

It is clear to us from those discussions that this is a corporate decision and that the decision has been made.

It is equally clear to us that the contract gives the company the right to outsource this work and lay off the mailroom employees and the drivers.

While we hope to be able to sway the company to rethink what we believe to be a wrong-headed decision, we are obligated, both legally and morally, to do best by those within our jurisdiction who will be affected by the move.

To that end, we have begun negotiating with the

company to provide a higher severance package for those employees than what is offered under the contract.

The Teamsters union, which represents the eight press room employees who will lose their jobs under this plan, began a similar effort Wednesday.

Our hope is that at the end of the day, public outcry over this plan will change the minds of the JRC honchos who think shutting down production here is a good idea. We will continue to work toward that end.

In the meantime, we will do the best we can to help soften the blow to those who will lose their jobs.

We'll be back at the table on Sept. 15.

Meanwhile, Upstairs....

The Guild is awaiting some additional documentation we had requested of the Company in August in order to develop our proposal.

We anticipate receiving that information in the coming weeks. We expect to put our first comprehensive contract proposal on the table at our next bargaining session on Sept. 15.

Don't Quit!!!
Your severance depends on it!