

Resolution Adopted at
The NewsGuild-CWA Sector Conference
Jan. 27, 2019

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT GUILD ACTIVIST, MELISSA NELSON
January 2019

For more than three decades, Melissa Nelson helped countless members across the country fight for justice and better workplaces. Melissa, our director of collective bargaining, retired at the end of April 2018.

Melissa was a graphic artist at the Albany Times Union, working in the advertising department, when she joined the Guild. She happened to live across the street from the local president so she walked over and delivered her signed card to his house. Her motivation was simple, but important: the all-female art staff of the ad department was paid less than the all-male art staff of the editorial department.

From that point on, Melissa made pay equity a focus of her union work. She was able to narrow the gap in the salaries of the two art departments.

Melissa served Guild members in several areas during her 18 years at the Times Union. She joined the bargaining team, then was elected local president and served as a pension trustee. In 1999, the Newspaper Guild of Greater Philadelphia hired her to work as a staff rep until the international stole her away. She then worked at The NewsGuild-CWA as a field representative before becoming director of collective bargaining, reviewing contract proposals and settlements and advising union negotiators.

Known for her encyclopedic knowledge of the Guild's more than 270 contracts, Melissa helped hundreds of bargaining committees pursue their goals while beating back the worst of concessionary agendas from management.

RESOLVED: The 2019 sector conference of The NewsGuild-CWA expresses its deep gratitude to Melissa for her decades of Guild work on both the local and national levels. We wish her well in her retirement with her beloved husband, Bruce.