

FIRST UNION FOR KC STAR NEWSROOM EMPLOYEES IN ITS 140 YEAR HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was the largest lender to McClatchey. The coronavirus pandemic saw most newspapers lose about one-quarter of their advertising revenues in 2020 and 2021 and McClatchey had even bigger losses. Chatham utilized their leverage as the main debt holder to take control of the company and all of its newspapers.

The current group of reporters, videographers, photographers, visual artists and graphic designers are currently asking management to recognize their union organizing drive. A source at the Star told us that they have nearly 70 percent of the workforce signed on but are trying to avoid an election. Their hope is that management will recognize the fact that a super majority of workers are behind the effort and go directly to bargaining. This will be the first union for the Kansas City Star newsroom employees in its 140 year history!

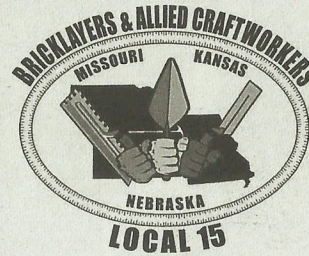
The idea to organize was started nearly a year ago by several members of the staff and took on a more urgent purpose when McClatchey was purchased by the hedgefund company. The group signed on with the United Media Guild out of St. Louis. The Guild currently represents employees at the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Labor

Tribune and the Rockford Register Star in Illinois.

Chatham Asset Management already owns several media companies and has several that have bargaining units including several in the Pacific Northwest. The group is asking for local labor unions to support their efforts as their industry transitions to this new leadership group.

Their demands are relatively simple as far as demands go. A source in the newsroom stated "We are all committed to professional journalism. We want to preserve journalism in our city and help the company grow." To do that, they are asking for the following:

- *To improve wages
- * Improve the inequities that currently exist between employees in wages
- * Currently employees are asked to be on call but receive no compensation for that. We believe there should be some compensation.
- * In 2017 they reduced our already low mileage compensation from .32 cents to .30 cents. That should be around .50 cents plus to follow IRS guidelines.
- * We would like to see more local news coverage.
- * We want to see more diversity in the workforce here at the Star.



REPRESENTING:

Bricklayers
Stone Masons
Pointer/ Caulker/Cleaners
Tile Setters & Finishers
Terrazzo Workers
Marble Masons
Refractory Workers

Memorial Day...

**WE CELEBRATE OUR
FREEDOM BECAUSE
OF OUR GREAT HEROS**

**HAPPY MEMORIAL
DAY FROM THE
OFFICERS AND STAFF
OF BAC LOCAL 15**

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

*In memory of many,
in honor of all,
Thank you.*