

FROM THE GCD MAILBOX
by Barbara Mende, Coordinator

Here are a few questions the Grievance and Contract Division has fielded recently. If you have a question, contact us at advice@nwu.org. We may not know the answer but we can probably help you find it.

Q. I sold an article to a magazine. The editor now tells me he is not going to print it. Can I file a grievance?

A. If you're not paid, you may be able to. Look at your contract (or correspondence, if you don't have a formal contract) and see what it says about payment terms. We'll help you review it if you like. If no kill fee is mentioned, assume you'll be paid when dealing with the editor, and contact us if you're not. You can't force anyone to print anything, only to compensate you for your work.

Q. My co-author has an agent, and wants me to sign a contract with her. I'm not comfortable with the contract. What should I do?

A. We can review the agent contract for you. You should also make sure, however, that you have an agreement with your co-author. We have many materials on collaboration agreements.

Q. I've just started to do freelance copywriting. What terms should I specify for the timing of payments?

A. We have sample work-for-hire contracts and guides to using them.