

# Pacific Media Workers Guild

THE NEWSPAPER GUILD - CWA LOCAL 39521

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Nov. 19, 2013

Local Elections Committee  
Pacific Media Workers Guild  
433 Natoma St. Third Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Voting Eligibility Status of Purple Communications/ASL Interpreters United

Dear Local Elections Committee:

I received a copy of a protest last night apparently filed with the TNG Sector Chairperson concerning the voting rights of the bargaining unit members of Purple Communications. I request immediate action on this matter for the benefit of all candidates and our staff, which is preparing membership lists for use in the Election.

Members of this unit organized last year and are engaged in collective bargaining. They are seeking to win their initial collective bargaining agreement. As we build our union, we have established a new unit of Purple Communications employees, called ASL Interpreters United. The unit has a page on our Local website. We have obtained a TNG-CWA strategic industry fund grant to spur our organizing and build the unit. We have created a full roster of interim unit officers, and I understand nominating meetings have been held to nominate new unit and local officers in the pending Local election.

In January 2013, the Local Executive Committee voted unanimously to welcome into Local membership all bargaining unit members of Purple Communications. Two members of the ASLIU attended that meeting. Our organizers have been working hard to obtain signed membership applications from Purple unit members. At the October EC/RA/Membership meeting, we voted (with one "no" vote cast by CFI vice president Michael Ferreira) to welcome into membership by name all those Purple members who had submitted signed membership forms by that time. Additional forms are being collected as I write.

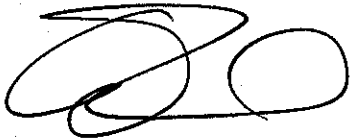
A member of the Purple unit, Michelle Caplette, was appointed interim Treasurer and is nominated for a two-year term as Treasurer. She was formally voted to serve as interim by the Executive Committee (two members, Ferreira and Flores, abstained or voted "no," as I recall, but Flores issued a welcoming email to Michelle after the vote). Caplette has been carrying out her duties admirably since her appointment.

For your information, I discussed several weeks ago the eligibility status of the Purple unit, and was informed by TNG counsel that TNG Constitution (Article XVIII Section 6) provides voting status before first contract and dues obligation for members of new bargaining units. I recall this same

provision applied when CFI became part of the local many years ago, and more recently when we organized BANG-East Bay and affiliated AFSCME Local 3299.

The confusion created by yesterday's protest by Abella has been compounded by the widespread distribution of this protest to all our unit officers and RA delegates by Ferreira. Therefore, I seek IMMEDIATE action by the Local Election Committee so that I can communicate accurate information to all our members, our staff and officers concerning this important question, and of course inform Sister Caplette and her ASLIU colleagues as to their status in our Local.

In Unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Carl Hall', written in a cursive style.

Carl Hall  
Executive Officer

cc TNG General Counsel Barbara Camens  
Darren Carroll