

Carol Rothman <Crothman@cwa-union.org>

November 19, 2013 11:34 AM

To: alex@vernickmedia.com

Cc: pmwg2013election@gmail.com, Bernard Lunzer <b@bluz.co>, Carl Hall <chall@mediaworkers.org>, Michael Ferreira

<mikecfisteward@gmail.com>

Eligibility of Purple Communications Unit

Dear Mr. Abella,

As Secretary-Treasurer of The Newspaper Guild-CWA with responsibility for election matters, I am responding to your letter to International Chairperson Martha Waggoner concerning the voting eligibility of members of the Purple Communications Unit of Pacific Media Workers Local 39521.

Please see Article XVIII Finances, Section 6 of The Newspaper Guild-CWA Constitution on new bargaining units. (Emphasis added.) It reads in part ". . . The obligation of such members to pay initiation fees and dues as specified in this Constitution or the CWA Constitution shall commence upon the execution of the first collective bargaining agreement covering their bargaining unit. **Such members shall have all rights, privileges and obligations of membership**, except the right to vote in Sector referenda and to participate in Sector Conferences."

TNG-CWA has traditionally and consistently over the years held that this language establishes for new unit members, still bargaining their first contract, the right to vote in local elections and on local business, but prohibits voting in national elections or on governance at the Sector Conference. TNG General Counsel concurs in this interpretation and has given similar advice in other recent Guild local elections.

Further, the local executive committee voted unanimously January 26, 2013, to accept these 200 new members, along with 50 members from CFI and 14 from media units. Members' minimum dues and per capita to the national are not determined by the local Representative Assembly. Dues are stipulated in the constitution (Article XVIII Finances, Section 2) and per capita is calculated by the national annually with notice of changes sent to locals each April.

Please let me know if you have further issues.

--

Carol Rothman
Secretary-Treasurer
The Newspaper Guild-CWA
202-434-1261 (w)
202-262-9872 (c)