

COMPLAINT PBRC024

3/9/2020 23:57:54

[email address redacted]

Steve Zeltzer

[email address redacted]

Anonymous: No

"On January 31, 2019 I went to a KPFA staff meeting to discuss the financial situation but because my door code had been canceled another staff member allowed me to come into the meeting and there was also a brief discussion of the bylaws and how to make the station more successful.

KPFA [name redacted] who is also a manager and was at the meeting asked me before the meeting started to leave the meeting and told me I was no longer a staff person and could not attend the meeting. I had been on staff list and had received an invitation to the meeting. I told him even though my show was cancelled I was still

an unpaid staff member according to the rules.

He then told me he would contact manager [name redacted]. Following this he told me that [name redacted] would be investigating my Status.

I stayed in the meeting and was able to participate.

On January 13, 2019 I received a notice that my program WorkWeek had been canceled.

From: [name redacted] <[email address redacted]@kpfa.org>

Subject: Work Week and KPFA

Date: January 13, 2020 at 11:51:36 AM PST

To: [email address redacted]@kpfa.org, Steve Zeltzer<xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx>

Mr. Zeltzer,

This email is to officially inform you that your program "Work Week" will no longer be aired on KPFA radio effective 01/13/2020. We've decided to move our 3:00 PM hour programming in a different direction and we would like to thank you for your volunteer service.

I wish you well with your future endeavors.

[name and title redacted]

"In times of crisis, unity is the only solution."

To All KPFA Staff Members,

You are invited to a KPFA Staff Meeting, Friday, January 31 from 8 to 10 PM in the KPFA Performance Studio (there is a possibility the meeting may be moved up an hour to 7 pm if the studio becomes available. Will keep everyone posted). I've organized this meeting to update the staff as to where the network stands financially so that we can collectively and constructively devise a plan to ensure the survival of the network.

There will be presentations from Chris Cory, who is the Pacifica National Board Director and Chair of the Pacifica National Finance Committee, and Christina Huggins Chair of the KPFA's Local Station Board. KPFA LSB Secretary Carol Wolfley will support response efforts of the staff and I will be helping to facilitate KPFA group meeting agreements.

KPFA has high membership, high revenue, award-winning programming across a wide range of political, social and cultural content, and the only full news department in the network. And at a time when independent media is urgently needed to address issues of climate change, racial justice, and militarized violence, many members of KPFA's Local Station Board are deeply concerned with wanting to protect KPFA and the future of the Pacifica Network.

KPFA's studio building is mortgaged and the Pacifica archives have also been used as collateral for a \$3.2 million Pacifica loan to settle a judgment for WBAI's unpaid tower rent. KPFA has been threatened with benefit cuts and lay-offs and current loan repayment plans may negatively impact KPFA operations.

This meeting is in no way intended to generate fear but rather to inform staff to bring about positive, proactive solutions. KPFA staff can have a voice and work with others to take action to protect the future of KPFA and Pacifica. I hope you can come to hear more and we will also record the meeting for those who aren't able to make it.

Thanks for all you do to help KPFA and Pacifica and helping to ensure its existence well into the future.

Sincerely,

[Name redacted],

KPFA Local Station Board Staff Member

Member of the Pacifica National Programming Committee

My code to the door was also removed by management and I was also deleted from the email list and was not informed of any further events including the upcoming discussion and debates on the bylaws.

This effort to eject me from the meeting was also an attempted act of intimidation and also a warning to other staff members not to speak out on issues such as the bylaws and actions that closed down WBAI which the manager supported and was personally involved in.

I received a notice of the bylaw election from you and was able to vote as a staff member.

I found out about the following March 2020 bylaws debates and staff meeting from other staff members.

I believe the violation of my rights as a staff member is a violation of the election procedure.

Actions:

1. I request that a notice be sent out to all staff that I am still a member of the staff and have been improperly removed from the staff list.
2. I request that I receive a door code again and be placed back on the staff email and member list.

Additional material

KPFA Business Maria Negret 1/31/20 Report To Staff On Failure to Pay Property Taxes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AhKXQZPFLk

In Solidarity,

Steve Zeltzer

WorkWeek

Unpaid Staff Member KPFA

Election Inspectors Response: There is no Fair Campaign violation identified in this complaint.