



WBAI 2015 STAFF CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4, 2015.

You may cast your ballot by returning the enclosed ballot in the mail or cast your ballot online.

VOTE ONLINE

<https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

In order for quorum to be met (25%), approximately 42 votes need to be returned. For more information about the candidates, the campaign schedule and more, visit the official campaign website at elections.pacifica.org

STAFF CANDIDATES

Mitchel Cohen
Kathryn Davis
Wuyi Jacobs

Vajra Kilgour
Bob Lederer
R. Paul Martin

Shawn Rhodes
Dani Lamar

Para leer las declaraciones de los candidatos, las instrucciones de como votar y para elegir su voto en español, visite el sitio <https://pacifica.simplyvoting.com>

DISCLAIMER: Opinions and facts in the Candidate Statements belong to the author of the statement only and should not be assumed to be true or to reflect the editorial stance or policy of the Pacifica Foundation or the opinions of its management, the Pacifica National Board, the Local Station Boards, the staff of the stations or the other listener members.

MITCHEL COHEN

Let's Get Things Done! As a contributing producer for Arts Express and former Chair of the WBAI local board, I am seeking your vote to the LSB on the "Get Things Done" ticket. Actually, there is no such slate. At this stage, we don't need factions. We need to work together to get things done. NO to proposals to sell or lease the station. NO to the breaking up of the Network. Last year, I arranged with a local organization to train some of its members, who are developmentally disabled. At WBAI, they water the plants and package premiums, around 100 per visit. Those tasks are difficult for them, and they work hard to get it right. They learn skills that many of us take for granted, and WBAI benefits from their work. These volunteers have packaged, cumulatively, over 2,500 premiums which, as you know, had been greatly backlogged. At WBAI, we often need to devise creative "work-arounds," and I've persevered in helping out my fellow staffers. Just ask "Off the Hook" or Gary Null how their premiums finally got out! The team I coordinated put politics aside and focused on doing the work.

KATHRYN DAVIS

I am running for the LSB to represent the best interests of the staff, volunteers and listeners. I have no interest in groups, philosophies, or any specific community that would benefit from my participation. My only interest is to cultivate journalistic integrity and financial sustainability for WBAI and Pacifica.

WUYI JACOBS

My name is Wuyi Jacobs. I am running for the the WBAI Local Board because I believe that media is a necessary system with processes that must rest on a solid foundation of community ownership. Today, media cannot just be about reporting, interviews, discussions, etc., rather it must be about community, shared experiences, shared ownership and extended networks for social mobility and solidarity building. I hope the following actionable ideas will help strengthen WBAI: 1. Local Autonomy for WBAI while strengthening our partnership with Pacifica National and ensuring that we meet our financial obligations past, present and future., 2. A new business model that will ensure the financial sustainability of WBAI, provide accountability and fairness to all parties involved., 3. A productive WBAI Local Board that is focused on its fiduciary responsibilities to the organization, members and listeners., 4. The establishment of a Member Council / Department to serve the community and social Agenda of members, and the provisioning of air-time set aside for listeners., 5. The establishment of Community Media Centers that will bring WBAI closer to members and listeners.

VAJRA KILGOUR

After six years of control by people who know very little about radio except that they want to run the station, WBAI is struggling as never before. Longer, more frequent membership drives fail to yield what is needed or projected, as fired listeners and staff have drifted away. It's time for a new approach: direct engagement with the staff in selecting management and in decisions about the most important room in the house - the studio - and much less premium hucksterism. I've previously served as the board chair, and was able to run difficult meetings with calm and composure. I have taught conflict resolution and will apply those skills to help transform the counterproductive dynamics of board meetings. Bob Lederer ("Health Action") is also running as a staff candidate for the board. He has been incredibly hard-working and collaborative and always diligent about defending the rights and interests of producers and all staff. Please vote for Bob as your first choice and for me as your second. I also strongly recommend Wuyi Jacobs ("AfroBeat Radio"), whose willingness to find solutions would be useful in making the board more functional. Please contact me with your thoughts at vajra.wbai@gmail.com

BOB LEDERER

All of us staff fear for WBAI's future: continual financial crises; the haphazard move to Atlantic Ave.; lack of communication by management. Staff is a crucial resource for strategizing solutions. Serving on BAI's board has been frustrating, with a dysfunctional majority hostile to staff concerns. Nonetheless, together with others, I have: Argued, before Superstorm Sandy, to move to more affordable quarters; When eviction from Empire State loomed, pushed to establish a dedicated transmitter fund, averting the crisis; Together with Mimi Rosenberg and others, coauthored a sustainability plan (<http://wbai.org/dldetail.php?doc=172>); Scrutinized station budgets, challenging unrealistic income projections and unnecessary spending; Pushed for a General Manager evaluation process, now finally starting after four years of foot-dragging; Fought the board majority (including some staff) for the full staff to elect its own staff reps to

Program Director search committees. I'll keep on. Finding a qualified permanent Program Director and Development Director are essential. The board must work with staff/management on off-air fundraising and ethical listeners-building promotion to reduce fund drives. I also support Vajra Kilgour, former board member who's consistently advocated for staff interests, and Wuyi Jacobs, a thoughtful voice for strategic planning. I welcome your feedback/suggestions: ledererbob@gmail.com

R. PAUL MARTIN

WBAI is in perilous shape. We need good Staff members elected to the LSB if we are to keep WBAI from going under, or from being sold. There are people running for the WBAI LSB, who are aligned with the people on the west coast who have made speeches about selling WBAI's license in order to solve the serious financial problems that the rest of Pacifica has been having. I will always vote against selling WBAI or leasing the station to some other entity. WBAI's serious financial problems can be attributed to the fact that we've had bad Management for many years. WBAI has not had a real Program Director since Samori Marksman died over 16 years ago. Yes, we've had people in the position as interims or permanent occupants, but they've variously been incompetent, been caught with their hands in the till, endangered the station's license with illegal activities, or just hung around for a while collecting a paycheck. If re-elected I will not vote for some crony for Program Director, I'll vote for someone whom I think will be able to actually handle the job and who will stick around long enough to do it.

SHAWN RHODES

I'm running for re-election as a Staff Delegate to the WBAI Local Station Board (LSB) so that I may continue the work of building a stronger WBAI by improving: 1) communications - vis-a-vis the Pacifica National Board, the Local Board, the Staff and the Listeners. 2) accountability and 3) transparency. During my tenure, I've posted reports regarding the work of the LSB, its committees and the PNB. I've also spoken, one on one, to many staff members seeking their input on various issues. Moreover, I've demonstrated fiscal responsibility and I've consistently voted for the interests of the Staff. Locally, I've served on the 2004, 2007-2012 LSB Radio Committee, and on the 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2012 Waivers Committee. On the National level, I've served on the 2005 PNB Programming Committee, on the 2006-2010 and 2013-2015 Affiliates Task Force, and on the 2011 and 2012 Archives Committee. When I first came to the station in the Spring of 1994 as an Arts Producer, I was taught that WBAI respects the intelligence of its listeners. Putting that in a new context, I respect the intelligence of the Staff to make wise choices in this election.

DANI LAMAR

My name is Dani, and I owe WBAI my life. I was the walking dead before I wandered into their Wall St. office on that freezing January afternoon. I thought I was looking for an internship in broadcasting – hell bent on making my mark on this industry. What I received instead was like that of a warm embrace from a loved one. I couldn't believe how vibrant the place was! You had to hug the walls because of all the exciting activity taking place. Every office had a hand full of people at all times and you could almost smell the, "midnight oil" burning. The fund drives were especially moving; replacing decades of frustration and anger with knowledge and understanding. After my first PSA aired, I remember thinking to myself, "We're in the big leagues now." Then Superstorm Sandy. Then the layoffs... I want to help WBAI return to it's greatness. I believe the most effective means of doing so is through working with the Local Station Board and Upper management. Coordinated efforts between both entities along with support from an actively engaged community will ensure Pacifica's legacy continues. The ABC's start with A-B-C. We have to revisit the basics.