

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 715, AFL-CIO
633 South Hawley Road, Suite 107, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214-1948

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CONTACT: CHRISTOPHER J. ALBRECHT, IBEW LOCAL 715 BUSINESS MANAGER,
PRESIDENT, AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY (414) 479-0580

The Milwaukee office of the National Labor Relations Board has found evidence that Journal Broadcasting Group's WTMJ-TV violated federal labor law. Because of WTMJ's ongoing illegal activity Local 715 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers will picket to inform the public of the Journal Corporation's attack on working people and to protest the corporation's illegal actions on Thursday April 30, 2009. The informational picketing will take place at the Journal printing facility at 4104 W. Burnham Street, in Milwaukee from 9:00 until 12:00 noon while inside the Journal Shareholders will be holding their annual meeting.

Local 715 is trying to negotiate a contract covering the station's broadcast engineers. Before 2008, the IBEW had successfully negotiated contract agreements with WTMJ Radio then with WTMJ-TV for more than **70** years. The Journal Corporation has thrown roadblocks in the path of those negotiations but Local 715 has argued that those obstacles put in the path of negotiations were illegal under federal labor law.

On May 23, 2008, in a union-busting tactic unprecedented in the experience of IBEW Local 715, Journal Communications—faced with continued solidarity of its employees behind their Union's efforts to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement—decided to unlawfully suspend bargaining and instead to announce what it termed the "merger" of IBEW Local 715 with employees of a different Union. The goals of Journal Communications in forcing this "merger" among two entirely different unions are to divide its workforce, to unlawfully implement its proposals to reduce the workforce, and to eliminate seniority.

IBEW Local 715 continues now in its attempt to negotiate a successor collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Union's engineering bargaining unit, which includes approximately 40 broadcast engineers who are currently employed at Journal Broadcast Group's WTMJ-TV, WTMJ-DT, WTMJ-AM and WLWK-FM stations. Prior to 2008, the IBEW has successfully negotiated contract agreements with WTMJ Radio then with WTMJ-TV for more than **70** years. Christopher Albrecht, Business Manager of Local 715, indicated, "We knew that the Company's tactics were underhanded and dishonest. Instead of trying to accomplish its goals legally, at the bargaining table, the Company had unilaterally implemented a merger of two distinct bargaining units. Its goals of driving down wages and the solidarity of its employees were very transparent. The Union and its membership, and now the Regional office of the NLRB, have rejected this stunt by Journal Communications. Our goal is simply to get our employer to abide by the law," he said. "Ultimately, we continue to seek to reach a contract that both parties can live with."

Local 715 hopes the workers of Southeastern Wisconsin will join with WTMJ-TV workers to oppose the Journal Corporation's illegal activity. The WTMJ Solidarity Committee is maintaining a web presence at www.whytrusttmj4.com which is regularly

updated with the status of our situation, in addition a YouTube video has been created and reflects the inequality between the Corporation and its Employees, view it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1RmFDqnBrM>. Community leaders and workers are standing firm against corporate greed because workers know that union jobs are good, middle-class jobs that support workers and their families. Workers are standing firm to protect their jobs and hard-earned benefits in the face of the Journal Corporation's willingness to sacrifice the quality of the product to achieve its "business objectives" of enriching a few high level managers who do not care for the community only their pocketbooks.

Workers at the Journal Corporation should not tolerate the Company's bad faith bargaining and unfair labor practices. Local 715 will not sit by and let the Journal Corporation destroy seven decades of progress and destroy the lives of working families to fund its corporate greed.

More information and copies of the Settlement Agreement between the Milwaukee office of the National Labor Relations Board and Journal Broadcasting are available from IBEW Local 715, AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 107, Milwaukee, WI 53214-1948, or at www.whytrusttmj4.com and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1RmFDqnBrM>.

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