

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 715, AFL-CIO
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2009

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The Milwaukee office of the National Labor Relations Board has previously found evidence of Journal Broadcasting Group's WTMJ-TV in violation of 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. The informational picketing will take place on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the Journal-Sentinel Building at 433 West State Street in Downtown Milwaukee from 9:00 until 5:00 p.m.

Local 715 is trying to negotiate a contract covering the station's broadcast engineers even though The Journal Corporation has thrown roadblocks in the path of those negotiations but Local 715 has argued that those obstacles are illegal under federal labor law.

On September 28, 2009, 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 illegally implement their final offer. The goals of Journal Communications in the implementation, has been to force its reductions in the workforce, wages and to eliminate seniority on its unionized employees.

IBEW Local 715 continues in its attempt to negotiate a successor collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Union's engineering bargaining unit, which includes approximately 30 broadcast engineers who are currently employed at Journal Broadcast Group's WTMJ-TV, WTMJ-AM and WLWK-FM stations. Prior to 2007, 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 has illegally implemented a final offer. Its goals of driving down wages and the solidarity of its employees were very transparent. The Union and its membership have rejected this stunt by Journal Communications. Our goal is simply to get our employer to abide by the law," he said. "Ultimately, we will 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. 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 National Labor Relations Board charges against 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.

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