

From Staff Announcements

Subject Fwd: Pacifica update

To the staffers at KPFA and KPFK,

PNB Chair and Pacifica iED Margy Wilkinson has sent the below email to address questions some of you may have.

Regards,
Richard Pirodsky, iGM
KPFA & KPFK Pacifica Foundation Radio

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Margy Wilkinson
Date: Sat, Mar 15, 2014 at 6:08 PM
Subject: Pacifica update
To: Richard Pirodsky Michelle Price-Johnson
Brian DeShazor Duane Bradley berthold@wbai.org

Hi folks:

I'm writing to give a quick re-cap of where we're at. Feel free to share this with your staff if you feel it will help settle any confusion.

Last Thursday night, the PNB voted to not continue Summer Reese's employment with Pacifica. I know this is jarring, and I apologize that I can't be forthcoming about the circumstances. It is very risky legally for an employer to get into a public discussion about individual employees, and in this case, the board is the employer.

On Thursday's call the Board did not appoint an Interim Executive Director before its meeting ran out of time. Per California Law, that means the powers of the Executive Director default to me as chair.

I think it is a generally bad practice for Pacifica's board to move its own members into management positions. I am not interested in a job at Pacifica, and I have asked the board to take up the matter of appointing an Interim Executive Director who is qualified for the job as soon as possible. Until the board does, I will not accept any pay for performing duties associated with that job. Mostly, however, we'll be relying on you to keep things running.

As you know, we are a network in crisis: we have several stations facing large deficits and ailing transmitters, and we have not received any funding from the CPB for a year and a half.

On the CPB front: national office staff have submitted all required documents for our most recent filing deadline, which was March 15th. Special thanks go to Tamika Miller for making sure that happened. Because of past CPB rule compliance issues, however, my understanding is that the earliest we will see any money from CPB is May 2014.

Beyond that, I want us to focus on fixing the problem most immediately within our control: the health of our FM transmitters. Operating at diminished power means reaching fewer listeners, which means leaving money on the table during fund drives. If your station is having transmitter problems, I want to know the estimated pricetag and timeline for fixing them--up to and including a full transmitter replacement. If the best option is not within your station's current capacity to pay, we will work with the rest of the network, and the board, to find or raise the money you need.

Thank you all for your hard work keeping this important network afloat.
Margy Wilkinson
Chair, Pacifica National Board