

# **FOLLOW UP TO APRIL 6th FORUM**

## **Crisis at KPFA & Pacifica**

**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00–6:00 pm**

### **Again at North Berkeley Senior Center**

1901 Hearst Avenue at Martin Luther King Way, across from KPFA.  
close to Berkeley BART. AC Transit buses 15, 43, 51

- **Recent elections corrupted & sabotaged**
- **Interim Management consolidates power & extends regime; downgrades elected station board, Program Council & volunteer staff organization; gags staff forum and stalls General Manager selection**
- **Pacifica finances falter, fundraising replaces free speech & peace mission**
- **Other community radio programming & staff issues** (more on other side→)

**What happened to democracy, transparency & accountability?  
IS IT TIME TO TAKE BACK KPFA (AGAIN)?**

**Come to this FORUM to hear and discuss  
NEWS & VIEWS OF THE KPFA/PACIFICA CRISIS.**

**We had a great Forum on Sunday April 6 – 100 people attended  
*Let's continue working toward solutions!***

If you attended the first forum, help continue the work started in your group.  
If you didn't make it, come this time!

**Speakers to be announced – 3 speakers will cover:**

**The derecognition of the Unpaid Staff bargaining committee (UPOC)**

**The downgrading of the Program Council to "advisory" only**

**The use of "confidentiality" to hide power abuse within the network**

**Previous forum speakers were:** LaVarn Williams, Richard Phelps, Steve Zeltzer, Les Radke, Maria Gilardin, Anthony Fest, Lisa Dettmer **Moderators:** Tracy Rosenberg, Stan Woods

**Small group strategizing/proposals for actions/Your questions and input**

Small groups were/are: Programming, Governance (including Program Council),  
Finances, Elections

**FREE/donations accepted \*FOOD available \*Wheelchair accessible**

More information available at [fair\\_elections@yahoo.com](mailto:fair_elections@yahoo.com)

& <http://peoplesradio.net>

**Event Sponsored and Endorsed by:** KPFA Fair Elections Committee, Coalition for a democratic Pacifica (CdP), Peoples Radio, Voices for Justice, the Media Alliance, Peace & Freedom Party of Alameda County, SF Green Party, TUC Radio, May 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition of SF  
Current and former KPFA Station Board members: Tracy Rosenberg, Sureya Sayadi, Akio Tanaka, Henry Norr, Richard Phelps, Stan Woods, LaVarn Williams, Maria Gilardin, Anthony Fest, Attila Nagy, Gerald Sanders

## **Highlights of Pacifica/KPFA Crisis**

- Former election supervisor Les Radke called the recent board election the worst he's seen in bylaws and fair elections violations.
- Pacifica interim Executive Director (iED) Dan Siegel illegally advised listeners not to vote for one KPFA candidate slate; a popular programmer used station facilities to lobby for the pro-management slate; he and management ignored the election supervisors' remedies for this violation; management blocked and censored timely candidate information on the air and website.
- The interim General Manager Lemlem Rijio decertified the Unpaid Staff Organization, right before the Board election, compromising the volunteer staff voting list.
- Shared program decision making declared irrelevant: The Interim Program Director (iPD) Sasha Lilley reduced the Program Council (PC) to advisory status, selected new programs without PC evaluation and input; hired then summarily fired a program host, ignoring the PC and alternative suggestions.
- Pacifica's New York station is unable to fulfill its fund drives, is heavily and increasingly in debt, and is drawing funds from KPFA and the other stations to meet its expenses, potentially threatening the entire foundation.
- Yet the iED blocked Directors from examining the books, violating the Bylaws and state law, although a previous protracted struggle had re-affirmed Directors' inspection right.
- The KPFA General Manager Search Committee & Local Station Board, after two years of work found and recommended only a single available but eminently qualified candidate, but is now required by the interim Executive Director to begin a second search – thereby extending KPFA's unpopular interim management.
- \* The Gag Rule is back – the March 21 forum by staff, community organizers and media activists was prevented from being broadcast, at the last minute, by management, which also forbade them to speak about it.
- KPFA membership has declined as volunteer, community based public affairs and arts programming and the Folio have been replaced by "Healthy Station" NPR model program grid of "professional" sound and 65% music.

**This is just a sampling of recent problems** – which taken together point to an ongoing attempt to circumvent the democratic governance hard-won after the attempted 1990's takeover by forces hostile to the mission of progressive community radio.

*The bylaws and democratic institutions of the network are all under attack by the current administration, and power cliques at the stations are not being controlled in the interests of democracy, transparency, and accountability.*

**We need to stop this trend and reclaim our station and network again, as we did before. You can help!**