

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 715, AFL-CIO
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The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 715, AFL-CIO, is incredibly disappointed in what it perceives as Journal Communications' blatant attempts to discourage employees from supporting its duly elected Union through unilateral changes to terms and conditions of employment at a time that good faith negotiations are required by federal labor law.

IBEW Local 715 is currently negotiating a successor collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Union's Engineering bargaining unit, which includes 44 broadcast engineers who are currently employed at Journal Broadcast Group's WTMJ-TV, WTMJ-DT, WTMJ-AM and WKTI-FM stations. Prior to this year, the IBEW has successfully negotiated contract agreements with WTMJ Radio then with WTMJ-TV for more than **70** years.

On April 29, 2008, at the same time that the Journal was informing the Union of the need to drastically reduce the workforce, the Employer posted for Engineering jobs in Milwaukee. This Company decision, coupled with the Employer's unilateral implementation of portions of its bargaining proposal, resulted in the filing of an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board on May 9, 2008.

Christopher Albrecht, Business Manager of Local 715, indicated, "The Company's tactics are reprehensible. The Union will stand behind its embattled membership and stand with an outraged citizenry. The people of Milwaukee won't tolerate these heavy-handed and ill-founded antics." The NLRB Regional office in Milwaukee has begun to conduct an intensive investigation of the Journal's actions.

The reaction of the Milwaukee Metropolitan area is expected to mirror the steadfast reaction from the workers of the Journal Company. Community leaders and workers are taking a stand because they know that union jobs are good, middle-class jobs that support workers and families. Workers are taking a stand because they are concerned about their jobs and the Company's apparent willingness to sacrifice the quality of the product to achieve its "business objectives".

The employees at the Journal need not tolerate bad faith bargaining and unfair labor practices from the Journal. The Union has successfully negotiated contracts with the Journal for seven decades. Whether through the simple step of voluntary settlement of the collective bargaining agreement, or by NLRB or court order, the employees' voice will not be silenced.

More information and copies of the unfair labor practice charge are available from IBEW Local 715, AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 107, Milwaukee, WI 53214-1948