

ADOPTED 6-21-23

Pacifica National Elections Committee Meeting, 8:30 EST, Tuesday, June 7, 2023

MINUTES

Convened: Convened at 8:45 pm, EST by the Committee Chair Akio Tanaka.

Attendees: The Secretary called the roll and confirmed quorum with the following committee members present: Teresa Allen, Violetta Diamond, Jack De Palma, Vanessa Dixon Briggs, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Evelia Jones, Lily Kimura, Sean Kelly McPherson, Myla Reson, Shawn Rhodes, Minerva Sanders, Akio Tanaka, Carol Wolfley, Susan Young. There were no absences. Pacific ED Stephanie Wells and Director James Sagurton also attended. Director Beth Von Gunten is making a fair campaign complaint in that she tried to attend but the zoom link posting on kpftx was incorrect. Otis Mac Clay streamed the meeting. Myla Reson also recorded the meeting.

Agenda: Myla Reson moved to adopt the agenda as drafted. No objection.

Minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting: Secretary Susan Young moved approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2023 Committee meeting. No objection.

Report by and Conversation with Pacifica ED: Note that the newly appointed NES Renee Penalosa assisted by Craig Dunkerly were invited to attend but had conflicts and were unable to do so. They will be invited to attend a special meeting called for 8:30 EST, Wednesday, June 21, 2023 (zoom). The ED advised that she will fully communicate the Committee's recommendations and concerns to the NES.

ED Stephanie Wells reported that Renee Penelosa was hired to be the NES as of May 22, 2023, and the ED will forward the NES agreement and election budget of \$72,215 to the committee. She noted that donors have provided the first installment as of May 23. The second installment is to be made July 28 and the third September 19. The full budget amount has not yet been raised, and the Elections Committee is encouraged to assist in the fundraising effort. The identity of major donors supporting the election was requested, and the ED will confer with them about whether they are willing to have their names released publicly.

The ED reviewed the timeline and steps currently underway including PSA development, updating membership lists, updating the national elections web site. There was extensive discussion around member lists, the ED clarifying that the Constant Contact list is not the member list, but that an estimate of the costs to renew Constant Contact for this year's election was based on the fee last year for 80,000 members. Clarifications were made that the current number of members is undoubtedly lower than 80,000 and that confirming accurate lists is a top priority. A request was made to publish the staff lists so that there is full transparency regarding who is on the lists.

Questions and concerns were raised about possible formation of a public forum working group, and the ED said she would follow up on this matter with the NES and report back to the committee. Recommendations were made to have clear information about the election and links to the national web site prominently displayed on all station websites, possibly in similar or same format, with Berkeley noted as having an excellent display.

Motion to require/encourage NES to hire LESs: motion by Eleanor Elizabeth Forman failed. 1 Yes, 2 Abst, 11 No.

Whereas the Bylaws state: Article Four, Delegates, Section 4: Election Supervisors

B. Local Election Supervisors

In preparation for an election of Delegates, the National Elections Supervisor shall appoint, subject to approval of the Executive Director, a local election supervisor for each Foundation radio station area. A local elections supervisor may not be an employee of the Foundation or any Foundation Radio station or a Delegate, Officer, or Director of the Foundation or any LSB, or a radio station staff member, paid or unpaid. The local elections supervisors preferably should be experienced with election procedures and supervision. Under the direction and supervision of the National Elections Supervisor, each local election supervisor shall coordinate the elections of the Delegates for the radio station area to which s/he is assigned to ensure a fair election in compliance with the terms of these Bylaws. His/her duties shall include preparing a nomination petition form for use by all nominees, reviewing each potential candidate's nomination papers for eligibility and completeness, overseeing the preparation and distribution of the election ballot, closing the election, and counting and assisting with ballot counting as requested. To assist him/her in the conduct and oversight of the election, each local elections supervisory may appoint a committee of volunteer Members, all of which volunteer Members the local elections supervisor must, in good faith and in his/her sole discretion, believe to be neutral individuals. Said committee shall consist of that number of volunteers the local elections supervisory deems necessary. The local elections supervisors do not have to be Members of the Foundation. Upon the completion of, and certification of the results for, the elections s/he supervised, each local elections supervisor's term shall end.

And whereas we wish to follow the Bylaws so as not to generate any more lawsuits about the violations thereof,

Therefore, be it resolved that the NES appoint an LES for each station as stipulated in the Bylaws.

Motion regarding access to member lists: motion by Eleanor Elizabeth Forman failed. 1 Yes, 2 Abst, 11 No.

Whereas there have been many previous violations of the third-party mailing house rules for distribution of campaign materials to Pacifica members during elections, and

Whereas the evidence abounds about the corrupting influence of corporate and dark money in the governmental elections,

Therefore, be it resolved that the following procedures be encouraged to be mandated for communication with members by candidates or slates of candidates during delegate elections, or by advocates for or opponents of other measures that may be placed for a vote by Pacifica members during the campaign period, under the general rubric of "money out of Pacifica politics," so that candidates or slates are not unfairly advantaged or disadvantaged by financial resources, and so that members are not inundated by materials that might result in violations of their privacy or Pacifica's proprietary interest in its own membership list, and

Therefore, all communications with members regarding Pacifica elections shall take place through a single physical mailing piece, and through consolidated monthly email messages, sent by the National Elections Supervisor, to which candidates or slates of candidates may submit material for inclusion that will be vetted to insure that no violations of fair campaign practices, efforts to obtain independent access to Pacifica's mailing list, or solicitation of funds for anything but the Pacifica Foundation and its stations or other units, is included. The judgment of the NES on such matters is final. An appropriate period prior to specified mailing dates of the physical mailer and the electronic mail messages will be established in order for candidates and slates to submit their materials in a manner timely for review and inclusion.

Motion to extend the nominations period by one week: motion made by Myla Reson. No objection.

The Pacifica National Board Elections Committee recommends that the National Elections Supervisor extend by one week the date by which local station board candidates must submit completed nominations packets.

Next meeting date: special/meeting 8:30 pm EST, Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The ED will invite the NES team.

Motion to adjourn: Moved by Susan Young, no objection. Adjourned at 10 pm.

Motion: Susan Young moved that the committee recommends that the ED initiate preliminary tasks that would be undertaken by the NES until the NES can be engaged so that the rest of the steps may proceed. 12 yes, 1 abstain, 1 no, 1 did not vote.

Report on Preparations: ED Stephanie Wells reported on steps management is taking to assemble correct membership and staff lists and an anticipated timeline for the election (appended to these minutes).

Motion to Adjourn: Susan Young moved to adjourn the meeting. There were objections. 11 yes, 2 no, 2 not voting. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm EST.