



PRESS RELEASE
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Contact: Jay Strell
Sunshine Sachs
strell@sunshinesachs.com
212.691.2800

NBCU WRITERS TELL CEO STEPHEN BURKE TO COUNT THE VOTES

New York-- Writers from more than twenty of the most popular shows on the NBC and USA networks have written to Comcast/NBCU CEO Stephen Burke urging him to respect the results of a recent representation election at NBCU-owned Peacock Productions. Peacock produces nonfiction programming for basic cable networks such as shows like *Caught on Camera* or *Skywire Live with Nik Wallenda*. The Writers Guild of America, East has been actively organizing writer-producers in this part of the television industry for several years. The letter was signed by writers from *Saturday Night Live*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, *30 Rock*, *Community*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order Special Victims Unit*, *Law & Order Criminal Intent*, *Parks and Recreation*, *Smash*, *Do No Harm*, *1600 Penn*, *Royal Pains*, *Passions*, *The Cosby Show*, , *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Philanthropist*, *The West Wing*, *New Year's Eve with Carson Daly*, *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip*, and *Monk*.

NBC Universal employees at Peacock have been working to organize a union for more than a year, but their efforts have been stalled by NBCU's legal maneuvering to prevent the writer-producers from exercising their rights under the National Labor Relations Act.

NBCU attorneys assert that fully half the employees in the proposed bargaining unit at Peacock are "supervisors" who are not entitled to any protection under the NLRA. After a lengthy hearing and extensive briefing, the NLRB Regional Director disagreed and directed a secret-ballot election, which took place in June. Now NBCU has successfully had those ballots impounded, pending an appeal.

The WGAE asks that the company drop its appeal in order to allow the ballots to be counted and, if a majority has voted in favor of union representation, commence negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement.

“We are mystified by NBCU’s refusal to honor the results of the NLRB election,” said WGAE Executive Director Lowell Peterson. “The company employs a lot of Guild members and, as the letter we delivered to the CEO makes clear, those members don’t think their colleagues should have fewer rights and lesser conditions.”

The WGAE has been actively organizing writer-producers in nonfiction television since 2009. Nonfiction television has boomed in recent years by creating low-cost, highly profitable programming that relies on low wages, smaller crews and longer work schedules by freelance employees with no health care. Well over one thousand skilled creative professionals work in this field in the New York area alone. The WGAE has been working with writer-producers and production companies to help define and enforce industry-wide standards that can allow for these professionals to build long-term, stable and secure careers.

Writers Guild of America, East

The Writers Guild of America, East, AFL-CIO (WGAE) is a labor union representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news. The Guild negotiates and administers contracts that protect the creative and economic rights of its members; conducts programs, seminars, and events on issues of interest to writers; and presents writers’ views to various bodies of government. For more information on the Writers Guild of America, East, visit www.wgaeast.org.