



Dear Current and Former Original Media Producers and APs,

Congratulations! The NLRB has set a date for the WGA election. You're now one step closer to enjoying the privilege, for the first time ever at Original Media, of negotiating and approving the terms of the employment agreement for freelance producers and APs. And all of us are one step closer to reaching our goal of an industry-wide union for freelancers in nonfiction TV.

We are a volunteer committee of producers and APs from companies all over the New York area who have worked with the WGA for months, some of us for years, to help build this campaign and make this vision of a unionized industry a reality. Some of us are new to the industry, some of us have worked in it our entire lives. All of us believe that unless something changes the direction the industry is headed in, our work as full-time freelance producers and APs will get harder, our hours longer, our schedules shorter, our rates lower, and our burnout date closer.

We believe that organizing with the WGA is the change we need. We believe that having industry-wide standard minimum rates that everyone knows, portable employer-paid health insurance that follows us from job to job, and some common sense rules about hours and health and safety are good first-steps that are within the realm of possible worlds if we get the production companies to negotiate with us. Looking even further down the road we envision things like pensions, residuals, and rates of pay that will make it possible to have long, productive careers in this industry.

What does this have to do with Original Media? Everything. Winning this vote at Original adds another major company to our ranks and will help build on the momentum we have created at other companies. This isn't about bad companies that deserve unions and good companies that don't – it's about an industry that is untenable for the freelancers that make it work, and about those freelancers having a say in the direction of their own professional lives by negotiating together with the huge media conglomerates that currently call the shots. It's about freelancers from every company working together to share best practices and big ideas about how this industry could work better for them, fixing what doesn't work and solidifying what does.

Original Media may tell you that unionization will hurt their company, or that it will somehow have a negative effect on your career. If you have any questions about anything Original tells you, please reach out to us. We are producers and APs, just like you, and we've been exactly where you're at right now. We can tell you about what we experienced when we unionized our production companies, and about what our companies said to us to convince us to vote no – and how none of it came true!

You can reach us at nonfictionorganizing@gmail.com. We will keep our conversation confidential. Again, congratulations, and we look forward to working together to help you negotiate the best possible union contract at Original Media!

Sincerely,
The NYC Nonfiction Producers and APs Organizing Committee

Election Details: For those of you currently working at Original Media, you will vote at work on June 26th. For those of you who are not currently working at Original, you will vote by mail, and those ballots will go out on June 20th. Everyone who has worked at Original in the past 52 weeks will be eligible to vote. If you have any questions about your eligibility or the details of the election, you can get in touch with the WGA at 212-767-7822 or at organizing@wgaeast.org