

As someone who has raised millions for KPFFK in the increasing numbers of fund drives we have had to inflict on our diminishing audience, I ask myself "what happens to the money we raise" and I get no answer. Surely KPFFK's listeners are equally puzzled.

Now we are told there is no money in KPFFK's bank account and that we have to raise \$650,000 for KPFFK by the end of next month. This contradicts the happy talk the Pacifica Foundation sends out to listeners with no explanation for how they will repay the \$3.1 million loan they got an extension on, and no mention of what happened to the \$2.4 million they got from the government from the PPP stimulus. And while we can point to the management at WBAI in New York for being responsible for the \$3.1 million loan Pacifica appears unable to pay back, it is criminal to have had Los Angeles listeners subsidize WBAI losses for many years instead of investing in better serving the Los Angeles community.

But rewarding failure and supporting incompetent and unqualified managers has been the MO of the Pacifica National Board (PNB) whether it is run by the leader of the wannabe revolutionary faction or the conspiracy/quackery faction, both of whom have alternated in running Pacifica into the ground over the past two decades while controlling the PNB.

After firing professional managers, they then install themselves as interim Executive Directors of the Foundation and clearly they are the most responsible, along with WBAI, for dragging the Pacifica network down to the brink of bankruptcy.

Instead of accepting responsibility, they are quick to call any reform attempt a "coup" and resort to the tired lies of a "corporate takeover" and the racist trope of "white elitism" but the record is clear, they have turned Pacifica into a political organization primarily concerned with its own internal politics instead of being a radio network that serves under-served communities.

These perennial Pacificans on the boards who serve themselves and not our listener/donors, appear to have one financial plan, which is when you run out of money, you just do another fund drive. They also have created a patronage system of votes for favors that reward failure with generous salaries like the WBAI GM who does not pay the bills as he runs the station and the network deeper into the red.

Now in a desperate last-ditch effort to stem the tide of red ink, the PNB are punishing success by getting rid of KPFFK's only popular programs on KPFFK, firing Roy of Hollywood, having Sonali take a leave, and of course going after me.

While we are told the 2019 and 2020 audits will now take place, the dire financial condition eventually cannot be denied and the inability of the boards to raise funds has to be faced. At some point perhaps there might be an audit either by the California Attorney General's Charity Division, the FCC, the CPB, or as a result of lawsuits against the former heads of the PNB, and maybe then we will find out what has been happening to your donations but that will be a day late and many dollars short.

In the meantime, the only hope to right the sinking ship is to vote in favor of New Day Pacifica to bring in the necessary basic reforms which hopefully will not come too late.

The future of Pacifica, including Background Briefing, will take place in June. If you have donated \$25 or more to KPFFK between April 7, 2020 & 2021 you will be eligible to vote. Vote, so that you can have a say in the survival of Pacifica, and thus, this and your other favorite shows.

Cheers,

Ian Masters