



Press Release

PRESS RELEASE 1 – FRIDAY MORNING

Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Miami Herald union work stoppage on Friday, April 1

## **MIAMI HERALD & BRADENTON JOURNALISTS WALK OUT AFTER TWO YEARS OF UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

Florida journalists are leading the charge for McClatchy papers across the country by holding a one-day work stoppage to demand a fair union contract.

MIAMI — Journalists from the Miami Herald, el Nuevo Herald and the Bradenton Herald are participating in a one-day work stoppage on Friday, April 1, 2022, to demand a fair contract and that McClatchy, the newspapers' parent company, follow labor laws and respect unionized journalists across the country.

“For more than two years, journalists at McClatchy’s three Florida newspapers have worked to continue to produce quality journalism through crisis and conflict, as the company has refused to complete a fair contract, repeatedly asking its staff to do more with less,” said Mary Ellen Klas, co-unit chair for One Herald Guild.

Two years after Herald journalists in Miami voted to form the One Herald Guild union, McClatchy is still refusing to address basic issues like pay equity between English and Spanish-language journalists, experience-based salary floors, protections against outsourcing and improvements to our retirement plan, and to respect wage and hour laws and the National Labor Relations Act. Bradenton journalists voted in May 2020 to form the Bradenton Herald NewsGuild, and have since worked side by side with Miami colleagues.

The Heralds cover one of McClatchy’s largest markets, and these unionized Florida journalists have helped lead McClatchy papers across the country to fight for industry-standard benefits. Benefits that One Herald Guild and the Bradenton Herald NewsGuild have fought for have been offered to non-union workers, but have been withheld from unionized workers across the local news chain. These unfairly withheld benefits include paid parental leave, minimum salaries and mileage reimbursement at the IRS standard rate.

Colleagues in Idaho, Texas, Washington, and the Carolinas will stand in support of improved working conditions and demand that McClatchy agree to fair contracts. Across the country, unionized McClatchy journalists want fair wages and reasonable protections from outsourcing.

“McClatchy has made it painfully clear it would rather hurt its own employees rather than bargain in good faith with their unions. The time for sleazy union-busting games is over,” said Michael Lycklama, a steward and sportswriter in the Idaho NewsGuild, which represents journalists at the Idaho Statesman. “We are here. We will not be brushed aside. And we demand a fair contract that lives up to the value McClatchy continually says we create for the company.”

Though stopping work for one day is difficult for journalists who care deeply about their work and their communities, One Herald Guild and The Bradenton Herald NewsGuild feel it is necessary in order to secure a better future for journalists across the company and ensure that we can continue to produce the quality journalism our communities depend on.

We are asking community members to support us by donating to a GoFundMe to cover any pay the company withholds as a result of our walkout. We also invite supporters and members of the media to join us at 12 pm at the Torch of Friendship, where Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald journalists will address the media and be available to answer questions.

WHEN: Friday, April 1, 2022, 12 pm

WHERE: Torch of Friendship, 301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33131

WHO: Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald journalists, supporters and media

Please RSVP to [contact@oneheraldguild.org](mailto:contact@oneheraldguild.org)

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About One Herald Guild and the Bradenton Herald NewsGuild.

One Herald Guild comprises editorial employees of el Nuevo Herald and the Miami Herald Workers voted in Nov. 2019 to join The NewsGuild, a sector of the Communications Workers of America. Journalists at The Bradenton Herald, serving Manatee County on Florida’s west coast, voted to join TNG-CWA in May, 2020. We are members of Local 3108, TNG-CWA.