

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH BEND, Indiana — The newsroom staff of the [South Bend Tribune](#) voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to form a union, becoming the fourth unionized newsroom staff in Indiana.

The Tribune newsroom staff voted 23-3 in favor of affiliation with [The NewsGuild-CWA](#), which will assist the South Bend NewsGuild as it works to negotiate its first labor contract with The Tribune's owner, Gannett.

"In the last several months, it became clear that many in our newsroom sought a voice in the future of the South Bend Tribune," said Tyler James, a Tribune sports reporter since 2012. "With today's union vote, the staff made its voice heard. We will continue to work together in negotiating a contract that addresses our concerns."

Since signing cards and announcing intentions to organize three weeks ago, communication between local management and newsroom employees has remained open and respectful. The South Bend NewsGuild looks forward to maintaining the civil working relationship, James said.

The South Bend NewsGuild will represent about 30 newsroom workers and be a part of the ever-growing NewsGuild-CWA. The South Bend Tribune is the third newsroom to win union recognition under Gannett ownership in recent months following The Arizona Republic and Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader.

Gannett and GateHouse Media, which purchased the South Bend Tribune from long-time, local owner Schurz Communications in January 2019, merged in November.

The South Bend Tribune serves six counties in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan and will become the fourth active newspaper union in the Hoosier state, in addition to the Indianapolis Star, Terre Haute Tribune-Star and Gary Post-Tribune.

Members of the South Bend Tribune newsroom who voted in favor to unionize say they are taking this step to preserve the vital role The Tribune plays in telling the stories of the communities they serve.

"Forming this union has been a long process with careful thought and deliberation from our staff. We know a union won't fix every problem, but it will give us a voice in our employment where our main goal is informing our community," said Michael Caterina, Tribune photographer since 2016. "This union is us, we are the reporters, photographer, designers and editors that bring Michiana the highest quality news we can. This union will give us, the people that live here, a seat at the table when it comes to our employment."

Meet people behind the South Bend NewsGuild:

Interviews with key leaders from the South Bend Tribune newsroom staff can be arranged by contacting Justin Hawkins at 812-797-7345 or sbnewsguild@gmail.com. Hawkins also can arrange interviews with Jon Schleuss, president of The NewsGuild-CWA in Washington, D.C.

Connect with us:

The NewsGuild organizing campaign at the South Bend Tribune can be followed on the campaign's website at www.southbendnewsguild.com or on Twitter at [@sbnewsguild](https://twitter.com/sbnewsguild) (#ProtectTheTribune).

Mission Statement:

The South Bend NewsGuild seeks to preserve the South Bend Tribune as an independent, nonpartisan source of news and entertainment for our community, one that holds the powerful accountable, gives voice to the voiceless, and shares the stories that bind the community together. We are motivated not by any unhappiness with local management, but by the desire to strengthen our organization through collective action and support.

The union is us. Through collective action and democratic function, we fight most effectively for our common interests: dignified working conditions, ethical practices in our work, and resources that are adequate to carry out this critical mission.

About The NewsGuild-CWA:

The NewsGuild-CWA represents more than 20,000 journalists and other media workers in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico at publications and digital sites that include The New York Times, The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Indianapolis Star and Consumer Reports. Formerly known as The Newspaper Guild, the union was founded by journalists in 1933. The Guild merged with the 700,000-member Communications Workers of America in 1995.