

TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Twin Cities Public Television Thanks Unions for Voluntarily Wage Roll Back *IBEW and NABET members overwhelmingly support measure*

ST. PAUL— Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) is pleased to announce that the employees in both of the company's unions have voluntarily agreed to roll back their wages in support of *tpt*'s efforts to address the current economic climate.

Twin Cities Public Television has two unions, NABET and IBEW; *tpt*'s contracts with those unions gave union employees a pay raise in September of 2008. In December, *tpt* enacted a station-wide salary freeze; however that did not impact union employees.

Following the salary freeze, the leadership and the members of the union stepped forward to offer to participate as well, and just recently officially notified *tpt* that they have voted to roll back their wages to the pre-September levels.

Harry Ressler, Union Steward for IBEW Local 292, says, "While it is not an easy decision for any employee to agree to a pay cut, our members felt it was important to act in solidarity with our co-workers and with management – who lead by example – and to share in their sacrifice.

NABET Local 411 President Richard Bowring agrees, "The Members of NABET Local 411 are proud to join with the management and staff of Twin Cities Public Television to help solve our tough economic times. We consider *tpt* part of our family and like families we stick together and we are proud to be part of the solution. "

Jim Pagliarini, CEO and President of *tpt* says, "I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in IBEW and NABET, and to the leaders of those unions on our staff. This is a remarkable decision which demonstrates the extraordinary team spirit among our staff and which will allow *tpt* to better navigate the current economic turmoil we all face."

ABOUT *tpt*

The mission of Twin Cities Public Television is to "harness the power of television and other media for the public good." A not-for-profit educational, civic, and cultural resource, *tpt* presents original television productions for national and state broadcast. Productions include the

DragonflyTV science series for kids; the Emmy Award-winning *Benjamin Franklin*; the Emmy-winning *The Forgetting: A Portrait of Alzheimer's*; our new DIY series *Make.*; the popular public affairs program *Almanac*, and the innovative Minnesota Channel, which magnifies the impact of Minnesota's finest public service organizations using the power of television.

One of the most watched PBS affiliates in the nation, *tpt* is based in St. Paul and operates channels *tpt 2*, *tpt LIFE*, *tpt MN*, and *tpt WX* . The organization is also developing and distributing online content via www.tpt.org and www.mnvideovault.org , as well as through YouTube, Yahoo Podcasts and other distribution channels.