

Stefan S. Neustadter Candidate Statement

I am a 67 year old white male, third generation Russian Jewish Heritage. I purposely use the word heritage, in that the inborn experience of a historic minority in Eastern Europe has guided my life and professional career.

I began working in the retail field and moved to sales on the wholesale level. I married with a growing family went to graduate school for Social Work Adelphi University. In the process of improving my craft over the years, I trained in the analytic process in New York City.

The last 30+ years I have been with the Veterans Administration working in acute psychiatry, substance abuse and doing cutting edge work with homeless veterans, their families and communities ranging from NYC to Newark. This work has encompassed hands on and long range planning activities.

I am married to Ruth Neustadter. She taught Special Education in a Newark NJ high school. She is an accomplished and inspired artist and is the New Jersey Reporter on WBAI's Wake Up Call Thursday mornings.

We were active in combating the coup and thereby, reclaiming the Station for our listeners. My wife and I raised significant funds for WBAI in New Jersey. I have an extensive collection of photos documenting the process and would welcome sharing them.

WBAI is in an ongoing crisis mode. I see this keyed to conflicting station definitions and thereby, its funding processes. How do we maintain WBAI's singular and irreplaceable voice locally and nationally and not by default, go the way of the coup? Our day to day issues and the implications of the aborted take-over go hand in hand.

As your newly elected LSB member, I'll bring 30+ years of dealing in contentious areas. I'll listen to all viewpoints and in concert with the board preserve and grow the WBAI activist tradition into the limitless future.

Over the last few years we have lost listeners and not met fundraising goals. It is my hope, working with the board and staff (voluntary and paid) to explore funding and programming options. This must be a collective effort.

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