

**Draft Minutes WBAI LSB Meeting in public session 7 pm ET, Wednesday, 8-9-23**

Attending: Rachel Barr, Doc Shya Bey, John Brinkley, Jack De Palma, Jim Dingeman, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Dee Dee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallman, R. Paul Martin, Basir MChawi, Katherine O'Sullivan, Hazel Pinder, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael D.D. White

Absent: Scottye Battle, Priscilla Cancar, Jack DeVine, Bounubti Kamentou, Shawn Rhodes, Andre Ward

Also present: Berthold Reimers, Linda Perry, Kay Williams

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**Final Agenda WBAI Local Station Board ("LSB")**

**7:00 PM, Wednesday, August 9, 2023 Remote Participation Regular Monthly Meeting Via Zoom**

1. Convene meeting- (Ask for recording of the meeting to be started and confirm designated time keeper. Note how chat is to be used.)
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences -(5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: July 12, 2023 and July 26, 2023 Meetings (5 minutes)
6. General Manager's Report. (15 Minutes report 15 minutes discussion) - Berthold Reimers
7. Programming Updates. (5 minutes report, 5 minutes Q&A) - Linda Perry
8. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including election updates. (7 minutes & 5 minutes discussion) - Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Jim Dingeman.
9. Treasurer's Report. - (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - R. Paul Martin
10. Management Evaluation Committee Report and Request to LSB Members to Furnish Assessments. (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White.
11. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) - Neale Vos
12. Resolution Reflecting Proposal Generated by LSB Outreach and Fundraising Taskforce Re Fund Raising Data Allocations to Programs. (10 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) - Jim Dingeman
13. Discussion, Possible Action To be Taken, Resolution: Persecution and Assassination of Journalists (e.g., Julian Assange) With Multiple WBAI Journalists Now on Ukrainian Government Endorsed Kill List Promoted by US w/ Taxpayer Dollars Including NATO hosting and CIA backing. (15 minutes) -Michael D. D. White.
14. Resolution regarding functionality of email address for public to contact members of the LSB. (10 Minutes) - Eleanor Elizabeth Forman
15. Resolution To Set Up a Process Whereby the LSB Will, on a Case-by-Case Basis, Between Now and June 30, 2023, Act to Grant By-law Hardship Waivers to Certain Listeners Allowing Them to Vote in WBAI Elections Without Donating the Otherwise Required \$25 or Volunteer Work Minimum. (8 Minutes) - Eleanor

Elizabeth Forman]

16. Competing Successfully with the Internet vs and/or Becoming Internet Successful and Recent Anti-Trust Litigation Against Corporate Legacy Media’s “Trusted News Initiative” + Restrict Act- (5 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
17. Report on Town Hall Discussions: - (3 Minutes) - Michael D. D. White/Jim Dingeman/Eleanor Elizabeth Forman.
18. Discussion: Improving WBAI and Pacifica Reputation and Brand.- (10 minutes) - Michael D. D. White
19. Discussion: Adjournment Time of LSB meeting(s)-(5 minutes) Dr. Shya Bey
20. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM.)
21. New Business. (Until end of meeting, if required)
22. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

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7:15 pm ET Call to Order – the Vice Chair acting as chair who stated she would be late, a quorum, and the secretary being present.

Marilyn Vogt-Downey identified as time keeper without objection.

7:19 pm ET Motion (Jack DePalma) To adopt agenda. Seconded (Katherine O’Sullivan)

Amendment (R. Paul Martin) To change the name of the LOFT in item 12 from Committee to Taskforce. No other objection to the agenda. Seconded. Passed without objection.

7:23 pm ET Roll Call was taken by Secretary, results as above.

7:28 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To excuse all absences. Seconded (Jack de Palma)

Eleanor Elizabeth Forman expressed “disfavor” but would not formally object. Therefore, the motion passed without objection.

7:31 pm ET Approval of minutes.

POO (M. Kay Williams) In view of the fact that she only sent the 7-26-23 minutes within a day of this meeting, she would understand if the group wanted to table them until next meeting.

Motion (Jack de Palma) To approve minutes from 7-12-23. Seconded (Jim Dingeman). Passed without objection.

Motion (Jack de Palma) To table minutes from 7-26-23 until next meeting. Seconded. (Jim Dingeman)

POO (R. Paul Martin) In Robert’s Rules, you cannot table minutes approval. They can be deferred until the next meeting.

Ruling of the Acting Chair (MDD White) Consideration of minutes from 7-26-23 deferred until the next meeting.

7:33 pm ET General Manager’s Report (Berthold Reimers)

Highlights:

- Profit/Loss/Outstanding Payables are in reports he already sent

- He is in negotiations with the Call Center how to continue their services and start to pay back some of our backlog. They want \$6700 per month. He wants current month plus \$500 per month on the backlog each month.
- The health care premium was paid with a loan from kpft.
- WBAI made payroll but KPFA fell behind.
- A proposal at the PNB to limit management payroll to 90% failed as too severe and undemocratic.
- We are waiting for a bequest from the Bolton family. There are billions in litigation. When we get it, \$120K of it will go to Central Services.
- Due to our decreased revenue this year, our Central Services levy will be adjusted according to the new formula.
- He wants to open the phones to volunteers in the station and is looking into using the same program the Call Center uses to confidentially record member and financial information on I-Pads. The phones will ring 5 times, and then the Call Center will pick up if the volunteers do not. This will also reduce our usage bill to the Call Center and they are aware of these plans. He stated that Marilyn Vogt Downey is working with him on a plan to vet volunteers. He, and Linda are planning to take turns always being at the station, and supervision of the volunteers will be shared between them and the Board Ops.
- Berthold has laid off 23 employees. Now we have only 3 consultants, without benefits.
- Reiterated his request made at 7-26-23 meeting regarding starting 5 temporary taskforces focused on addressing the current fiscal emergency. Described the expected functions of each (See motion below). Those interested shall contact him or the Secretary.

The Board discussed the report.

8:03 pm ET Motion (John Brinkley) To extend the discussion 5 minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report.

8:09 pm ET Motion (John Sagurton) To extend the discussion until the three people on the stack had spoken. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report.

8:16 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To adopt the measures requested by the General Manger, i.e., to create the following committees to address specific fundraising needs. Need 3 LSB members to volunteer for each committee.

1. Premiums – Need to find/develop 3 new per month. Aiming for premium cost to revenue ration of 1:10. Want to charge at least \$100 – 150 for each premium. The steps are to plan an interview, record the interview, pitch the recording as a premium, clean up the recording, send it as a premium. Need 3 Board members, plus Kathryn Davis, and Berthold.
2. PSA's – Also need 3 Board members who can make sure the content of the PSA's is in line with the Pacifica Mission. Steps are to listen to other stations, see what PSA's they are announcing, make contacts via phone and email, seal the deal, then help keep track of when we are running them so we can bill them accurately. Sources: government departments, other organizations, local businesses.
3. Underwriting – Similar to PSA's. For those producers who interview people who have published a book, can solicit not only the book, as a premium, but the publisher of the book as a PSA.
4. Marketing/Public Relations – Search for quid pro quo barter arrangements, we do their PSA, they do ours, or publicize us in their paper or window of their business. Look at ways to monetize social network participation. Look for crowd funding opportunities, (need non-profit status PayPal account for GoFundMe.)
5. Contacting Lapsed Members – Phone banking to lapsed members.

Amendment (R. Paul Martin) Change “committee” to “taskforce.” More flexible and can still do these tasks.

The Amendment and the Motion Passed without objection.

8:23 pm ET Programming Update (Linda Perry)

## Highlights

- She sent a memo re Candidate Carts. Each will be 1 min. Please submit by 8-15-23. They will rotate randomly. Email her at [PD@wbai.org](mailto:PD@wbai.org) if need help recording. She posted her phone number in the Chat.
- She needs to know the times and dates of Candidate Forums. The NES is planning 3, but with 38 candidates (at present), we may need 4 Forums. The NES wants producers to emcee and ask the questions that come in. The on-air forums are for listener candidates. The Staff is deciding at their meeting how they want to advertise their candidacy.
- She is also working on how to monetize Social Media

The Board discussed the Update.

8:33 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend discussion 5 minutes.

The Board continued discussing the update.

Suggestion for Fundraising and Promotion (Dee Dee Halleck) Everyone can help promote the station on their Facebook pages, and by putting a signature line promoting the station after every email they send.

8:38 PM ET PNB Reports (Jim Dingeman, Sharonne Salaam, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton)

## Highlights:

- Re: Elections in progress. The start of balloting may be delayed if payments to the NES are delayed.
- Encourages each LSB member to donate \$100 to the elections. More if you can, less if you cannot.
- Go to the [pacifica.org](http://pacifica.org) and click on the donate button, and for purpose, write in "WBAI elections."
- There were several candidates rejected by the NES for incomplete packages, 2 at each station, except 10 at KPFT who did not respond to her emails. The PNB and the NES extended the time of registering twice. The extensions only applied to finishing packages, not to getting nominations. The PNB extended it a third time. The NES had the power to reject that extension and she did.
- We missed the EIDIE payments, and the JFC payments are collateralized on the property
- The government can sue us, the 4Times Square can shut us down, and Melissa, the landlady can evict us.
- KPFK is in the same boat.
- We are down to 20K-40K listeners vs when we had 240K listeners during the First Gulf War.

The Board discussed the reports.

8:52 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend the discussion by 3 minutes. Seconded. Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the reports.

8:58 pm ET Treasurer's Report (R. Paul Martin)

## Highlights

- Health premiums got paid but the next payroll is dicey. If any station is late, none will get paid.
- We owe 2.3 million in accounts payable, of which 1.3 million is urgent. The EIDL loan has been turned over to the Treasury Dept and they may demand the interest due.
- Some insurance policies got cancelled, including earthquake, excess liability, and building liability. This may have an impact on the buildings used for collateral for loans which are now no longer insured. It also impacts the plans to go back to volunteers answering the phones at 388.
- The ED is looking into going digital again.
- The last audit was FY21. The CPB will want FY22. This was why Jim Dingeman and others wanted to do the CPB application last year.

- Other stations are also not paying their Central Services.
- A motion that no station has to help other stations was defeated.
- Next National Finance Committee meeting is 8-22-23 and next WBAI LSB Finance Committee meeting is 8-16-23

The Board discussed the report

9:12 pm ET Management Evaluation Committee Report – Michael D. D. White

Highlights

- There will be a 360 review of the GM and the PD.
- The request to participate will involve the entire LSB.
- What is requested are narratives, not answers to a questionnaire.
- There will be some topical prompts to help focus the narrative responses.

9:14 pm ET Eleanor Elizabeth Norton asked when will Errol Maitland be replaced.

Her question was ruled out of order by the acting chair because it was not on the agenda.

9:15 pm ET Public Comment began

Highlights

- There was a Mother Jones March cop city article about 29 declassified documents compiled on anyone who uses social media. So perhaps the Program Director's current interest in expanding our social media profile, mentioned on Report to the Listener, is ill-timed.
- We have been focusing too much on money and not on the big picture. We should be focusing on influencers, who can bring out 10K people to a giveaway.
- We need to expand the brand, call lapsers, notify them of expiring credit cards.
- The Report to the Listener called into question the functioning of the webmaster and how much contact the GM has with him.
- Listeners want more timely access to recordings.
- Another listener found she never had a problem with the GM ever not providing information requested and she wished people would stop spreading doubt or malicious rumors.
- A listener was concerned if the station is opened to volunteers, we will get MAGA's coming in.
- Remembering WBAI aired the first rap program J. Smooth, we need a programming process to reach out to young people.
- There should be more coverage of current events, like the protests going on in NYC.
- The GM's job description was initially posted online. Why is the Management Evaluation being conducted in such secrecy?

9:47 pm ET Motion (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman) To extend the meeting 15 minutes. Seconded. Roll Call vote was taken with 8 yeses, and 7 nos, and no abstentions, but the motion failed because it requires a 2/3 vote to amend the agenda, which this would be doing.

9:53 pm ET Meeting adjourned

Submitted by M. Kay Williams, LSB Secretary