Minutes WBAI LSB Regular Monthly Meeting in Public Session 9-10-25

Present: Carolyn Birden, John Brinkley, Randy Credico, Elliot Crown, Joan De Lorenzo, Paul De Rienzo, Jim Dingeman, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Sally Gelllert (PNB Director), Gloria Guillo (Vice-Chair), Queen Mother Imakhu, Bounubti Khamentou, Alejandrina Murphy, Katherine O'Sullivan (Chair), Cerene Roberts (PNB Director), James Sagurton (PNB Director), Max Schmid, M. Kay Williams (Secretary)

Absent: Milton Allimadi, Gail Bey, Jim Freund, Cerene Roberts, Sharonne Salaam

Also Present: Bob Hennelly (Interim General Manager), R. Paul Martin (Treasurer), Neale Vos (CAB Chair), Alex Steinberg (PNB Director on suspension)

Final Agenda

1. Convene meeting- Ask for recording of the meeting to be started. Identify Time Keeper. Note how chat is to be used, plus other preliminary remarks by Chair.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences. (5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: August 13, 2025 Meeting, sent 8-31-25 and 9-9-25. (5 minutes)
6. Reports of interim General Manager and interim Program Director. (12 Minutes report 10 minutes discussion- Questions limited to One minute- Responses limited to 90 seconds) Bob Hennelly and Keziah Glow
7. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors. (25 minutes & 20 minutes discussion- Questions limited to One minute) — Sally Gellert, Cerene Roberts, James Sagurton, Alex Steinberg
8. Discussion: Appropriate thoughts for observing minutes of silence during LSB meetings and chance to express opinions about what people might choose to keep in mind. (5 minutes.)
9. One minute of silence. (One minute)
10. Treasurer's Report. — (5 Minutes report 8 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin
11. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) – Neale Vos
12. Report from the LOFT Committee — (3 minutes) - John Brinkley
13. Report from Radio Committee – (5 minutes) - Shawn Rhodes
14. Report from the Committee of Inclusion (5 minutes) – Carolyn Birden, John Brinkley, Joan De Lorenzo, Cerene Roberts
15. Management Search and Review Committee, Discussion- (5 minutes) – Jim Dingeman
16. Report from John Brinkley – (2 minutes) re voicemail for LSB (resolution voted at 7-9-25 meeting)
17. Discussion and Possible Resolution: Dealing appropriately with attacks on Public and/or Listener Supported media. (7 minutes) – Jim Dingeman
18. Discussion: Launching additional streaming of (HD) WBAI channels (5 minutes) — Jim Dingeman
19. Using Current WBAI Studio Camera Capacity to Start YouTubing WBAI Content (5 minutes) — Jim Dingeman
20. New Business.

    a. Fundraising – R. Credico

21. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must begin no later than 9:16 PM ET.)
22. Adjourn no later than 9:46 PM ET (Note this, and start time for public comments is one minute later to reflect the meeting's one minute of silence).

7:06 pm ET – The Chair convened the meeting, a quorum being present. She made preliminary Chair remarks, including a change in the status of Alex Steinberg, an LSB member and PNB Director, which will be discussed later in the meeting.

The Chair asked Jack de Palma to be timekeeper again.

7:09 pm ET – Motion (James Sagurton) To adopt the agenda. Seconded (Sally Gellert)

Amendment (Randy Credico) To add an agenda item to discuss fundraising. Seconded (Gloria Guillo). The Chair stated this could be added to New Business and there were no objections.

Motion (Jim Dingeman) To adopt the agenda as amended. Seconded (James Sagurton) Passed without objection.

7:12 pm ET Roll Call was taken – Results as above.

7:15 pm ET – The Chair called for a motion to excuse all absences. Gloria Guillo so moved. Seconded (James Brinkley)

The Chair asked if there were any objections. Eleanor Elizabeth Forman was the sole person who objected to excusing those who didn't request to be excused in advance.

The Chair stated that her objection would be noted in the minutes but all absences would be excused and we would move on to the next item on the agenda.

7:17 pm ET – Motion (Jim Dingeman) To accept minutes from 8-13-25, sent 8-31-25 and 9-9-25. Seconded (Sally Gellert) Passed without objections.

7:18 pm ET – Report of the Interim Station Manager, Bob Hennelly. He noted the absence of Keziah Glow.

Highlights:

- We have $34K in the bank, and $3500 in Paypal.
- We paid $22K in payroll and $10K in Health Insurance premium for 4 Union workers.
- We noted a $3,700 bump in the bank account the day after making payroll, which was from Bai Buddies, and is a good sign.

- The United Federation of Teachers gave $3500 of their quarterly commitment to $14K per year. We broadcast a pre-election debate for them in which every candidate got a ½ hr segment.
- We have a $2000 sustaining sponsorship from the Public Theater. We also worked with the New York Theater Workshop to produce the Lights Out and Nat King Cole programs. We are planning another program with the Manhattan Theater Club.
- We have preliminary approval for a $17K PSA for the Health and Hospitals Corporation, encouraging the immigrant community to continue to use the health care system.
- We are planning a 2-hour 9-11 memorial program highlighting the NIOSH cutbacks which have put into disarray the health program for victims and first responders injured by the fall of the two buildings and the US EPA's misrepresentation about the air quality. He noted the struggle for inclusion of women who suffered an increase in female cancer after 9-11. He also noted impact on WBAI personnel whose health was affected by 9-11 and assistance with their getting care.
- The station also did a successful 3-hour pre-Labor Day program, which was re-broadcast on KU Right and reached Ames, Iowa [a University town], and plan another one on the No Kings Day Oct 18, 2025.
- He is still recommending that incorporating non-union employees into the Union would save 60% of what we are now spending on health insurance benefits. This would have to be a Pacifica-wide effort and would be up to each staff person after a definitive comparison of benefits between their current policies with UHC and the SAG-AFTRA offerings. He noted two staff members he thinks are Union eligible, a part-time engineer and a reporter-editor.
- We want to keep up our community presence and tabled at the Harlem Week event and the Neil Young Concert.
- Thanks to volunteers who helped organize the old books premiums which had never been distributed.
- It is his opinion the Pacifica Central Services is an old model. WBAI has been paying for nationally shared programs like We Decide: America at the Crossroads and the 2-hour national news program. It costs money to pay for a 3-hr live remote, plus engage people like Jonah Schweitzer. We are networking with WPFW, KPFA, the National Office, and 25 affiliates, including an Ojibwe station from northern Wisconsin that lost a third of their revenue. We are creating the only national programming outside of "Sprouts" that Pacifica has. Our expenses on these national programs should be considered part of our Central Services contribution.

The Board discussed the report

7:41 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend discussion to exhaust the stack. Seconded (M. Kay W.)
The Chair agreed and allowed the remaining speakers to speak.

7:46 pm ET The Chair called for the PNB Directors' reports. (Sally Gellert, James Sagurton)

Highlights:

- The motion to start a new Bylaws Referendum with a timeline (passed unanimously by this Board at our last meeting) was presented to the PNB and was referred to the Governance Committee, which promised to keep the rest of the PBNB apprised of developments.
- There used to be three ways for a Bylaws Referendum to be proposed: by 6 Directors, by 5% of all the Listener-Members, or by a majority of 2 LSB's. Under the "Settlement" bylaws, the third way would be eliminated.
- The Appeal of the Motion to Intervene in the establishment of new By-laws without a vote of the membership has been filed.
- The current status of Alex Steinberg is suspension until October 2026 from the LSB and the PNB and all Pacifica activities with the exception of election activities if he qualifies as a candidate.

The Board discussed the reports.

8:14 pm ET The Chair called for the Discussion of the Minute of Silence.

Memorializing all the victims of 9-11 and the assassination of Charlie Kirk were mentioned.

8:16 pm ET The Chair called for the Minute of Silence.

8:18 pm ET The Chair called for the Treasurer's Report – R. Paul Martin

Highlights: See attached

The Board discussed the Report

8:37 pm ET Motion (James Sagurton) To extend the discussion 5 minutes. Seconded (M. Kay W.) Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the Report.

8:44 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend the discussion 5 minutes. Seconded (Paul de Rienzo) Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the Report.

8:52 pm ET The Chair called for the CAB Report – Neale Vos

Highlights:

- The CAB will continue operation under the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Rules and regulations, until further notice.
- Request a show about what books WBAI listeners are reading.
- Request a program about where the station has been and where it is going.

- The station must have a current annual financial report.
- The station must hire a Development Director.

8:55 pm ET The Chair called for the Loft Report – John Brinkley stated that the taskforce has not met yet. It is undergoing a change of leadership, and will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays.

8:56 pm ET The Chair called for the Radio Committee Report – Shawn Rhodes sent a message that there has been no changes and hence no need for a report tonight.

8:57 pm ET The Chair called for the Committee of Inclusion Report – John Brinkley stated that the Committee has received applications for 7 new members and will be voting on them next week.
The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept 30, 2025, 7 pm and will include new members.

8:58 pm ET The Chair called for a report on the LSB phone extension for messages from listeners – John Brinkley stated that the Interim Station Manager has declined another phone line at the station. He stated he would instruct those who answer the phone to take a message if there is a message for the LSB and this will be passed on to the LSB.

8:59 pm ET The Chair called for the report of the Management Search and Review Committee – Jim Dingeman stated that it hasn't met yet and that he would look into it and report on it at the next meeting.

9:02 pm ET The Chair called for Items 17,18, and 19 – Jim Dingeman stated he would set a separate meeting to discuss Items 17 and 18, and that Item 19 would require coordination with the current staff.

9:03 pm ET The Chair called for New Business, specifically the item on Fundraising which had been added to the agenda by Randy Credico, who was no longer present.

The Board discussed issues related to fundraising.

Highlights:

- Anyone interested in fundraising consider joining the LOFT.
- Need to resurrect things we did prior to the change of management, like contact City Council members for grants.
- The ban on in-person meetings restricts our fundraising possibilities.
- Suggestion to go online and google California Code for Non-profits as to members' rights.
- Suggestion to use Duck Duck Go and "Minus AI" for all searches.
- Suggestion to attend in-person meetings where public comment is allowed.

Point of Order (James Sagurton) Advise against speculation as to other people's motives.

9:13 pm ET The chair called for Public Comment to begin.

The Board heard public comments.

9:46 pm ET The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by M. Kay Williams, Secretary
