

## **WPFW- LSB Regular Meeting Minutes May 20, 2026**

### **Teleconference via Zoom Washington, DC**

Kamau Harris – Chair

Robert Gordon – Vice Chair

Thomas Chase - Treasurer

Ellen Williams Carter - Secretary

#### **1. Call to Order started at 6:36 pm with Chair, Kamau Harris**

#### **2. Logins/Greetings/Roll Call**

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Hyland             | 12. Ambrose Lane            |
| 2. Verna Avery Brown         | 13. Mariah McClain          |
| 3. Susan C Goodwin           | 14. Robert Gordon           |
| 4. Julie Hewitt              | 15. Michael Hersh           |
| 5. Violetta Diamond          | 16. Minerva Sanders         |
| 6. David Kiasi               | 17. Bill Curtis             |
| 7. Wanda Gnahoui             | 18. Latrice Vincent         |
| 8. Jawara Hunter             | 19. Ron Pinchback           |
| 9. Michele Tingling-Clemmons | 20. Thomas Chase non-voting |
| 10. Kamau Harris             | 21. Ellen Carter non-voting |
| 11. Michael Byfield          |                             |

Unexcused absence:

Excused absence: Anita Irene Adams, Junette Pinkney

#### **3. Approval of the Agenda and April 15, 2025 minutes approved.**

#### **4. Program Director Report (Attachment A written report submitted by PD)**

**Katea Stitt, Program Director reported:**

The PD was unable to attend the meeting. The GM read the report.

**5. Membership Coordinator Report (see Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager for the Staff)**

Sataria Joyner, Membership Coordinator reported: (Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager)

The Membership Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting. The GM read the report.

**6. General Manager Report: (see Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager for the Staff)**

Shayna Lonoaea, General Manager reported:

- **Grievance Process Document**

There was a discussion regarding the Grievance Process document.

- **Volunteer Orientation Workshop**

There is a monthly volunteer orientation workshop. The aim is to have everyone on the same system.

Next, the GM shared what was in her report.

**7. News Report, News Director: (see Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager for the Staff)**

Sue Goodwin, News Director reported:

We have a policy of each day reviewing:

- The Voting Act
- The War in Iran
- The US effect on people all over the world.

**8. Chief Engineer report: (see Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager for the Staff)**

Chief Engineer, Moe Thomas reported:

The Chief Engineer was unable to attend the meeting. The GM referred to his report.

**9. Volunteer Coordinator Report (see Attachment A written report submitted by General Manager for the Staff)**

Vinnie Jack, Volunteer Coordinator reported:

The Volunteer Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting. The GM referred to his report.

## **10. Finance Committee Report (see Attachment B written report submitted by Thomas Chase)**

Thomas Chase, Chair, reported:

- Overall, the budget is on track.
- The final fiscal payment to ASCAP for 2025 is as an expense of \$25,000 with an overall total of \$109,000 for FY 2025.
- There is a \$7,000 expense contribution toward auditor costs, with Central Service covering all expenses for 2025 and 2026, including summer activities for 2022 and 2023. All tasks are expected to be completed by November 2024 and 2025. It appears that we may pay this amount monthly.

ASCAP refers to the American Society of Composers and Publishers.

Several fundraising activities are in the planning stages.

Kamau inquired about what the national finance team stated regarding the budget.

## **11. Community Outreach Committee Report (see Attachment C written report submitted by Violetta Diamond)**

Violetta Diamond, Chair, reported:

### **Town Hall**

The Town Hall meeting will need participation and help from LSB members from 12 noon to 3 PM. the Town Hall is scheduled for June 13, 2026, at New Bethany Baptist Church. Ron will discuss the Pacifica election during the Town Hall to prepare attendees for participation.

### **5K Event**

The 5K event is scheduled for September 12. It will include children's activities, with Spanish flyers available to be distributed in the community. A newsletter will be distributed, and community events will be highlighted.

## **12. Community Comment**

Vanessa said the GM's report is good. In addition, she shared that there is a lawsuit in progress regarding the 2024 amended bylaws. Vanessa shared that a registry document is required to exclude programmers who don't provide documentation of their hours volunteering between March 1 and May 31<sup>st</sup>. This must be done by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Hikim** said the Community Advisory Board (CAB) is still afloat. They completed a survey regarding the station. Additionally, he apprised the LSB about the former programmer, Don Williams. Hikim said he is very ill. If you would like to see him, Hikim will give you information.

**Cerene** discussed the New Day group and the amended by laws. She said the Governance committee is meeting tomorrow.

**438 Community Member** stated that one of the things many stations have eliminated is public comments. The individual **438**, also discussed Pacifica Fight Back.com and the bylaws.

### **13. PNB Director's Reports**

**Julie Hewitt reported:**

#### **Membership**

We have sufficient funds to cover contingencies. As of June 30th, the listener membership is \$25. The General Manager is responsible for the portal system.

#### **Bylaw: Article 3 Members of the Foundation**

Julie shared Article Three: Members of the Foundation, Section 1: Members Defined:

Article Three: Members of the Foundation

Section 1: Members Defined

#### **C. VOLUNTEER STAFF MEMBERS**

"Volunteer Staff Members" shall be: (1) any member of a Foundation radio station "Unpaid (or Volunteer) Staff Organization" or "Unpaid (or Volunteer) Staff Collective Bargaining Unit" which has been recognized by station management, or, (2) if the station has neither such organization or bargaining unit, then any volunteer or unpaid staff member of a Foundation radio station who has worked for said radio station at least 30 hours in the preceding 3 months, exclusive of fund-raising marathon telephone room volunteer time. Said volunteer work shall be performed under the supervision of the Foundation radio station management and shall not include volunteer work on committees of a Local Station Board. Radio station management employees and Foundation staff employees who are not employed at a Foundation radio station shall not qualify as Staff Members, however, such employees may qualify as Listener-Sponsor Members by contributing the requisite minimum dollar amount as set forth in Section 1(A) of this Article of these Bylaws.

There were minor changes in the language in this section from the 2020 bylaws, mainly because the older bylaws just said "Staff Members" and the new bylaws are clear about distinctions between paid and volunteer staff. But the 30 hours in preceding 3 month period language and the exclusions didn't change either.

**Ron Pinback reported:**

#### **Pacifica National elections**

A report was released during the last meeting but some of it is confidential. There was a discussion of the Pacifica National elections.

### **Grievance Process document**

There was a discussion regarding the Grievance Process document.

### **14. Program Committee Report (see Attachment D written report submitted by Mike Hersh)**

Mike Hersh, Chair reported:

- They voted to approve a feedback form.
- The officers were changed
- 12 Program Committee members attended the meeting.

### **15. Unfinished Business**

#### Updating Contact Information

LSB members have submitted information to be shared to the secretary.

#### Town Hall Preparation

- We need to make sure the zoom login is good.

#### Ideas shared to be discussed during the Town Hall:

- DC leaders
- Voting in the DMV
- Need a PSA by Monday regarding the Town Hall
- An agenda is needed by this weekend
- Saturday afternoon May 23 Saturday at 1pm there will be a meeting concerning the Town Hall agenda, etc.

#### Reply on Bill of Rights & Grievance Policy

We need to speak with the National office concerning the Grievance Process.

#### Relocation Committee

- The Committee hasn't been formed
- Needed for the Committee are 7 LSB members, the GM, Chief Engineer and Treasurer

### **16. New Business**

#### Elections Voting and Candidate Eligibility

- The number of board members will be decreased. Now there will only be 13 listener seats instead of 24.

#### **17. Action Items/Summary**

- Meeting to discuss the Town Hall agenda on Saturday, May 23, 2026
- Nominations for Relocation Committee

#### **18. Adjourn: Kamau Harris, Chair, Adjourned the Regular Meeting at 10:11 pm**

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Ellen Williams Carter

### **Attachment A**

May



# May Report 2026

Prepared for WPFW Listener Station Board

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## General Manager

Prepared by Shayna Lonoaea, General Manager

## Spring Pledge Drive

We fundraised: **\$141,822** out of our **\$250,000 goal**.

I wanted to keep it real with you all regarding our recent donor drive. While we didn't quite hit the fundraising goal we were aiming for this time around, I'm looking at this as a major learning experience for all of us.

First and foremost, a massive thank you to our staff, the programmers, and our tireless volunteers. You all showed up and gave it your absolute all.

We've seen some incredible expert pitching on air, but we've learned that we need to find even more creative ways to engage our diverse supporter base to keep this refuge for Jazz and Justice thriving without commercial underwriting. We're taking these lessons to heart to make sure we're better prepared for the next one. Thanks for being the heartbeat of 89.3 FM!

## Challenges

- **Staffing Issues:** Key programmers were absent (vacations, loss of loved ones, etc), leading to a weaker fundraising weekend.
- **Economic Factors:** Many listeners are facing financial stress due to economic conditions such as the rising costs of gas, and ongoing DOGE-related effects impacting working families in the DMV, making them hesitant to donate. The drive coincided with Mother's Day weekend, resulting in lower engagement.

**Technical Glitches:** The phone system failed again, complicating the donation process.

- **Host Engagement:** Some programmers need more support to engage their audiences or promote the station online, leading to underperformance across various programs.

## Lessons Learned

1. **Schedule Resilience:** Ensure multiple strong programmer fundraisers are available during drives, especially on weekends, with backup plans in place.
2. **Clear Communication:** Provide honest updates about staff changes to maintain listener trust and support.
3. **Technical Readiness:** Conduct a technical audit before future drives to resolve persistent phone system issues.
4. **Programmer Accountability:** Encourage participation in marketing workshops and support hosts in building their own listener communities.

5. **Donor Retention:** Develop a year-round engagement plan to keep sustainers active beyond pledge drives.
6. **Better Timing:** Avoid scheduling major drives during holidays to maximize listener engagement.

## Seeking Interns

We're looking for DC organizers with vision and a voice. In one year, WPFW will be celebrating 50 years on air. Our team at WPFW wants to work with eager students who want to make our work sustainable now and for the next 50 years.

We are currently seeking a Communications Intern and Development Intern.

### Communications Intern

The intern in this position will assist the General Manager with essential tasks that support continued social media engagement growth to generate and increase sustainable community awareness of radio programs.

Assignments may include social media content management, minor video editing and graphic design, and assistance with event planning and execution.

### Development Intern

Interns in this position will assist the General Manager and Membership Director with essential tasks that support continued fundraising growth (individual giving, foundation grants and special events) to generate and increase sustainable revenue for radio programs and operations.

Assignments may include donor research, data entry, editing and proofreading letters and reports, and assistance with event planning and execution.

### Skills & Qualifications

Applicants must be a college or university student during the duration of the internship period. Applicants should be able to articulate a commitment to work in public radio and social

movements. Qualified applicants are enthusiastic, creative, proactive, and detail-oriented; have excellent research, writing, communication, and interpersonal skills; and can work independently.

## **Application Process**

The applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The priority deadline is May 25. The application process may close early if the right candidates are selected, so applying sooner is better.

Applications must be submitted to [gm@wpfw.org](mailto:gm@wpfw.org) be in PDF format and include the following:

1. **Cover Letter** that includes: A statement describing why you want to work at WPFW, and any particular social justice issues or movements that interest you and why.
2. **Resume**: We highly encourage applicants to share any technical skills on their résumé, which may include, but are not limited to, their knowledge of Slack, Zoom, and project-management tools.
3. **Writing Sample**.

After we receive your application materials, you will be notified that we received it and if you were selected for an interview. All interviews will be conducted via videoconference. Interviews for applicants will be held in late May and early June. Applicants will be informed soon after the interviews if they've been selected.

## **Compensation & Schedule**

- This Communications Internship position is a hybrid (virtual and in-person) part-time, 12-week position (averaging 240 hours over the course of the internship). The 12-week internship will begin on Monday, June 8 and end Friday, August 28.
- Interns will be paid a rate of \$20 per hour. Interns are strongly encouraged to apply for academic credit and/or seek funds through public interest fellowships.
- Interns must reside in the District of Columbia and be able to attend in-person events in various locations in the DMV as needed.

## **Equal Opportunity Employer**

WPFW is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. People of color, women, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and individuals with past involvement in the criminal legal system are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Reminder: Register for Pacifica Election

If you are a volunteer planning to vote in the upcoming elections starting June 1, 2026, please remember these essential steps:

- **The Commitment:** To be eligible to vote, you must complete and log at least 30 hours of volunteer service.
- **The Record:** Your hours must be recorded in the team directory. Accurate documentation is the only way the village can verify who is eligible to receive a ballot.
- **The Timeline:** All hours must be logged no later than three months before the election begins. This allows us to move through the "long arc" of the election process with transparency and care

If you haven't properly logged your hours, you will not receive a ballot and will be unable to participate in choosing the leadership of our station.

### What to do:

1. Go to <https://team.pacifica.org> and create your profile.
2. Click 'Register'.
3. Pick your station - Select your station (or unit) from the dropdown menu.
4. Fill out the form - Enter your name, email, phone, and other information.
5. Click Update - Submit your registration.
6. Wait for your password - Your station will review and email you a password.

**Need support?** If you have questions or need help navigating the directory, please reach out:

- Otis Maclay: omaclay@gmail.com
- Stephanie Wells: ed@pacifica.org

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## Programming

Prepared by Katea Stitt, Program Director

## Special Programming

- **Friday, May 15, 8am - 7pm**

On this day, WPFW produced programming commemorating the 78th anniversary of the ongoing Palestinian Nakbah or catastrophe, and the people's resistance - Radio Free Palestine 2026 aired from 8am until 7pm EST on WPFW and was carried by radio stations across North America airing programming from producers around the globe. Sister station KPDK also contributed content, and will air segments of the programming during May and June. The broadcast included discussions, speeches, music, poetry and updates from the ground in Gaza and the West Bank. We received a \$10,000 challenge grant for this day, and got very close...over \$8900 for the day

- **Tuesday, May 26, 5am – midnight**

*All Blues: A Miles Dewey Davis Centennial Celebration*

On this day, WPFW presents a tribute to Miles Davis, marking the 100th anniversary of his birth, and celebrating his enduring legacy as a pioneering force in jazz, music, and cultural innovation. It highlights his relentless reinvention—from bebop and cool jazz to fusion—showcasing his impact on music, fashion, and art.

## Programmers Self-Evaluations and One-on-One Meetings

- Now that the drive is finished, we will resume meeting with Programmers to discuss how to improve their programs, and offer the support needed for them to do so.

## WPFW 2nd 50th Year Benefit Concert: An Afternoon of Jazz & Justice

**Date:** Sunday, June 14, 2026

**Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Location:** The Palisades Hub

### **Celebrate the Soul of the City**

For over five decades, WPFW 89.3 has been the pulse of the District, broadcasting the sounds of liberation and the rhythms of the people. Join us at The Palisades Hub for a high-energy benefit concert dedicated to keeping community-supported, independent radio thriving.

All proceeds from this event directly support WPFW's mission to provide essential Jazz, Blues, and news to the DMV and beyond.

**Why the Music is Unmissable** We have curated a lineup that represents DC’s musical excellence.

- **Amy K Bormet:** A powerhouse pianist, vocalist, and composer, Bormet is celebrated for her fearless free-wheeling style and relentless dedication to new music. As the formidable composer and arranger behind the Washington Women in Jazz Festival, she brings a remarkable ear for harmony and a delectable rhythmic sense to every performance. Her work is a vital testament to the creative possibilities of the genre, blending jazz tradition with a distinct pop sensibility.
- **Elijah Jamal Balbed:** A true D.C. native and award-winning saxophonist, Balbed has established himself as one of the most prominent artists in the nation's capital. The 2020 DC Jazz Prix winner is renowned for his hard swinging set of songs in the classic Jazz tradition, delivered with "precocious energy. Whether leading his own ensembles or performing with legends like Chuck Brown, Balbed represents the best of the DC Jazz legacy.

**Don't miss this chance to hear DC's finest while supporting the station that hears you. Get your tickets now and help us power the next 50 years!**

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## Engineering

Prepared by Moe

### Transmission Systems

1. **Primary Transmitter Reliability.** With consistent preventative maintenance and monitoring efforts, the transmitter has been reliable since the last report
2. **HD Radio Service.** The HD1 service for WPFW continues to perform well and has generated positive listener feedback. An update to the hourly legal station identification is recommended to include “WPFW and WPFW HD1” to accurately reflect current broadcast services.
3. **FM/HD Time Relationship.** Alignment between analog FM and HD digital audio streams continues to be monitored.
4. **Backup Transmitter Replacement.** The 2kW Nautel transmitter is now in place and is tested weekly.

5. **Environmental Maintenance.** All air filters in the transmitter room have been replaced which contributes directly to plant reliability.
6. **Preventative Maintenance and Monitoring.** Weekly on-site inspections continue alongside full-time remote monitoring.
7. **Technical Plant Documentation.** Critical documentation of the entire technical plant is being assembled and shared with key Pacifica management.

## Studio Operations

1. **Technical Maintenance.** Routine studio technical discrepancies have been addressed promptly, maintaining consistent operational readiness.
2. **Studio Warning and Tally System.** The upgraded studio lamp and warning system is functioning effectively. Current indicators include:
  - a. ON AIR
  - b. TRANSMITTER OFF AIR
  - c. AIR AUDIO LOSS
  - d. STREAM AUDIO LOSS
  - e. TELEPHONE RING
  - f. Additional technical details will be provided in a separate memorandum.
3. **Microphone Status Indicators.** The ON AIR tally system in several locations provides clear visual confirmation when microphones are active, improving operational awareness and reducing broadcast errors.
4. **CD Playback Equipment.** CD playback equipment has been upgraded and is performing reliably. However, compact discs with adhesive or “sticky” labels continue to cause mechanical jams and should not be used. Other CD-related issues are resolved as promptly as possible.
5. **Central Music Server Project.** Development of the Central Music Server library is on-going. Transitioning from CD based playback to digital file playback is necessary due to the declining availability of replacement CD playback equipment.
6. **Turntable Operations.** The two studio turntables continue to operate reliably and have been equipped with remote start capability.
7. **Discrepancy Reporting and Resolution.** Discrepancy logbooks are reviewed daily by board operators who resolve many issues immediately. Remaining technical concerns are addressed by engineering staff. This daily process continues to support rapid issue resolution and system stability.
8. **Studio Maintenance and Housekeeping.** Studio cleanliness and organization remain excellent and contribute positively to operational reliability.
9. **Internet Connectivity.** A recent major signal loss pointed to the critical need for updated security equipment and effective back-up systems for both transmission

and internet service providers. The needed equipment has been ordered and should be in place by next week.

10. **Overall Engineering Status.** Broadcast transmission and studio technical systems are operating reliably. Preventative maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, and modernization efforts remain ongoing to ensure continued service quality and operational stability. One major upgrade remains with the connection of a back-up generator at the transmitter.

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## Membership

Prepared by Sataria Joyner, Administrative and Membership Coordinator

## Spring Pledge Drive

*(May 17 is extension)*

**Goal:** \$250,000

- Website and Phone: \$132,418
- Cashapp and PayPal: \$9,404
- Radio Free Palestine Programming on May 15th from 5am-7pm: \$8948 •

**Combined: \$141,822**

**Total Pledges:** 1297 (includes Web, phones, CashApp and PayPal)

**Web & Phones:** New 182

## Upcoming On-Air Pledge Drives

- **August 2–15, 2026**
  - **October 11–24, 2026**
  - **December 13-19, 2026**
-

## Volunteers

Prepared by Vinnie Jack, Volunteer Coordinator

### **The May Drive - Thank you to all phone pledge volunteers!**

Your energy and dedication made a real difference, and we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for connecting with our community and helping us keep WPFW strong!

### **New Volunteer Orientation**

Every first Thursday of the month, we host a volunteer orientation meeting to onboard new volunteers to WPFW. During this session, participants learn about the station's history, values, community agreements, and various ways to get involved. Following the group orientation, each volunteer engages in a one-on-one conversation, allowing them to share more about themselves, their interests, and the work that lies ahead. This personalized approach fosters meaningful connections and ensures that volunteers feel supported as they begin their journey with us.

New and veteran volunteers are encouraged to attend.

We hosted our first volunteer orientation this past Thursday, May 7th where 4 volunteers attended.

To attend a volunteer orientation, [click here to sign up to volunteer or share the link with a friend.](#)

April



## April Report 2026

*Prepared for WPFW Listener Station Board*

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## Letter from General Manager

Prepared by Shayna Lonoaea, General Manager

Aloha WPFW Community,

I'm **Shayna Lonoaea** (they/she), and I am so honored to join the community here at WPFW. I step into this role with a heart full of gratitude for Miyuki and the deep love and passion she poured into this station. As a long-time listener and volunteer, I've seen the magic you all create every day, and I am committed to honoring that legacy as we move forward together.

**WPFW as Our Refuge** I believe in a world where our communities win. To get there, we need a pu'uhonua—a place of refuge. For us, WPFW is that place. It's where we gather to tell the truth, to dance, to cry, and to build a better world. In a time when so many are looking for a home to gather and grow, our music and our stories are more important than ever.

**Tending to Our Roots** We know we are facing some tough times. We've seen fewer listeners, the stress of constant fundraising, and targeted attacks on journalism and public media. But instead of seeing these as just problems, I see them as a chance to root down and transform. Think of WPFW as a living ecosystem. To keep it healthy, we have to take care of our relationships with one another. We have to ask ourselves: *What brings us together? Where do we need to grow?*

**Looking Back to Move Forward** Healing and building our community isn't a straight line. I like to think of our work as *time travel*. We are reaching back to grab the wisdom of our ancestors and bringing it into the present so we can build a future where everyone has what they need. **My goal is to make sure WPFW has a rock-solid foundation and bold voices so we can keep our mission of Jazz and Justice alive for another 50 years.**

**My Promise to You** I promise to move with care and keep my door open, especially for the folks whose voices are usually left out of the conversation. It is a privilege to learn from you and to figure out, together, how we can keep this station thriving.

[Register for Pacifica Election](#)

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- Stephanie Wells: ed@pacifica.org

### Brand Refresh and Website

As we look toward the future of WPFW, it is critical that we invest in refreshing our branding and website. Our website is our digital home—the place where our news, music archives, and stories of struggle live for the world to find. While our mission of Jazz and Justice remains unchanged, we must update our digital tools to ensure the door is wide open for today's audiences when they log on and tune in.

This project is about more than just looks; it is about accessibility and Disability Justice, ensuring our site is fully responsive to screen readers and mobile devices so that everyone can engage with the soul of the struggle without technical barriers. To stay true to our values, we

will be contracting a local, queer, BIPOC-led tech firm to lead this refresh, creating a vibe that reflects our roots while remaining functional for a new generation.

We are already seeing incredible momentum following our **April 8th special broadcast**, "*From Strange Fruit to Joe Hill: The Paralleling Artistry & Activism of Billie Holiday & Paul Robeson*". The community's response was phenomenal.

We welcomed **129 total listener-donors** (including 29 brand-new donors) and initially raised \$15,470 through phones, the website, CashApp, and PayPal.

Most importantly, I am thrilled to report that thanks to a generous matching challenge, we successfully secured a total of **\$30,280** to power these vital updates. This achievement was a true team effort, and I want to specifically thank those who made it possible:

- **Katea**, for her incredible work in locking in the matching fund.
- Our **Production team**, for delivering the engaging, diverse programming that inspired such generosity.
- **Sataria and Vinnie**, for their diligent work troubleshooting pledges and t-shirt orders to ensure our donors were taken care of.
- And each and every **programmer** who made the magic happen: Kamau Harris, Carl McFadgion, Coka-Lani, Katea Stitt, Denise Young, Craig Williams, Josh Meyers, Chris Garlock, Elise Bryant, Violetta Diamond, Sweet Corey Bey, Joni Eisenberg, Brother Jamil Muhammad, Donald Temple, and Jordan Strudwick.

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## Programming

Prepared by Katea Stitt, Program Director

### FCC Report - 1st Quarter

- Submitted on March 31<sup>st</sup> to Jon, Director of Engineering and Compliance. The report represents a sampling of our Public Affairs programming and is required by the FCC to be submitted at the end of each quarter, and placed in WPFW's public file.

## Programmer Updates

- We thank **Papa Wabe**, host of **Free Your Mind**, (aired Thursdays at 2-5am) for his service and tenure at WPFW. Wabe is well known for his icon program from early WPFW days, Shock Waves. We have a few young musicologists interested in taking that slot.
- We also thank **Tony Browder**, host of the **Browder Files** (aired Wednesdays 5-6pm), for his tenure and congratulate him on his new book tour. His show will be replayed until a replacement is slotted.
- **Programmer Evaluations and Meetings:** On the week of the 13th, our 80+ volunteer programmers will receive self-evaluation forms to reflect on their work. After these reflections, programmers will meet with the Program Director and General Manager from April 22 to May 1. These gatherings emphasize mutual accountability, discussing successes, growth areas, and how management can better support them.

## Special Programming

- **Wednesday, April 8, 12am – Midnight**

*Strange Fruit to Joe Hill: The Artistry and Activism of Billie Holiday and Paul Robeson*

There is a profound connection between Billie Holiday and Paul Robeson, both icons of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and pioneering Black artist-activists who utilized their immense talents to challenge American racism, becoming influential voices against oppression. Despite working in different musical genres, both bridged art and activism to confront the sociopolitical climate of their time, ultimately sacrificing their careers and facing persecution for their political stances. On that day, we celebrated their immense talent, resistance, and sacrifice!

- **Tuesday, April 14, at 7pm *Liberation on Our Minds*** continues our work of international solidarity by centering the voices of Cuban people. Join us as we welcome Gabriela Castillo Rodriguez, Second Secretary of the Cuban Embassy, to uncover the truth about how the blockade directly impacts the health and sustainable energy of the Cuban people. In the spirit of the Diaspora as our sound, we invite our community to tune in for this vital conversation about resilience, human dignity, and the right to self-determination.

- **Thursday, April 30, 12pm-midnight – International Jazz Day**

*Jazz and Geopolitics*

Jazz has served as a powerful international force for liberation, acting as a musical language for democracy, protest, and civil rights against oppression. Emerging from the

African American experience, its democratic and improvisational nature dismantles social, racial, and ethnic barriers, influencing anti-colonial movements and anti-apartheid struggles globally! Throughout the global south, Jazz has been seen as a soundtrack to resistance and revolution. On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the global significance of Jazz from noon until midnight, culminating in our annual airing of the Herbie Hancock Institute’s 2026 International Jazz Day concert live from Chicago celebrating 15 years!

- **Tuesday, May 26, 12am – midnight**

*Miles Smiles: 100 Years of Miles Dewey Davis*

On this day, WPFW will present a 24-hour tribute to Miles Davis, marking the 100th anniversary of his birth, celebrating his enduring legacy as a pioneering force in jazz, music, and cultural innovation. It highlights his relentless reinvention—from bebop and cool jazz to fusion—serving as a global, year-long tribute to his impact on music, fashion, and art.

- **Date/Time TBD. Commemoration of API month through the lens of cultural and anti-colonial resistance movements.** WPFW will work with Wuiping Yap, organizer of Fiesta Asia, and others to curate this day of special programming. We will also return as a media partner for Fiesta Asia Street Fair 2026 to be held Saturday, May 16.

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## Engineering

Prepared by Moe

## Transmission Systems

8. **Primary Transmitter Reliability.** With consistent preventative maintenance and monitoring efforts, the transmitter has been reliable since the last report
9. **HD Radio Service.** The HD1 service for WPFW continues to perform well and has generated positive listener feedback. An update to the hourly legal station identification is recommended to include “WPFW and WPFW HD1” to accurately reflect current broadcast services.
10. **FM/HD Time Relationship.** Alignment between analog FM and HD digital audio streams continues to be monitored.

11. **Backup Transmitter Replacement.** The 2kW Nautel transmitter is now in place and is tested weekly.
12. **Environmental Maintenance.** All air filters in the transmitter room have been replaced which contributes directly to plant reliability.
13. **Preventative Maintenance and Monitoring.** Weekly on-site inspections continue alongside full-time remote monitoring.
14. **Technical Plant Documentation.** Critical documentation of the entire technical plant is being assembled and shared with key Pacifica management.

## Studio Operations

11. **Technical Maintenance.** Routine studio technical discrepancies have been addressed promptly, maintaining consistent operational readiness.
12. **Studio Warning and Tally System.** The upgraded studio lamp and warning system is functioning effectively. Current indicators include:
  - a. ON AIR
  - b. TRANSMITTER OFF AIR
  - c. AIR AUDIO LOSS
  - d. STREAM AUDIO LOSS
  - e. TELEPHONE RING
  - f. Additional technical details will be provided in a separate memorandum.
13. **Microphone Status Indicators.** The ON AIR tally system in several locations provides clear visual confirmation when microphones are active, improving operational awareness and reducing broadcast errors.
14. **CD Playback Equipment.** CD playback equipment has been upgraded and is performing reliably. However, compact discs with adhesive or “sticky” labels continue to cause mechanical jams and should not be used. Other CD-related issues are resolved as promptly as possible.
15. **Central Music Server Project.** Development of the Central Music Server library is on-going. Transitioning from CD based playback to digital file playback is necessary due to the declining availability of replacement CD playback equipment.
16. **Turntable Operations.** The two studio turntables continue to operate reliably and have been equipped with remote start capability.
17. **Discrepancy Reporting and Resolution.** Discrepancy logbooks are reviewed daily by board operators who resolve many issues immediately. Remaining technical concerns are addressed by engineering staff. This daily process continues to support rapid issue resolution and system stability.
18. **Studio Maintenance and Housekeeping.** Studio cleanliness and organization remain excellent and contribute positively to operational reliability.

19. **Internet Connectivity.** A recent major signal loss pointed to the critical need for updated security equipment and effective back-up systems for both transmission and internet service providers. The needed equipment has been ordered and should be in place by next week.

20. **Overall Engineering Status.** Broadcast transmission and studio technical systems are operating reliably. Preventative maintenance, infrastructure upgrades, and modernization efforts remain ongoing to ensure continued service quality and operational stability. One major upgrade remains with the connection of a back-up generator at the transmitter.

## News

Prepared by Sue Goodwin, News Director

## Headlines

We continued providing our listeners with headlines from Monday to Friday. This past month, we focused on the US-Israeli war against Iran, delivering coverage on its consequences in Iran and the region, critical responses, and various reactions to U.S. engagement.

## Newsletter

We produced and distributed our weekly newsletter, *In Case You Missed It*, highlighting the previous week's public affairs. We aimed to:

- Encourage timely content submissions from programmers through personal outreach.
- Increase programmer participation with direct engagement.

In the coming month, we'll:

- Identify strategies to boost listener sign-ups for the newsletter.
- Review and consider changes to the newsletter's content and design.

## Special Programming

In collaboration with Pacifica National News, we planned national coverage for No King's Day on March 28 and provided coverage of protests in Washington, DC.

## Coordination with Pacifica National News

We met with the newly established Pacifica National News Unit to begin WPFW's contribution of headlines available to all Pacifica stations and affiliates at 5 PM.

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## Membership

Prepared by Sataria Joyner, Administrative and Membership Coordinator

### From Strange Fruit to Joe Hill

On April 8, our community showed up to honor the shared artistry and resistance of Billie Holiday and Paul Robeson—reminding us all that our music and our struggle are one and the same.

- **Total Raised:** \$15,470 (through phone, web, CashApp, and PayPal).
- **New Donors:** We welcomed 29 new listener-donors.
- **Deepening Roots:** 100 members renewed their commitment to the station.

### Upcoming On-Air Pledge Drives

- **The May Drive (May 3–16):** Our spring pledge drive is coming. We are looking for phone volunteers - contact Vinnie at [vjack@wlfw.org](mailto:vjack@wlfw.org) to sign up for a shift.
- **August 2–15, 2026**
- **October 11–24, 2026**
- **December 13-19, 2026**

### Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy Now

*Saturday, May 2, 2026*

WPFW invites the community to come together to honor the 30th anniversary of *Democracy Now!* We believe that a community that controls its own narrative is a community that holds its own power, and for three decades, *Democracy Now!* has been a vital part of that independent struggle.

#### **The Screening: *Steal This Story, Please!***

- **Time:** 12:00 PM (Noon)
- **Tickets:** \$55+

- **Location:** AFI (As part of the DC Labor Film Festival) Join us for the new documentary *STEAL THIS STORY PLEASE!*. Following the film, we will hold space for a **live conversation** between Amy Goodman and our own Program Director, Katea Stitt. This is a moment to reflect on the stories that corporate media ignores and the radical necessity of independent journalism.

## The Reception

- **Time:** 2:30 PM
- **Tickets:** \$150+
- **Location:** Busboys and Poets, Takoma The celebration continues as we move from the screen to the table. Join Amy Goodman and filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin for a meal featuring a special menu curated by Andy Shallal. We believe that **breaking bread is a political act of community care**, and we invite you to join us in this intimate space for reflection and connection.

**Secure Your Spot** Because we value this intentional space for our community, **tickets are limited.**

- **Screening Only:** \$55
- **Screening & Luncheon:** \$150+

**Purchase Tickets:** You can **click here** to purchase your tickets directly, or visit [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for **“Democracy Now!’s 30th”**.

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## Volunteers

Prepared by Vinnie Jack, Volunteer Coordinator

### The May Drive - Sign up to Volunteer!

Our **Spring Pledge Drive is happening May 3–16, 2026**, and we need listeners to step up and help us hold the line. We are specifically looking for volunteers to sign up for phone pledge shifts at the station. This is a vital way to engage with our listener-members and help us reach our fundraising goals together.

- **Saving Our Resources:** Because we refuse corporate sponsorships that contradict our values, every volunteer hour directly saves the station money, ensuring our limited funds go toward keeping the signal on the air 24/7.

- **The Inside Look:** As a volunteer, you get a behind-the-scenes look at how independent radio is run.

**Training & Preparation:** If you've never worked at a phone bank, don't worry—you will be prepared. For the drive, you'll receive training and be paired with an experienced volunteer to ensure you feel confident and supported.

### New & Improved Volunteer Sign-Up Form

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to pitch in. We have updated our volunteer sign-up form to be more user-friendly, making it simpler for you to pick the shifts that work for your life.

[Click here to sign up to volunteer or share the link with a friend.](#)

## Attachment B

Click on the Treasurer's Report.



WPFW FY26  
Treasurers Report M

## Attachment C

### Outreach Committee Report

Violetta Diamond, Chair

The Outreach Committee meeting focused on planning for upcoming events, including the town hall meeting scheduled for June 13th at New Bethany Baptist Church and the 5K event planned for September 12th. The committee discussed potential community partners and speakers for the town hall, with Verna Avery Brown and Roach Brown being considered as key participants to address voting rights and community issues. Art provided an update on the recently published newsletter, which included a new format and calendar of events, and the committee explored ways to coordinate with Craig's community events to maximize their outreach efforts. The meeting also covered logistics for the 5K event, including children's activities and Spanish-

language flyers, while addressing the need to begin promotion in May after the pledge drive concludes.

#### Next steps

Art: Forward the latest newsletter to the Outreach Committee while on the call

Violetta: Forward the newsletter (received from Art) to the full committee (Terry): Provide last name, email, and telephone number in the chat for committee records

Ellen: Update and maintain the list of Outreach Committee members and share with Otis (tech) and Violetta

Violetta: Reach out to Verna Avery Brown to ask about her experience with town halls, suggestions for format, and potential community organization involvement for the upcoming town hall

Art: Draft and distribute PSAs for the upcoming town hall

Violetta: Check with Kamal after the meeting regarding new provisions/authorization requirements for the town hall

Art: Connect Terry with Craig regarding tabling and event support for the May 17th Palisades Hub benefit concert

Violetta: Send Craig's email and newsletter information to Wanda

Violetta: Start a thread to brainstorm a catchy title/theme for the upcoming town hall focused on "Get out the vote"/elections

Hikim (Sabu): Follow up on the price for 5K participants

Violetta: Follow up with Ms. Turner regarding the status of the U Street Jam and potential committee involvement

Violetta: Check with Kamal to ensure the town hall planning is in compliance with new bylaws and any required staff approvals

Hikim: Start talking about the 5K event in May, after the pledge drive, and coordinate save-the-date announcement

Art: Begin working on the next newsletter interview with DJ Abby (targeted for June)

#### Summary

## Committee Meeting and Quorum Discussion

The meeting began with technical difficulties as participants experienced issues joining and the meeting date showing as April 7th. Terry Goolsby joined and provided her contact information to be recognized as a committee member. The group discussed quorum requirements, with Violetta estimating about 8 members on the committee. The meeting proceeded with plans to conduct business.

## Newsletter and 5K Event Updates

The meeting covered updates on newsletters and the upcoming 5K event. Art reported on the latest newsletter, which was distributed that morning and follows a new format requested by Shayna. The group discussed different types of newsletters being produced, including public affairs, business, LSB cultural, and donor-specific newsletters. Regarding the 5K event, Martha's report outlined plans for September 12th, including event timing from 8 AM to 3 PM, children's activities, and a Spanish version of the flyer, with a save-the-date announcement planned for May.

## Outreach Committee and Event Planning

Shayna thanked the team for their work and mentioned her excitement about the upcoming 5K event. She confirmed with Art that the requirements for the bequest had been completed, including signing necessary documents through the portal. The group then discussed the Outreach Committee, with Wanda confirming her intention to attend four meetings as suggested by Kamal. Ellen requested a clear list of committee members and emphasized the importance of communicating meeting information to the entire LSB. The conversation concluded with a brief mention of planning for an upcoming town hall meeting, including the involvement of station management and staff, as well as discussing a community issue related to elections.

## Town Hall Planning Meeting

The team discussed plans for an upcoming town hall scheduled for June 13th at New Bethany Baptist Church. The committee requested Chris Garlock's participation at the town hall meeting to partner with the labor community but this will have to be postponed due to his unavailability. Ellen suggested focusing on voting rights issues and distributing voting cards, and targeting

young people through apps and podcasts. The team agreed to check the studio for existing voting cards and determine how to order more, with Ellen offering to check the current supply.

#### Town Hall Voting Event Planning

The committee discussed organizing a town hall event focused on voting, with Verna Avery Brown and other potential participants being considered. They debated the format, with Art suggesting a brief 30-minute session rather than a longer panel discussion, and proposed involving Verna to provide insights on maximizing participation across different programs and audiences. The group also discussed the importance of including community partners, similar to previous successful collaborations with organizations like 3DC, and mentioned the possibility of incorporating an educational component with help from Chris Garlock and the union.

#### Community Events Planning Committee

The committee discussed plans for upcoming events and outreach initiatives. They explored the possibility of hosting a panel discussion featuring community members, potentially on Roach Brown's show, to demonstrate the LSB's connection to the community. The group also reviewed plans for a 5K event scheduled for 8am to 3pm, with children's games and Spanish-language flyers planned. The committee will wait until May to begin promoting the 5K event to avoid interfering with the current fundraising drive as suggested, though Terry questioned this timing. The conversation ended with plans to discuss event coordination details in more depth at the next meeting.

#### Community Outreach Coordination Meeting

The meeting focused on coordinating community outreach events between the outreach committee and Craig's existing event organization efforts. Terry volunteered to help with logistics and event setup, particularly for an upcoming benefit concert at Palisades Hub on May 17th. The committee discussed partnering with Craig rather than duplicating efforts, with plans to participate in events listed in the recent newsletter, including tabling opportunities at various community events. Wanda, a new member, requested access to Craig's event information and the newsletter, which Violetta agreed to share. The group also briefly discussed a potential U Street Jam event that Miss Gloria was working on.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Attachment D

### **Program Committee report**

Mike Hersh, Chair

Report from the WPFW Programming Committee re: meeting on April 27, 2026

1. We have 15 total members, 12 attended
2. We conducted elections to replace Minerva Sanders as Chair and Anita (Irene) Adams as secretary.

The following people were elected, all by acclamation:

Mike Hersh: Chair [formerly Vice Chair]

David Kiasi: Vice Chair

Wanda Gnahoui: Secretary

We also welcomed two new members: Morris Kaplowitz and Latrice Vincent

3. We honored, appreciated, and recognized Members Sanders and Adams for their devoted service and inspirational leadership of the Programming Committee. We're pleased that both will remain active members on the committee.
4. We discussed the Committee's responsibilities including helping the Program Director and other staff, making recommendations for shows, and assisting with the LSB show [currently in hiatus].
5. We discussed changing the time and/or day of our meetings to accommodate members' schedules. We deferred decision, and our scheduled meeting time remains the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm ET, (with the exception of holidays such as Memorial Day coming up.)  
Note: we've rescheduled our next meeting to Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, the day after Memorial Day.
6. We finalized and approved the Feedback Form without objection. We added a disclaimer that it not be used during Fund Drives and special programming. The amended form was or will be sent to Ellen for forwarding to the LSB.
7. The Committee discussed how best to utilize the form. We agreed that the form is to be a resource for the Programming Director. We emphasized that feedback must remain positive,

constructive, and respectful, mindful that our programmers are volunteers. We seek the LSB's insight and instruction regarding the implementation of the feedback form, any modification to the form, who will be invited to use the form, etc. Chair Mike Hersh suggested inviting the LSB and possibly CAB members to join with the Programming Committee in using the feedback form. After a trial period, we may seek broader feedback such as by putting the form on the website and inviting the WPFW community to participate.

8. New committee member Latrice Vincent asked, "Who is the LSB Serving?" LSB Chair Kamau Harris responded that the Local Station Board serves WPFW listeners, programmers, and staff and is composed of all pillars of our community. (this is a paraphrase, not an exact quote).
9. We adjourned the meeting.