

WPFW- LSB Regular Meeting Minutes July 15, 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 6:34 pm with Chair, Kamau Harris

2. Logins/Greetings/Roll Call

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Hyland | 13. Mariah McClain |
| 2. Verna Avery Brown | 14. Robert Gordon |
| 3. Susan C Goodwin | 15. Michael Hersh |
| 4. Julie Hewitt | 16. Bill Curtis |
| 5. Violetta Diamond | 17. Anita Irene Adams |
| 6. David Kiasi | 18. Ron Pinchback |
| 7. Wanda Gnahoui | 19. Jawara Hunter |
| 8. Ambrose Lane | 20. Latrice Vincent |
| 9. Michele Tingling-Clemmons | 21. Michelle Thomas |
| 10. Kamau Harris | 22. Thomas Chase non-voting |
| 11. Michael Byfield | 23. Ellen Carter non-voting |
| 12. Junette Pinkney | |

Unexcused absence: Minerva Sanders

Excused absence:

3. Approval of the Agenda and June 17, 2026 minutes approved.

4. Program Director Report

Katea Stitt, Program Director reported:

Special Programming

Many programmers expanded their reach during the Black music program. The Inside Out collective presented special programming. A new program has been added; New World Order, Mahjai, Ama'd, Liv Grace and Trélogy. On September 7, there will be special programming starting at 5am.

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)**

She was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Shayna Lonoaea, General Manager reported:

New Interns

(a). Sinit Tekleab

WPFW Development Intern

(b). Alexandra Sourdis

WPFW Communications Intern

(c). Zoie Prandy

Communications Intern

Pacifica Election Nominations

In the recent Pacifica election, 3% of members participated in the nomination activities, and outreach was made to the NES regarding vacancies.

Nielsen Ratings

This week, data from Nielsen ratings should arrive.

Donor System

Efforts are in progress to upgrade the donor system to make it easier for individuals to contribute.

Listening Session

A listening session is being organized, which will accommodate a maximum of ten participants, and a survey will be distributed to all members.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming events include a benefit concert on July 26, a 5k run on September 12, and the U Street Jam at the Masonic Ballroom on November 14. Volunteers are needed for the planning of special programs and events.

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

Sue Goodwin, News Director reported:

We have focused on what is occurring in Iran, Gaza, Sudan, and the Global South. Additionally, we have covered the Maryland data center issue. They are continuing the newsletter and she is collaborating with Katea Stitt, Program Director, on election coverage.

8. Chief Engineer report: (see Attachment C written report submitted by the Chief Engineer)

Chief Engineer, Moe Thomas reported:

He was unable to attend the meeting. The transmitter went down as a result of the hot climate in Washington, DC.; however, they were able to return programming.

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

Vinnie Jack, Volunteer Coordinator reported:

He was unable to attend the meeting but a report was submitted.

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

Thomas Chase, Chair, reported:

Finances

He said they are executing the budget realignment for the year. We have made funding commitments, slightly above the budgeted negative revenue. The main issue is finalizing the underwriting for revenue. Expenses are in line with the budget, and we expect to have a surplus

of \$90,000 we will be in the black. Regarding the generator, we are assessing its feasibility to determine its justification.

Audit

The Pacifica audit process is in the ED report and we are currently behind for 2023 and 2024, with completion expected by the end of August and November for 2024 and 2025 audit. The \$5,000 funding from the development account is set aside. Management is coordinating with various events.

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

Violetta Diamond, Chair, reported:

The newsletter is ready to go to management. It addresses the promotion of the 5K run to encourage greater participation. The 5k Race Director will provide Shanya with additional information regarding costs.

12. Community Comment

Starr had questions about and was confused by what she received from Pacifica regarding nominations. She expressed concern about the nomination list for the Pacifica election and the process for the nominations. There was also concern over the station's coverage of certain issues.

Michelle Thomas suggested that programs should take more calls.

13. PNB Director's Reports

Julie Hewitt reported:

The nomination period closed on July 9th, and ballots have not yet been distributed. They will be sent out on August 15th. Mike has intervened to assist with the hardship waiver group. Audits are scheduled for August 22 and 23, and November 23 and 24. Kiasi had questions about Ron' comment that WPFW and WBAI do not have full representation on the PNB and LSB for next year.

Ron Pinchback reported:

The PNB is currently addressing the election period, which will be concluded by August. Unfortunately, WPFW and WBAI will not have full representation on the PNB and LSB for next year.

14. Program Committee Report (see Attachment D written report submitted by

Mike Hersh)

Mike Hersh, Chair reported:

Program Feedback Form

There was a discussion regarding the review of the Programmer Feedback form. David will review it.

Filling Program Slots

The committee will assist the program director in filling program slots.

Pacifica Elections

Discussed the upcoming election and the visibility of our election candidates and inquire if they can be featured on air. Revive the LSB program. The next meeting will be on the first Wednesday.

Fundraising Venture:

Organize a rummage/yard sale to raise funds for the station.

15. Unfinished Business

(a). Fundraiser rummage/yard sale:

They need 5 or 6 volunteers:

1. Michael Byfield
2. Michelle Thomas
3. Mike Hersh
4. Kamau Harris

(b). A meeting is needed to discuss the Bill of Rights and Grievance Process document.

Motion

I move that we hold a closed session meeting on July 30 from 7 to 9 PM with the General Manager to discuss the Bill of Rights and Grievance Process document.

Vote: Unanimous

16. New Business

(a). Election updates

Kamau Harris, chair, gave directions on voting for directors and LSB members.

17. Action Items/Summary

- (a). Special meeting to discuss the Bill of Rights and Grievance Process document.
- (b). Fundraiser Rummage/Yard sale

18. Adjourn: Kamau Harris, Chair, Adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Ellen Williams Carter

Attachment A



July Report 2026

Prepared for WPFW Listener Station Board

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General Manager

Prepared by Shayna Lonoaea, General Manager

Welcome Our Summer Interns

Sinit Tekleab

WPFW Development Intern



From Philadelphia, Sinit Tekleab is a senior at American University studying American Studies with a minor in Political Science. Her work in tenant outreach and environmental justice organizing has shaped her interest in grassroots media, political education, and justice centered storytelling. At American University, Sinit has organized with Sunrise Movement AU, serving as JEAO lead and YDSA as the DEI lead. Her academic research examines the relationship between culture, resistance, and social movements. Her work includes research on the blues as a form of resistance

for Black women within and beyond carceral systems of surveillance, as well as a project exploring SoundCloud as a digital juke joint and contemporary space for Black cultural expression and

community. Outside of her academic and organizing work, Sinit enjoys discovering new music and DJing.

Alexandra Sourdis

WPFW Communications Intern



Alex Sourdis is entering her senior year at The George Washington University, where she studies journalism and mass communication. She has hosted a talk radio show on WRGW District radio, reported for the GW Hatchet, and worked with Ward 2 Mutual Aid doing outreach with Foggy Bottom's unhoused community. These experiences inform her interest in politics, culture, and justice-oriented storytelling. She is excited to join WPFW's team as a communications intern, as the station approaches its 50th anniversary this summer.

Zoie Prandy

Communications Intern



Zoie Prandy, is an award-winning multimedia creative and entrepreneur, passionate about authentic storytelling and using visual aesthetics to capture real human experiences. With over five years of experience, she carries skills across photography, video, graphic design, and film as an Adobe Certified Professional and founder of her multimedia business, ZoieProductionz.

On campus, Zoie has served as Assistant Director for the Howard University Film Organization production team and photojournalist for The Hilltop. Zoie was also host of the award-winning television series, *Teen Talk*, earning a Telly Award. Most recently she served as a production intern for Howard University Television (WHUT) and

the 2026 Paramount Storytellers Lab where she worked on the marketing campaign for the limited series, *Route 187* written by Mark E. Swinton and produced by Tyler Perry. Zoie is excited to bring her diverse talents and contribute to the meaningful work that WPFW does as a communications intern.

Pacifica Elections: WPFW LSB Nomination Results

Candidates that met the 15 member nomination criteria:

- Herbert Smith, candidate for Chair
- Michelle Thomas, candidate for Vice Chair
- Jawara Hunter, candidate for Secretary
- Ron Pinchback, candidate for LSB Staff and Volunteer Team Member Rep
- **Vacancies**: Outreach Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator, and a LSB Staff and Volunteer Team Member Rep
 - I requested followup with the Elections Supervisor on understanding how vacancies will be filled.

Nominations Turnout: 186 members (3%) of 5,762 total members participated.

Our Ratings

We're expecting our first batch of ratings to come in later this week. Stay tuned.

New Donor System Incoming

We're moving forward with a new CRM system from Allegiance! This platform is going to be a game-changer for how we manage our donor relationships and on-air drives.

- For our programmers, the system offers a much more comprehensive "tally page" or donation tracker during drives that shows real-time goals, hourly totals, and shout out comments from donors as they come in.
- For the staff, the CRM makes it incredibly easy to look up a donor's full history, see if they belong to the same household as another donor, and keep detailed notes on our interactions.
- We can create unlimited and mobile-friendly donation forms, moving away from our current donation webpage.
- The system can automatically email donors if their credit card is about to expire, which is huge for keeping our monthly giving steady.

Branding and Website Updates

We're in Phase 1: Brand Strategy (Current): We are starting with the discovery process in July/August, which includes the **listening sessions and stakeholder surveys** to clarify WPFW's mission and audience.

- **2 Listening Sessions** will be held with select staff, programmers, and volunteers.
- A **survey** will be conducted and open to all.

Upcoming Events

- WPFW continues to celebrate our 50th year with our **3rd Benefit Concert** at the Palisades Hub on Sunday July 26th from 4:00 until 6:00 in the afternoon including live Jazz music by local artists. There will be a performance by Washington's pianist Janelle Gill leading a trio with opening set by former, bassist/vocalist Zoë Jorgenson accompanied by guitarist Parker Speirs. **Buy Tickets:** www.wpfw.org
- **Community 5K Walk/Run** - Saturday, September 12 at 8am.
- **Jazz and Justice Festival** - Saturday, September 26 at Malcolm X Park.
- **U Street Jam** - Saturday, November 14th at The Historical Masonic Ballroom.

Volunteer for Event Planning!

We're convening 2 committees: **50th Anniversary** and **Jazz and Justice Festival**.

We are currently seeking support in:

- Fundraising & Sponsorships
- Auction Coordination
- Community Outreach
- Event Planning & Ticket Sales

How to Join

Email Miyuki at miyuki@wpfw.org and express your interest in getting involved with either or both committees!

Station Wishlist

Reach out to me at gm@wpfw.org to coordinate any donations you'd like to provide. Thank you!

- ☐ Printer paper
- ☐ HP 26A Black Original LaserJet Toner Cartridge, CF226A
- ☐ Black ink pens
- ☐ Post-it Notes
- ☐ New Laptops (contact for specs)
- ☐ Laptop stands
- ☐ Radio / Record Player / Cassette Player

Records + Cassettes

Vintage WPFW Swag or materials

Type C chargers

Flash drives

Shoutouts

- **House That Wanda Built:** Happy Pride! Thank you to the Inside Out Collective for their extraordinary programming "House that Wanda Built," honoring the legacy of Wanda Alston, an inspiring Black lesbian organizer. I deeply appreciated the heartfelt music tributes, call-ins, and call-outs for our families, faith communities, and neighbors to love us for who we are. Every last day of June, their stewardship of the radio station amplifies LGBTQ+ histories, perspectives, and stories, ensuring that Wanda's spirit and the voices of our community continue to live on.
- **July 4th, 250th Anniversary:** I want to share some deep gratitude for the incredible, diverse programming we heard leading up to and on the 250th anniversary of this country. Our programmers truly brought the Jazz and Justice spirit to life, amplifying voices that spoke to both the 250 years of white supremacy and -isms we've faced and the 250 years of resistance, rebellion, and refusal that continue today. By sharing thought-provoking music and insights, they honored the unwavering will of the people and our shared love and inheritance of resistance.

Wisdom Circle

Stay tuned for our upcoming Wisdom Circle, where a group of **knowledge keepers and storytellers** will share the rich history of WPFW. We aim to gather at least quarterly to honor our past through an oral history project as we celebrate our 50th anniversary and beyond. We'll capture audio and video footage while exploring questions like: What is WPFW? What has it been? Where is it headed?

Programming

Prepared by Katea Stitt, Program Director

Katea was out on vacation until July 10th.

Special Project: Voices of an American Reckoning 250

In the spirit of Dr. Howard Zinn's radical truth-telling and the visionary legacy of News Director Sue Goodwin, WPFW presents **Voices of an American Reckoning 250**. As the nation reaches its 250th anniversary, we refuse to uphold colonial myths, choosing instead to center the **global majority** which are Black, Indigenous, immigrant, queer, disabled, and poor kin whose lives form the true tapestry of this land.

This is a **collective act of remembrance** and a call to dismantle the socio-political construct of "whiteness" and the machinery of white supremacy used to oppress our communities both here and across the globe. We are reclaiming our narratives and unpacking the tools of our oppression to clear the path for true liberation.

In anticipation of the country's 250th anniversary, we have launched a **Collective Remembrance Project**. This initiative invites the community to submit one-minute audio "drops" answering what an "American Reckoning" means to them. These clips will be featured on-air starting July 4, archived in a web library, and used for social media campaigns.

Want to be part of our Voices of an American Reckoning 250 project?

We're looking for **one-minute audio clips** sharing your perspective on what an American Reckoning looks like as we approach the country's 250th anniversary.

Whether you need a quick "how-to" on recording or you're ready to send us your finished clip, reach out to **americanreckoning250@wpfw.org** with the subject line **"American Reckoning 250"**.

Membership

Prepared by Sataria Joyner, Administrative and Membership Coordinator

Our Current Members

5,762 WPFW Members

- These members are eligible to participate in the Pacifica Elections
- They have either donated \$25 or more and/or volunteered for 3 hours

Pacifica Elections Timeline

- April – May Election Preparation
- June 1 – Fair Campaign Provisions take effect
- June 30 Record Date for Membership
- June 1 – June 30 (11:59 PM PT) Candidate Nomination Phase
- Candidates will be available for viewing when we receive applications.
- July 11 (11:59 PM PT) – Nomination Extension for renewals and new members who joined in June 2026 until July 11, 2026
- Due to the July 11, 2026 extension, the Candidate Certificate period has been changed.
- July 12 – August 1st Candidate Certification period.
- August 15 Voting Phase Begins
- September 30 Voting Phase Closes at 11:59 PM PT. The full election may be extended an additional 24 hours if a quorum is not met.

Upcoming Pledge Drives

- **August:** Sunday, August 2 – Saturday, August 15
- **October:** Sunday, October 11 – Saturday, October 24
- **December:** Sunday, December 13 - Saturday, October 19

News

Headlines

- We continued to offer our listeners headlines on a Monday through Friday schedule. This past month, we worked on providing daily updates on a wide range of local, national and international stories including the ongoing war in Iran and the Trump Administration policy, Israel's policy in the Palestinian territories, the Ukraine conflict, the spread of the Ebola virus in Central Africa. We also continued to cover housing affordability legislation, immigration and deportation policy in the U.S., and GOP-led restricting efforts across the country and the consequences for voting rights.
- In local news, our coverage included efforts in Maryland to limit data center development, the white supremacist march through DC, the primary election, Trump and home rule, and curfew policy in DC,

Pacifica National News

- We continued to meet with the newly established Pacifican National News unit and continued WPFW's M-F daily contribution of headlines available to all Pacifica stations and affiliates for 5pm. We also talked about national collaboration on breaking news coverage.

Special Programming

- We worked with Program Director Katea Stitt to develop and implement programming on the theme of American Reckoning to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence.
- We began the process of developing a station plan for covering the midterm elections.

Volunteers

Prepared by Vinnie Jack, Volunteer Coordinator

The Stats

- **Cherry Hill Arts & Music Festival** (Baltimore - July 4)
 - Recruited a group of volunteers for the entire day.
 - Event ultimately canceled due to extreme heat.
- **Monthly Volunteer Orientation** (July 2)
 - Total of 7 future volunteers attended.
 - Enthusiastic group ranging from early 20s to 70s.
 - One-on-one meetings scheduled or in progress.
 - Interest from a parent regarding community hours for their under-18 daughter; unable to proceed due to SiriusXM age restrictions.

July/August Volunteer Opportunities

- **50th Fundraising Concert**
 - What: We need help with greeting attendees, setup, and tear down.
 - When: July 26 at Palisades Hub
- **August Fund Drive Phone Pledge Volunteers**
 - What: We need help answering phones and taking pledges during the August Pledge Drive. This saves the station thousands of dollars.
 - Max 4 volunteers per shift. ○
 - Dates: Weekends (9 AM to 6 PM)
 - Sunday, August 2
 - Saturday, August 8
 - Sunday, August 9
 - Saturday, August 15
 - Shifts: 9am-12pm, 12pm-3pm, 3pm-6pm ●
- **50th Celebration Auction Support**
 - 2 volunteers needed to assist Joyce Kilgore with sorting, data entry, and phototaking of auction items.

Howto Sign Up

Email Vinnie at vjack@wpfw.org

Volunteer's Journey

1. **The Application:** It starts with a detailed volunteer form to match individual skills and interests with station needs.
2. **Orientation:** New recruits attend a monthly orientation to get grounded in our mission of progressive social change.
3. **The Handbook:** Every volunteer receives a handbook covering basic info, community agreements, and accountability processes (understanding these are living documents subject to change).
4. **One-on-One Dialogue:** I meet with each person individually to explore their motivations and what they hope to share and learn.
5. **Committee Action:** Our main goal is to plug volunteers into at least one of our active committees: **Development, Outreach, Finance, or Programming.**
6. **Phone Pledges:** Because we are beholden only to our listeners, everyone is encouraged to participate in phone pledges to help keep us corporate-free.
7. **Ongoing Check-Ins:** I'll periodically check-in with volunteers to see how they're doing and invite them to other volunteer opportunities like tabling at events, letter folding, etc.

Monthly Volunteer Orientations

Every first Thursday of the month, we host a volunteer orientation at WPFW to welcome new faces. In this session, attendees get to know the station's history, values, community agreements, and how they can get involved. After the group orientation, each volunteer has a one-on-one chat to share their interests and discuss their upcoming work. This personalized approach helps build meaningful connections and ensures everyone feels supported as they start their journey with us.

New and veteran volunteers are encouraged to attend.

To attend a volunteer orientation, visit our website www.wpfwfm.org/radio/volunteer or [click here to sign up to volunteer or share the link with a friend.](#)

Attachment B

Click on the WPFW FY26.



Attachment C

Narrative Engineering Report – July 2026 Prepared for the Local Station Board

I am pleased to report to the Local Station Board (LSB). The quality and coverage of our broadcast signal are appropriate and important concerns of the Board, as they directly reflect what our listeners expect and support.

That said, I would like to respectfully clarify the technical limitations involved. While we continuously ensure that the transmitter is operating at full licensed power and that the antenna system is regularly inspected by American University, signal propagation is governed by physical and environmental factors that cannot be fully controlled.

Transmission Systems

Primary Transmitter Reliability : the transmitter has been operating reliably and in accordance with specifications. This has been consistently documented in prior reports. We monitor the transmitter's performance and health on a continuous and daily basis. With consistent preventative maintenance and monitoring efforts, the transmitter has been reliable since the last report. Weekly on-site inspections continue alongside full-time remote monitoring.

HD Radio Service continues to perform well and has generated positive listener feedback. Alignment between analog FM and HD digital audio streams continues to be monitored.

Backup Transmitter Replacement has provided excellent service the few times we've called on it in the past few months. It is tested weekly.

Environmental Maintenance: All air filters in the transmitter room were replaced which contributes directly to plant reliability.

Studio Operations

Technical Maintenance

Routine studio technical discrepancies have been addressed promptly, maintaining consistent operational readiness.

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.

Internet Connectivity: updated security equipment is now in place.

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

Attachment D

Programming Committee Report

Submitted by: Wanda Gnahoui

The Programming Committee met on 7/8; attendees were:

1. Mike Hersh
2. David Kiasa
3. Martha Peterson
4. Shayna Lonoaea
5. Latrice Vincent
6. Wanda Gnahoui
7. Michelle Thomas
8. Verna Avery Brown
9. Hakim
10. Vanessa Dixon Briggs
11. Kamau Harris

12. Michelle Tingling-Clemons

The meeting was called to order by committee Chair Mike Hersh after preliminary discussion addressing the online Feedback form. Shayna committed to editing the online form.

Major items discussed were

- Determination of committee's regular meeting day and time, goal, and membership
- Stellar programming; completing grid; work of interns
- LSB Show
- Upcoming Elections
- Rummage sale follow-up

I. Future Programming Committee meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7. The next meeting will be on 8/5. Membership in the committee was estimated to be 15. The stated goal of the committee was to make sure that wpfw fulfills its commitment to uphold the station's mission.

Verna asked about the future of the programming committee under the new by-laws. Kamau clarified that a programming committee is NOT written into the new by-laws, however the new LSB can decide to form its own local programming committee since there is to be collaboration between new management and the new LSB's.

Shayna pointed out that finance committees are also missing from the LSB's. She suggested there be a mini-retreat for committees to get clarification of goals, to promote a volunteer culture and for members to meet one another. Handbooks that would outline goals and meeting times for each committee can be created.

II. Programming on July 4th, along with the public affairs programming leading up to it as described as "really great".

Currently, the Thursday 2am – 5am slot remains unfilled; members were encouraged to notify Katea of any known potential hosts. Interns are working together to produce one hour of the slot. The interns are also working to market programming by describing the shows, and including biographical descriptions of the hosts on a webpage.

III. Concern was expressed about the current state and future of the LSB show. Hakim shared an overview of the show's recent history:

The LSB was held on the last Friday of the month but preempted twice in a row. It then went into limbo after 2 to 3 months of not being able to be on the air. He pointed out that membership on the LSB is not a requirement for producing/volunteering for the show.

Kamau will share a proposal that he has on producing the LSB show.

IV. Verna urged that a PSA be made on air ASAP to urge people to nominate by 7/11. Latrice volunteered to record a PSA; Shayna will connect with Latrice re PSA once she gets approved language. It was noted that the campaign mechanism for candidate forums no longer exists.

Kamau proposed that a discussion take place at the next LSB meeting to develop a plan, agreed upon by the whole board, that would address the promotion of our candidates nationally. This plan can then be presented to the NES.

V. Follow up on the rummage sale idea: RFK stadium was proposed as an ideal location because vendors and a crowd are there each weekend. The committee would need to purchase a stand.

The meeting was adjourned, with no objection.

wtg