

PNB Election Review Committee

Teleconference Meeting Sunday, July 10, 2005, at 8:00PM EDT

Draft minutes submitted by Mary Berg, secretary.

I. SUMMARY:

A. The committee's membership list was updated. Current list is as shown below. The committee needs 1 director and 2 delegates from KPFK, and 1 delegate from WPFW. Chair will contact chairs from both stations.

B. Minutes from 6/6 and 6/12 approved. 6/26 minutes tabled.

C. Next meeting set for Sunday 7/24, at 7:00PM EDT

D. Revision of draft mission statement was begun. Production of a manual (see below).

MB=Mary Berg	KPFA
CB=Carolyn Birden	WBAI
PH=Patty Heffley	WBAI
MID=Melinda Iley-Dohn	KPFT
RP=Richard Phelps	KPFA
TW=Ted Weisgal	KPFT
LW=LaVarn Williams	KPFA
CR=Cerene Roberts	WBAI
Rob=Rob Robinson	WPFW
WS=Wendy Schroell	KPFT

II. MEETING MINUTES:

Meeting called to order at 8:25PM ET.

Determination of Quorum:

Present for all or part of the meeting: MB, CB, PH, MID, RP, CR, Rob, WS, LW..

Absent: none

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approval of minutes is deferred until 9:15 ET, pending receipt of copy of 6/26 minutes.

CR moves to set end time for meeting no later than 9:30PM EDT.

Vote: Yes: TW, CR, Rob. No: CB, LWM WS, MIL, PH, RP, MB. Motion fails 3-7.

WS moves to set end time at 8:40PM ET or sooner. PASSES with 1 abstention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee Composition - CB: Need 2 reps from WPFW. Carol Wolf, also Rob, will bring the issue to the next WPFW LSB meeting, on 7/13.

Coordinating with the PACGov on election issues - CB: Since there is so much overlap, CB spoke with Lydia Brazon, chair of the Bylaws Subcommittee; she will send CB what they've agreed on so far, which is mainly some changes to the internal time line. CB thinks we need to discuss our approach to the time line as soon as possible.

Election Support - CB: Would like to set up a separate listener support committee so that knowledgeable people with election experience can help with the large volume of work needed.

Resolutions Implementation: CB sent a reformatted version of the document comparing the ERC resolutions with PNB implementation, but not all had seen it; and subgroup hasn't met. Report postponed until 7/24.

Job Description and Time Line: We agree to defer discussion of the time line until we receive Lydia's material. There is discussion whether the subcommittees' meetings should be streamed and archived (presently they are not). In view of the importance of the bylaws and elections review processes, we agree that these certainly should be webcast and archived. WS will try to move this issue forward with the PNB.

Database Integrity and Audit- CB: It's clear from last year's reports, both national and local, that demand for database audit is a very high priority, something we must do. Audits of both the local and national databases have to be redone, and some order brought to the database maintenance process, which in some cases is really chaotic. She also had some assurance that it can probably be done with the help of outside groups, because we can find funds for that other than Pacifica.

MB: At KPFA, the listener/subscriber data base is well maintained. Our problem is with the unpaid staff list. Our Unpaid Staff Organization has different membership rules from the bylaws – 30 hours in 12 months, not 3. We were unable to change them this year and now they can't be changed until next year. There is no procedure to determine who qualifies as unpaid staff.

MID: A real problem at KPFT. The LES had to spend his entire time for 2 weeks entering a list by hand. WS: The bylaws only say, "any... volunteer who has worked for the station for at least 30 hours in the preceding three months", excluding fundraiser phone answering. The type of work is undefined; it can be gardening or hauling or whatever.

CB: All the station have problems with their unpaid staff lists; plus 2 classes of staff: those with UPSOs and those without.

TW: We agreed to contact management for input; any outcome?

MID: Not yet; needs to leave a message.

CB: Has done that at BAI but not had call back so far. Had also said she would contact all five stations; will report back at next meeting.

RP: Need to go beyond culling the NES/LES reports, as doesn't have a lot of confidence in them. We need to

find out from other people what their concerns were. (There is general agreement.)

CR: suggests, rather than people making their individual representations as to what the committee needs, that a subcommittee be formed to come up with specific language that then is passed on to all the stations, so that we can be sure that the same information is being conveyed.

CB: Good point- this is that subcommittee. CR: Wasn't aware there was one. Wants to join.

WS: Agrees with CR that we should state what we need; but we have to recognize that we're asking for a bylaws change.

MB: Doesn't think so. Bylaws don't preclude us from having policy and procedures that are not in the bylaws. The detailed workings of the bylaws procedures ought to be outside the bylaws, so they can be updated as necessary (e.g., to reflect changes in technology, etc).

WS: Is referring to the contradictions – two kinds of staff rules, etc., – in the bylaws.

TW: The term “procedures” is too vague, need to specify either standard rules or special rules. He favors special rules because with advance notice can be changed by PNB by 2/3 vote.

CR: Need to contact staff, paid and unpaid, as well as management. Thinks it's not true that the staff is inevitably at war with the listeners; we have shared interests. Thinks mutual respect would go a long way toward making the system work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: CB: re list of names in 6/12 minutes; CG, AL, JG, GT are not on the EC. There is agreement that the original names should not be removed from the minutes, as they had been elected and were not known to be off as of 6/12. Minutes of 6/12 and 5/6 are approved without objection. Approval of 6/26 minutes moved to 7/24.

Election Rescue Act: Postponed until 7/24.

Mission Statement: Note: Rob had left the call at this point.

TW: After “recommendations”, add the phrase “special rules”. There is extended discussion of the meaning and significance of “special rules”, as set forth in RROO, 10th edition. We agree to postpone further discussion of

“special rules” until 7/24 meeting.

The following revisions were made (strikeout for deletions, additions and comments in italics):

DRAFT by Rob Robinson of mission statement for the PNB Elections Committee, reformatted by Carolyn Birden. Comments and suggestions, made during and subsequent to last meeting , are appended below.

The Mission of the Pacifica National Board’s (the “PNB”) Elections Review Committee is:

1. 1.1 To review the processes associated with democratically electing listener and staff delegates to the Foundation’s local station boards for the purpose of making specific recommendations to the PNB on how best to implement those sections (Articles 2,3 & 4) of the bylaws dealing with the elections. 1.2 Such recommendations shall include criteria and guidelines for promulgating comprehensive election *guidelines and regulations* and may include recommendations for amending the revised bylaws.: for example, amendments to establish a more effective timetable for planning, conducting and completing local station board elections; or, to identify possible criteria for waiving financial requirements of membership without creating a disincentive for listeners to become members.

2. 2.1 To review the findings, conclusions and recommendations made to Pacifica management and the PNB by National Elections Supervisors and Local Elections *Supervisors* Coordinators and *make recommendations as to the appropriateness of their implementation.* to propose to the PNB goals and priorities for implementing such recommendations.

Paragraph 3 will be re-written to include production of a comprehensive manual which will embody the EC’s main work; draft language for the paragraph to be submitted by MB and also RP.

(3. 3.1 To provide oversight and planning for elections processes and to help coordinate the cooperation and interactions of the independent elections supervisors and coordinators charged with the conduct of the elections and the local elections committees representing the local stations members and listeners, whose participation is necessary for the success of the elections process.)

Rob to be asked to clarify several points about Paragraph 4.

(4. 4.1 The committee may investigate the efficacy of various choice voting systems, as it pertains to Pacifica’s listeners’ demographic profiles and in view of its election frequency and other criteria. 4.2 The

committee should also develop a means of certifying the accuracy of software documentation of algorithms used to tabulate votes in accordance with the type of choice voting method to be used.)

5. 5.1 The committee may also make recommendations to the PNB on *possible* unanticipated consequences of *pertaining to the use of the existing elections processes for PNB or LSB committees, subcommittees and task forces*. bylaws language pertaining to internal elections processes of Pacifica governance bodies, for example language that stipulates single transferable voting (“STV”) and instant runoff voting (“IRV”) methods for standing committees of the PNB.

SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, ISSUES:

A. Add: suggestions for financing the elections. *Add as Paragraph 6. CB will work on language.*

B. Add: statement financial impact of all recommendations *This is now required by PNB. Must be added, either in Paragraph 1 or 6*

C. Add: product will be a manual of processes for supervisors, stations, boards. *See notes for Paragraph 3, above.*

D. Add: directives re outreach and education of delegates and members on and off the air. *All agreed this is crucial, and a larger issue which will require a lot of work, especially if the time line is changed. To be added in the manual .*

E. Add: deadline for audits at each station and on the national level. *After some discussion, we agreed to add this to “New Business” for meeting 7/24.*

At this point there are six people left on the call: MB, CB, PH, MIL, RP AND LAVARN.

We agree that in future meetings people should announce when they leave the call. This will be put forth at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Analysis of choice voting systems, as well as **analysis of all 2004 reports**, are tabled until 7/24 meeting.

Election Support Committee: CB: Has had some suggestions to form such a committee, and some offers of help with various aspects of the work needed. It would be a national committee.

LaVarn: Thinks it's a great idea. Should involve as many listeners as possible

MB: Isn't it the same as the LEC? That was what our LEC did.

CB: That wasn't the case in other stations. Many stations didn't have functioning LECs.

There was discussion as to whether this should be on the national level, rather than local.

CB: This wouldn't be related to the NES or LES.

Further discussion postponed until 7/24, for lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35PM EDT.

Attachment converted: Macintosh HD:PNB EC draft minutes 71005.doc (WDBN/MSWD) (000DF69D)