

Minutes WBAI LSB in public session 3-11-26

Members Present: Milton Allimadi, Carolyn Birden, John Brinkley, Elliot Crown, Joan De Lorenzo, Paul De Rienzo, Jim Dingeman, Simon Fitzgerald, Eleanor Elizabeth Forman, Sally Gellert (PNB Director), Gloria Guillo (Vice-Chair), Bob Hennelly (Interim General Manager and Ex-officio LSB Member), Queen Mother Imakhu, Bounubti Kamenthou, Jeremy Kuzmarov, Alejandrina Murphy, Katherine O’Sullivan (Chair), Cerene Roberts (PNB Director), James Sagurton (PNB Director), Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, M. Kay Williams (Secretary)

Members Absent: Gail Bey, Jim Freund,

Also Present: R. Paul Martin (Treasurer), Neale Vos (CAB Chair)

Also Absent: Keziah Glow, Interim Program Director

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 including to note that as noted and discussed the last two months, the Pacifica National Board has taken action forbidding LSB/PNB member Alex Steinberg participation in this meeting and others.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse Absences. (5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: February 11, 2026 Meeting. (5 minutes) Sent 3-2-26
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. (20 minutes & 15 minutes discussion- Questions limited to one minute) — Sally Gellert, Cerene Roberts, James Sagurton, Alex Steinberg
8. Treasurer’s Report. (5 Minutes report 8 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin
9. 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.)

10. One minute of silence. (One minute)
11. Motion to divide the Public Comment - Motion that all future open meetings of the WBAI LSB will include two 15-minute Public Comment sessions at 7:45 pm and 8:45 pm instead of the current single Public Comment 30-minute period as the last agenda item at 9:16pm.
12. Report from the Committee of Inclusion. (5 minutes) – Carolyn Birden, John Brinkley, Joan De Lorenzo, Cerene Roberts
13. Report from Community Advisory Board (2 Minutes) – Neale Vos
14. Report From Town Hall Committee. (5 minutes) — Jim Dingeman
15. Report from the LOFT Committee Including Resolution About LSB On Air Pitching. (7 minutes) - John Brinkley
16. Management Search and Review Committee, Discussion. (5 minutes) – Jim Dingeman
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.
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).

7:05 pm ET – The Chair convened the meeting, herself, the secretary, and a quorum being present. She made her opening remarks, including asking Jeremy Kuzmarov if he accepted his appointment to the WBAI Local Station Board as Staff Member to replace Randy Credico who resigned. He did accept, and she affirmed his appointment and welcomed him to the Board, and there were no objections. Jack de Palma agreed to be timekeeper.

7:08 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To adopt the agenda (screenshared by the secretary). Seconded (Gloria Guillo) Passed without objection.

The Chair called for official roll call, results as above, with late arrivals added later.

7:13 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To excuse all absences. Seconded (John Brinkley) Eleanor Elizabeth Forman objected. The Chair asked if there were any other objections; and, seeing none, ruled the absences were excused.

7:14 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To accept minutes from 2-11-26 meeting. Seconded (Alejandrina Murphy and Sally Gellert). Passed with abstentions from Cerene Roberts and John Brinkley.

7:17 pm ET The Chair called for the report from the Interim General Manager, Bob Hennelly, who was present.

Highlights:

- Have \$35K in BoA Account, \$7,213 in Paypal
- Got \$3500 from the Radio Maria subcarrier, remains to be seen if we can keep it.
- Got \$30K from American Federation of Teachers.
- Doing another fund drive starting 4-1-26. Keziah Glow has already put out an All-Hands Call. Still deciding what goal will be set.
- Paid out \$13K -\$14K in health insurance (lower than expected), and \$20K in payroll.
- We are current with the rent at 388; there is an ongoing conversation about what to do about Berthold's old office. We have already taken back some space to create Studio B. Rebecca Myles needs space for 4 more Interns. One of them wrote a story that got retweeted by Mayor Mamdani and went viral. Rebecca Myles is teaching these young people how to expand into web casting, to combine content with pictures (fair use images.)
- We are publishing rotating articles on the website without a paywall at a time when the major media is doubling down on paywalls. It's a group effort of himself, Keziah Glow, but mostly Chris LaPilusa.
- Central Services continues to be an issue. He thinks Rebecca Myles salary \$35K and the \$15K we have spent on national news programming should count.
- The Bakery downstairs at 388 is set to open end of this month.
- Work on Studio B has been just about completed.
- The streaming team are Chris LaPilusa, Jake Glanz, Jon Almeleh, Otis Maclay. Chris knows the most about bandwidth.
- They do reliable in-house archiving nowadays, capturing off the Board at 388.
- There will be some opportunities for off-air outreach and fundraising: there will be 4-5 screenings at IFC of "Steal This Story" (about Amy Goodman and the Democracy Now journey); Amy Goodman's Anniversary at Riverside Church was rescheduled due to the snow event; Amy came on with Jenna Flannagan for an episode of "We Decide: America at the Crosswords;" Ecologic is offering whale-watching as a thank-you gift.

- Programming Notes: Cooperating with Ursula Rudenberg of the Affiliates, Lauren Schmidt of KPFA, and Sue Goodwin of WPFW to develop a Unified Headline Service. Pacifica is supporting Jesse Lent in the Netherlands to present news with an international non-interventionist perspective which is about 6 hours ahead of the major media. It will be reported to WPFW MIDDAY, then distributed throughout Pacifica. It appears on our website at 6:30 am, updated daily. With the demise of the CPB, NPR stations are looking to Pacifica which is offering from \$1500-\$10K per year for Democracy Now plus 800 other programs. Affiliates have grown to 210 stations, adding 2-3 per week. Our news broadcasts will be available to about 1800 stations nationally. The Attitude is a new strip program syndicated throughout about 60-75 Pacifica stations, and brings in \$20K in sustaining sponsorships. We do try to keep legacy and varied voices in strip programming. This has to be balanced with predictability. WBAI and Pacifica did cover the Iran crisis, and will cover the “show trial” of Maduro and his wife on 3-26-26; and the No Kings protests on 3-28-26.

The Board discussed the report and there was Q and A.

Highlights:

- Bounubti Kamenthou and Milton Alimadi, Board members, volunteered to help with technical improvements at 388.
- Elliot Crown, Board member, has experience with whale watching, and volunteered to help with this.
- While Frenchie Davis and Linda Sarsour provide listener call-ins during the day, WBAI’s listenership has always been used to late-night and over-night listener call-ins as well.
- How does he reconcile the difference between what the IGM and ED claimed as the final take on the December Fund Drive?
- Will women’s month programming include the many women reporting to the UN?
- There’s a lot of pressure at the PNB about WBAI being the only station not paying Central Services.

7:37 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend the discussion 15 minutes. Seconded (James Sagurton) Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report.

7:53 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend the discussion 15 minutes. Seconded (James Sagurton and Sally Gellert). Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report.

8:08 pm ET Motion (Jim Dingeman) To extend the discussion 5 minutes. Seconded (James Sagurton) There was an objection from Cerene Roberts. The Chair ruled that the last speaker on stack could finish his question instead of going to a roll call vote, and there were no objections.

8:10 pm ET The Chair called for reports from PNB Directors (Sally Gellert, Cerene Roberts, and James Sagurton). She noted that Alec Steinberg, while present at the meeting, was on suspension and could not give a report himself.

Highlights:

- The ED and PNB have found an auditor. Just need a contract and money to advance for this.
- The Pacifica majorities have refused to use runner-ups, elected by listeners, to replace LSB vacancies, but have overseen Board elections at WPFW, KPFT, KPFK, and KPFA, following the 2025 Bylaws.
- They have also chosen replacement PNB Directors who are not currently members of their respective station LSB's.
- Multiple PNB meetings have been cancelled for various reasons, including 4 out of 5 National Finance Committee meetings. Even if there is no quorum, a scheduled meeting can still take attendance and set next meeting date(s), but this isn't being done.
- KPFA has moved its Board meetings to second Wednesdays, same as WBAI.
- The ED has produced a new Policy and Practices Manual and a Retention of Documents Policy Manual.
- The ED has had one applicant for National Election Supervisor and according to the 2025 Bylaws a transition election will be held in June if these bylaws hold up in court. So, everyone keep up their \$25 membership so they can vote, and bring along their friends and family.

The Board discussed the reports.

8:37 pm ET The Chair called for the Treasurer's Report – R. Paul Martin (Appended to these minutes)

The Board discussed the report.

8:50 pm ET Motion (Sally Gellert) To extend the discussion 5 minutes. Seconded (James Sagurton). Passed without objection.

The Board continued to discuss the report.

8:55 pm ET The Chair called for Items 9 and 10 on the agenda.

The moment of silence memorialized all the victims of war worldwide, including the school kids in Iran, and Jesse Jackson. Wuyi Jacobs, one of our engineers, who does Afrobeat Radio, recently lost a relative. Dahoud Andre, who does Haiti, Our Revolution Continues, just lost his mother; and, we also lost Dr. Gerald Deas, a physician who used to broadcast commonsense health tips on WBAI, then broadcast with Gary Byrd on WLIB. Also mentioned were Dana Beale and all others incarcerated for marijuana use.

9:00 pm ET The Chair called for Item 11, Cerene Roberts motion: To divide the Public Comment - Motion that all future open meetings of the WBAI LSB will include two 15-minute Public Comment sessions at

7:45 pm and 8:45 pm instead of the current single Public Comment 30-minute period as the last agenda item at 9:16pm. Seconded (Eleanor Elizabeth Forman).

The Board discussed the motion.

Amendment (Alejandrina Murphy) To establish this change on a trial basis (length of trial never specified and not seconded.)

The Board discussed this amendment, which Cerene Roberts stated she agreed with, and suggested the trial period be 3 months, without making a formal amendment. Then she called the question (also not seconded.)

There was an objection.

[In Robert's Rules, "calling the question" is a motion to effectively end debate. There must be a second to the "Previous Question," i.e. the motion under consideration, and to the amendment, and to the motion to end debate. The Chair is supposed to ask if there is any objection. If none, then the will of the group is to end debate, and vote on the motion under consideration. If there is an objection, then the Chair must ask for two roll call votes: a 2/3 vote to end debate; and, if that passes, a majority vote on the motion under consideration, i.e. "the previous question." In this case, there were no seconds to either the amendment or the motion to end debate, and there was an objection. P. 16:6- RONR]

9:17 pm ET – Time had run out and the Chair called for Public Comment to begin and made her remarks regarding conduct of Public Comment.

The Board heard Public Comment.

9:47 pm ET The Chair adjourned the meeting.

WBAI Treasurer's Report March 11, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on February 18, 2026. This meeting was held by teleconference. The National Finance Committee (NFC) has not met since before the last WBAI LSB meeting. The interim General Manager informed me the day before the February 18, 2026, local Finance Committee meeting that he could not attend due to a prior commitment. At that meeting members raised the question of when the committee would see the WBAI FY26 budget. I told them that I didn't know and I noted that the interim General Manager had sent a copy of the draft WBAI FY26 budget to the NFC, but the NFC hadn't released that draft budget. Also, the NFC meeting where that draft FY26 budget was considered was held in executive session. I said that I wondered if the PNB would make it a secret budget. I said that I could ask at the next NFC meeting. Since there has been no NFC meeting since January 20, I have not yet been able to do that.

The committee also discussed the possibility that the PNB would throw all of the Treasurers, or as Directors on the NFC call us, “the 2025, Treasurers,” off the NFC. At this point in the meeting the KPFA Treasurer spoke and started misquoting what I’d said at this local Finance Committee meeting. He then went on to accuse me of allowing misinformation to be spread at a recent WBAI Town Hall meeting without challenging it. I informed the KPFA Treasurer, and anyone else listening, that I had not attended the Town Hall meeting and so I couldn’t have disagreed with anything during it. Members continued to voice their concerns about information not being released beyond the PNB.

The NFC meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 24, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET) was cancelled because the State of the Union address was being broadcast live that night starting at 9:00 PM (ET). The NFC meeting scheduled for March 10, 2026, ran into technical problems. When NFC members tried to join the meeting we couldn’t log in and Zoom said, “The host has another meeting in progress.” After about half an hour of back and forth on the NFC mailing list the Chair announced that the meeting was cancelled. Three NFC meetings in a row have been cancelled. Of the five NFC meetings scheduled so far for 2026, four have been cancelled.

The Income Statement for all of FY25 has not been released yet. I’ve been waiting to ask that it be released but in the absence of NFC meetings that has not been possible. I’m hoping it can be released before the second half of FY26 starts on April 1. It is my impression that some people in Pacifica just do not want financial information about Pacifica and its stations released. While some information needs to be kept confidential I believe that there is also an obligation for Pacifica to be as transparent as possible with regard to its finances.

The news we got at the end of January was that WBAI finished FY25 in the black for the first time in a long time. The station’s draft FY26 budget projects WBAI finishing in the black by a good-sized margin. While this is good news the tendency of the New Day Pacifica et al. faction to keep things secret without real justification and to not hold meetings when they’re supposed to be held is troubling. My long-standing pessimism is not assuaged.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 24, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer