

WPFW- LSB Regular Meeting Minutes January 21, , 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 6:36pm with Chair, Kamau Harris

2. Logins/Greetings/Roll Call

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Verna Avery Brown | 14. Mariah McClain |
| 2. Bill Curtis | 15. Robert Gordon |
| 3. Susan C Goodwin | 16. Michael Hersh |
| 4. Julie Hewitt | 17. Dennis Williams |
| 5. Violetta Diamond | 18. Ron Pinchback |
| 6. David Kiasi | 19. Junette Pinkney |
| 7. Wanda Gnahoui | 20. Arthur Hyland |
| 8. Jawara Hunter | 21. Tony Leon |
| 9. Michele Tingling-Clemmons | 22. Minerva Sanders |
| 10. Kamau Harris | 23. Wayne Bruce |
| 11. Michael Byfield | 24. Ambrose Lane |
| 12. Vanessa Dixon Briggs | 25. Thomas Chase non-voting |
| 13. Anita Irene Adams | 26. Ellen Carter non-voting |

WPFW LSB Members that termed out:

Dennis Williams

Vanessa Dixon Briggs

Wayne Bruce

Resignation: Tony Leon resigned.

4. Approval of the Agenda and December 10, 2025 minutes approved.

5. Program Director Report (Attachment A written report submitted by PD)

Katea Stitt, Program Director reported:

The Program Director was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Membership Coordinator Report (Attachment B written report submitted by Membership

Coordinator)

Sataria Joyner, Membership Coordinator reported:

The pledge drive occurred on December 14th thru December 20th, with a target of \$95,000. Donations received through cash-app and PayPal amounted to \$6,812.74. The final total reached \$104,176.74. The next pledge drive is planned for February 14th thru February 27th, with a goal of \$175,000.

7. Interim General Manager Report (Attachment C written report submitted by IGM)

Miyuki Williams, Interim General Manager reported:

Technology

We are working on the technology and need more money for the generator.

WPFW LSB Members Who Termed Out

The IGM thanked the WPFW LSB Members, who termed out, for their service.

They are:

Dennis Williams

Vanessa Dixon Briggs

Wayne Bruce

News Department

Sue Goodwin now holds the position of News Director.

Tax Receipts

The IGM thanked Sataria for distributing the tax receipts.

8. News Report, News Director: (Attachment D written report submitted by Sue Goodwin)

Susan Goodwin, News Director reported:

The News Department conducted brief 10-minute reports on Venezuela. Next, they will soon shift their attention to the elections.

9. Finance Committee Report (Attachment E written report submitted by Thomas Chase)

Thomas Chase, Chair, reported:

Positive results at the end of both the calendar and fiscal periods, with a net of \$19,000 after accounting for \$25,000. There were some small bonuses given to staff. Bills have been settled, and there was a significant increase in revenue.

10. Community Outreach Committee Report (Attachment F written report submitted by Violetta Diamond)

Violetta Diamond, Chair, reported:

Town Hall

The meeting on January 6th reviewed the town hall meeting.

Community Newsletter

The community newsletter will include video content, and the primary function of the LSB is to raise funds according to the new bylaws.

Discussions

Discussions included expanding the Blues festival and encouraging 20 programs to commit to a fundraiser. Byfield proposed a retreat and a tennis tournament as fundraising initiatives. There was also a suggestion to involve walking and running events to generate funds and sponsorships, including a broadcast of a 5k event with cutaways. It was noted that Moe should share information regarding the signal rate, and Irene emphasized the need to market the 5k run immediately.

11. Community Comment

Sabooh Hikim said the CAB held an active meeting with the PNB, where they introduced a new chair.

12. PNB Director's Reports

Julie Hewitt reported:

Fundraisers

The ED report indicates that all five stations conducted fundraisers, each exceeding their financial goals. These fundraisers were deemed productive.

GM Search and ED Evaluation

There is currently no information available regarding the GM search. During the closed session of the meeting held on December 8th, the topic of the ED evaluation was discussed but it remains incomplete.

Audit Committee

The audit committee is exploring options for a new auditor, while the tax professional is addressing tax-related matters.

Governance Committee and Personnel committee

The governance committee has convened to discuss strategies for replacing personnel on the PNB. Additionally, the personnel committee is focusing on executive matters.

PNB Finance Committee

The PNB finance committee has approved the budget for WBAI, and all station budgets have received approval, indicating a positive trend.

Ron Pinchback reported:

Elections

Please remind everyone that elections are scheduled for the end of the year. This is an ongoing process, and we need to address individuals whose terms have expired. It is important to develop an election progress plan.

Outreach

The Local Station Boards are responsible for outreach, and we must focus on engaging listeners. The PNB should be involved in this effort, and a timeline is necessary.

Dennis Williams reported:

ED Evaluation

The personnel committee has evaluated the Executive Director. No decisions have been reached.

Minerva Sanders reported:

Audit Committee

The Chair, Minerva Sanders, is working to arrange an audit for the company.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is conducting the Executive Director's evaluation for the year.

Elections

There are upcoming elections for the LSB and PNB in April and May. Attention should be given to ensuring that membership dues are paid by individuals who wish to run.

13. Program Committee Report

Mike Hersh reported:

Program Committee Survey

The Survey regarding the programs that the program committee is listening to has been approved. The Information that they will use for the programmer feedback form was also submitted.

14. Relocation Committee Report (Attachment G written report submitted by Dennis Williams)

Dennis Williams reported:

There was no meeting.

15. Unfinished Business

1) Membership/Fundraising Coordinator Definition

What are they supposed to do?

It was tabled until the next meeting. Ron said, we don't have the information to deal with this effectively.

2) Membership/Fundraising Coordinator Nominations

3) Relocation Committee Nominations

Nominations must be sent to the secretary by February 4.

16. New Business

1) Proposed LSB Goals for 2026

There was a discussion about the goals.

2) LSB Delegate Nominations for Candidacies

- Nominations for the 4 open delegate seats. Send all listener nominations to Ellen. They must be members of WPFW.
- PNB Director Nominations If Needed. The candidate would fill PNB member Dennis Williams seat, if he steps down from PNB.

Motion to determine the process

We move to select from our current listener LSB membership for a PNB Director, if such placement is necessary.

Postponed the vote

17. Action Items/Summary

- Updates from LSB members on the 2026 goals from everyone.

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

Minutes submitted by: Secretary, Ellen Williams Carter

Attachments A

PROGRAM DIRECTOR REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

In addition to regular PD duties, the projects listed below reflect highlights of the work:

CENTERING VENEZUELA AND THE MURDER OF RENEE GOOD AND OTHERS KILLED BY ICE

Our Programmers continue to produce excellent and varied programs centering the plights of Venezuela, the kidnapping/detention of President Maduro and his wife, and the future of the sovereignty of Central and South America countries in the face of continued and escalated US aggression and imperialism. We have also been unpacking what's happening with our immigrant communities, and the murder or injury of people across the country by ICE agents.

WINTER PLEDGE DRIVE

Our winter pledge drive is scheduled for Sunday, February 14 through Saturday, February 28, with the last day being a WPFW on-air birthday celebration...more details soon.

The theme is *Still We Rise: 49 Years of Love, Not Fear*. It is a nod to poet Maya Angelou and long-distance revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal...both exemplifying the work of WPFW over 49 years! Since its inception, WPFW has been a space for peoples, stories, perspectives, and cultures often undervalued in and underreported on by legacy media. Our unwavering commitment to not only centering but championing the most vulnerable and marginalized among us is a direct result of your unwavering financial support of WPFW! We invite you to be in solidarity with us again during our Winter Pledge Drive, Feb 8 through the 22, by contributing at wpfwfm.org, or by calling 800.222.9739, and strengthening the critical work of Jazz and Justice radio!

QUARTERLY PROGRAMMERS MEETING

Planned and facilitated the Programmers' Q4 meeting, held Tuesday, December 16, 6:30-8pm. It offered an opportunity for Programmers to generally share where they are, and to have an Audioport presentation by invited guest Ursula Rudenberg, the Affiliates Director, on how our Programmers can plug into this vehicle for sharing their programs across the network and with our affiliates.

QUARTERLY ISSUES REPORT

Prepared and submitted the Q4 issues report at the end of December. The issues report is an FCC requirement that highlights 5 issues categories – Health, Environment/Climate Justice, International, Criminal Justice/Reform, Labor – with 5 entries pulled from across our grid in each category.

PROGRAMMING PARTNERSHIPS

We are still working with the Cuban Embassy to create a radio series highlighting the medical, literacy and cultural work being done in the country. We also met with Harriet's Wildest Dreams, Palestinian Youth Movement DMV, and Freedom Futures Collective – all organizations led and centering young people in the DMV working on social justice issues - about creating a collective program that would rotate hosting/producing among the members of those organizations, who would also bring in other youth led/centered organizations to participate.

Our inaugural partnership with New York's *Winter Jazz Fest*, held annually in Manhattan and Brooklyn the middle of January, was quite successful. It's ethos and the artists they present are completely aligned with WPFW's mission. We curated and moderated a well-attend panel at 651 Arts entitled *Artists of Witness and Resistance* featuring Luke Stewart, percussionist Kahil

El'Zabar, and bassoonist and trans artist/advocate Joy Guidry. WPFW also tabled at an event featuring Freedom Riders Collective with special guests Dee Dee Bridgewater, Kurt Elling, Arturo O'Farrill, Samora Pinderhughes, Adjoke Steve Colson and others.

IN THE STUDIO TAPING

In the Studio, as previously reported, is our new Youtube program on the visual arts, hosted by Adrian Ferguson, owner and curator of Art of Noize Gallery, and shot by Brian Burns III, a member of the Brigade. The latest episode, an interview with Egyptian artist Mona El-Bayoumi, will be posted this week. On Monday, December 15, we taped at the Hillwood Museum, with guest Wilfried Zeisler, Deputy Director and Chief Curator. That episode will be available at the end of January.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Continuing to work with Kwadjo on our Instagram marketing plan, which includes educational multi-slide posts on music and musicians, and the issues we cover daily, as well as amplifying special upcoming special programming – New Year, New Jazz (January 1), MLK/Day on Haiti (January 19), and Go-Go: The Freedom Sound of a City special programming (date TBD). We are also working on new social media marketing strategies, including continuing to post videos of our most popular hosts, and marketing our YouTube channel on IG. If you've not already done so, please like and share our IG and FB pages and posts - @WPFWDC on FB and IG

UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Monday, January 19, 9am to midnight

On Monday, January 19, 9am until midnight, WPFW presents *Injustice Anywhere: Honoring the Pan-Africanist MLK and Haiti, the First Sovereign Black Republic*. From 9am until noon, we examine the Pan-Africanist legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. From noon until midnight, we center Haiti - her history, triumphs, troubles, and culture! That's Injustice Anywhere: Honoring the Pan-Africanist MLK and Haiti, the First Sovereign Black Republic, Monday, January 19, 9am until midnight. WPFW, building a better world one broadcast at a time!

Saturday, January 28, 12am-midnight

WPFWat 49. We will celebrate 49 years of Jazz and Justice radio with our very popular regular Saturday programming, interspersing the voices of some of the "great trees" that have graced WPFW's airwaves over that 49 years.

PAST SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Wednesday, December 8, 9am – 1pm; 5-8pm

WPFW presented *Saving Our Homes: The Crisis in Housing and Homeownership*, in partnership with the Washington Informer, and the Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of the DMV. Music Programmer and attorney Donald Temple brought us this idea and secured many of the guests. He had been doing a lot of legal work in this area helping seniors and other to not lose their homes and alerted us to this crisis affecting so many in the DMV. From 9am until 1pm, we confronted gentrification, predatory buyers, tax sales, foreclosure traps, and the loss of family homes, defending our elders, and keeping generational wealth in our families. The programming continued at 5pm where we unpacked the lack of affordable housing and the displacement of renters. The programming culminated in an on-air town hall from 6-8pm moderated by Donald Temple and Denise Rolark Barnes where they welcomed listeners' calls. Guests included lawyers, activists, pastors, financial strategists, and government officials.

Thursday, January 1, 5am-midnight

New Year, New Jazz. New Year's Day Jazz was front and center in our annual year in review of the Jazz landscape. WPFW celebrated in sonic bliss as some of our beloved Jazz programmers presented the 2025 Jazz-Year-In-Review, including favorite releases, tributes honoring artists who became ancestors this year; and music from favorite 2024 live jazz performances will be presented. Willard Jenkins co-produced the day.

PSAS AND PROMOS

I continuously write, edit, choose music for all PSAs and Promos, with production assistance from our engineers.

OTHER DUTIES

Facilitating our Quarterly Programmers' Meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 7pm.

Coordinating Subs

Curating additional and/or special programming

Board-Oping when necessary

Correspondence and phone calls with Listeners as necessary

Other duties as assigned or required.

Attachments B

LSB Membership Report January 21, 2026

December On-Air Drive December 14-20, 2025 Goal: \$95,000

Website and Phone: 97,364.00

Cashapp and PayPal: 6,812.74

Combined: 104,176.74

35 New Members via Web and Phone with 726 Renewals

899 total donations. Not necessarily individual people because many people donate multiple times.

Tax Mailing

We need help stuffing envelopes on Saturday, January 24th. It will take place at station offices. You must register in advance. Please contact Vinnie at vjack@wlfw.org if you have time to join us.

February Drive will be the 14th-28th

Feb 14-27 the goal is 175,000

Feb 28th has a special focus on the 49th Anniversary of the station. 49K for 49Years.

Upcoming On-Air Drive Dates

May 3-16, 2026

August 2-15, 2026

October 11-24, 2026

December 13-19, 2026

Attachments C

WPFW – Interim General Manager Report

Reporting Period: January 2026

Prepared by: Miyuki Williams, Interim General Manager

1. Overall Station Status

End of Year Giving was successful. Treasurer report will provide details

Operations & Engineering

- **Broadcast Continuity:**
WPFW has been broadcasting consistently. Adjustments made in response to the cyber attacks are holding.
- Going to train more Board Ops for back up.

Programming

- **Special Programming:** MLK
& Haiti

Development & Fundraising

- Tax Receipts to be sent out Saturday
- Drive February 14 - 28
- Special Celebration of WPFW's 49th.

Finance

- WPFW continues to operate within a **constrained but stable financial posture**.
- Preparing to launch Underwriting.

Governance & Administration

- **Compliance & Documentation:**
December included formal documentation of compliance concerns and programming issues to ensure that corrective actions are properly recorded and supported.
- **Staff & Volunteer Relations:**
 - There continues to be significant reliance on volunteer labor across programming, development, and operations.
 - While commitment remains high, burnout and communication breakdowns persist as risks that require careful management.

Community Engagement & Visibility

- WPFW remains an active cultural and civic presence, receiving recognition from community partners and maintaining visibility through public programming and collaborations.
- Winter Drive, 49th Year, J&J Festival

Key Priorities Going Forward

1. Strengthen signal security and engineering documentation
2. Improve internal communication and professionalism standards
3. Expand membership and stabilize donor pipelines
4. Prepare for leadership transition with continuity in mind
5. Maintain morale while strengthening accountability

Closing

Entering our 49th year with excitement. Hope to lay the groundwork for Development Director, Intern Program and acquisition of a new home.

Respectfully submitted,

Miyuki Williams

Interim General Manager

WPFW 89.3 FM

Attachments D

Finance Report for January 21, 2026

Click the on the Excel Spreadsheet.



WPFW FY26
Treasurers Report Ja

Attachments E

January 6, 2026, Outreach Committee Meeting

Present: Miyuiki Williams, Kamau Harris, Mariah McClain, Arthur Hyland, Martha Peterson, Hikim Sabooh, Lakeisha Henderson, Terry Goolsby, Minerva Sanders, Marsha Edwards, Violetta Diamond, Shayna Lonoaea (excused), Ellen Carter (Excused)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Outreach Committee meeting focused on reviewing the recent Town Hall meeting, which was deemed successful with positive feedback on programming and community engagement. The committee discussed the newsletter's future direction, including potential video content and partnerships with local venues for events. The Committee explored ideas for upcoming initiatives, including a potential country-western music event and leveraging the Peace Ball for station visibility. The committee also considered ways to increase LSB member participation in fundraising efforts and discussed the need to adapt to changes in the station's bylaws and structure.

Next steps

- [Kamau: Send the full name of the New Corinth Baptist Church ministry that received the coat drive donations to all meeting participants.](#)
- [Mariah: Add the town hall meeting agenda/overview and other suggested content \(e.g., Free DC presentation, Susan Young's segment, and Zoom recording info if available\) to the town hall report.](#)
- [Miyuki: Obtain and provide the final number of Zoom participants from the town hall to Violetta for the official report.](#)
- [Art: Send out information on the newsletter open rate and click rate to the committee.](#)
- [Art: Send the newsletter survey to the committee and collect feedback from leadership, staff, programmers, and select donors.](#)
- [Mariah: Follow up with the Free DC interviewee for feedback on the newsletter piece and report back.](#)
- [Martha: Work with 5K committee and instructors to implement an earlier and more effective sponsor/donor program for the 5K walk.](#)
- [Martha: Discuss with Vinny and Otis about resolving financial/registration issues for the 5K walk and report back.](#)
- [Terry: Contact Prince George's Community College to inquire about their blues festival, current plans, and potential for partnership or leveraging for midterm election engagement; report findings to the committee.](#)
- [Miyuki: Check with Katia \(and/or Andy\) about the Peace Ball event in February, including potential for WPFW ticket sales, tabling, or other participation opportunities.](#)
- [Miyuki: Reach out to blues programmers to gauge interest and coordinate on revamping or continuing the Blues Festival, including possible collaboration with DC Blues Society and consideration of new venues.](#)

- [Art: Share numbers and details from State Theater and JAM and Java in Vienna with the development committee regarding potential event venues.](#)
- [Minerva: Contact programmers Lady C \(Southern Soul\) and Cowboy Fred to discuss incorporating more country and western \(especially Black artists\) into their shows and explore interest in a related event.](#)
- [Committee: Begin planning for the next \(spring\) town hall, including early consideration of themes, venues, and logistics.](#)
- [Committee/Programmers: Identify programmers willing to commit to organizing or supporting small live events \(e.g., reggae, R&B, jazz nights\) to increase station outreach and community engagement; coordinate with Kamau and others as needed.](#)
- [Miyuki: Encourage programmers to collaborate with the Outreach Committee on small live events and provide contacts/resources as needed.](#)
- [Committee: Consider and plan for a country and western-themed event, leveraging interested programmers and exploring new audience engagement, as suggested by Minerva.](#)
- [All \(leadership, Kamau, Miyuki, Violetta\): Respond to Art's newsletter survey with feedback.](#)

Discussion Summary

Town Hall Debrief and Donations

The meeting focused on debriefing a recent town hall meeting, where Kamau successfully managed as MC for the event. The Free DC representative delivered an impactful presentation. The group discussed the collection of coats and winter items, which were donated to New Corinth Baptist Church's ministry, and agreed to add more details to the Committee report on the Town Hall including the agenda overview and presentation highlights. The participants acknowledged the positive outcomes of the town hall, including the sharing of financial information, and noted a decrease in listener engagement compared to previous years.

The town hall event held at Busboys and Poets, which attracted around 30 participants, plus those on Zoom. Participants noted that the later timing in December may have affected attendance, but the event was considered one of the better meetings due to effective agenda and community engagement. The group agreed to compare attendance and costs between the church and Busboys locations, as well as to follow up on getting the final Zoom participant numbers from Kobe, who managed the Zoom portion of the event.

Newsletter Performance and Future Enhancements

Art mentioned that the survey reached 30-35 people, and he plans to share open and click rates from Emma's data. A survey has been created to gather feedback from leadership, the committee, staff, and programmers about the newsletter's content and format. Mariah suggested incorporating short video clips from community partners, which Art and others supported. Kamau proposed

featuring local venues in the newsletter to build community connections. The group also briefly discussed publicity for the 5K run and Blues Festival event.

5K Walk Participation and Fundraising

The Committee discussed the 5K walk event, where Martha discussed concerns about low LSB participation was and the financial issues with the registration system. The committee agreed to continue the 5K walk despite these challenges, with Martha planning to work with Vinny and Otis on improving the financial process. They also discussed the need to increase revenue by encouraging participants to secure their own donors and set up swag sales again. Kamau emphasized the importance of educating LSB members about their role in fundraising and outreach activities, especially given the by-law changes. Additionally, Martha expressed concerns about low participation is discouraging. Gloria's instrumental participation in events was acknowledged highlighting the need for more involvement from LSB members.

Blues Festival Revitalization other Fundraising Strategies

The team discussed strategies to revitalize their blues festival, acknowledging the need to shake up the event format and secure a new venue. The Committee agreed to involve programmers in organizing smaller events and to ensure musicians are paid, as compensation was a key issue in the past. Miyuki suggested exploring venues like Carter Baron in DC and emphasized the importance of advertising the event. Art mentioned ideas from a conversation with Elliot about hosting successful concerts, including methods to compensate performers. The team noted that while recent events like the Jazz and Justice Festival and the 48th anniversary celebration were mostly break-even they were successful in terms of camaraderie and marketing.

The committee further discussed plans for the upcoming Blues Festival, considering expanding to Virginia venues and exploring partnerships with organizations like Vote Lead and VA Project. They also addressed changes to the LSB's structure and the need to define new roles and responsibilities. The group agreed to investigate opportunities for the station to participate in the Peace Ball in February and discussed leveraging recent funding cuts to public broadcasting to highlight WPFW's community-supported model. Finally, the Committee considered organizing smaller events like music parties to increase community engagement and support the station.

One goal would be to get around 20 Programmers to commit to an event during the year, and to leverage their networks since people would like to engage with them. It must be noted that there is a difference between events with a band and event with a D.J. Exploration on how to cross pollinate is needed.

Miyuiki will consider adding a drive pitch about the value of being listener supported in view of other public radio stations that have had CBP money stripped from them.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Outreach Committee

Violetta Diamond, Chair

Attachments F

NEWS DIRECTOR REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025

Ongoing Work

Daily Newscasts

Write and produce hourly newscasts; M-F; 12:55 to 4:55

Weekly Newsletter

Compile, write and distribute weekly email newsletter of public affairs programs from the previous week

News Specials

Produced three news specials on 8/20, 8/27 and 9/3 focused on the genocide in Gaza and how activists are organizing to resist

Staffing

The highlight of this past month was the integration of Noah Portner into our news operations. Noah's hire as a Reporter/Producer was made final at the end of July. He brings to his appointment a deep commitment to mastering the craft and rigor of journalism, as well as a his proven passion to advance public media in its ability to reveal the forces of power and politics in every story we cover.

And a sense of humor.

Next Steps

Our most immediate goal is focused on the newsletter, as we see it as a valuable tool in being a part of this “on demand” media environment.

Our next steps include:

Identifying and embracing the most effective ways of building the Newsletter mailing list

Switching to a new carrier that will facilitate a redesign, and allow us to take advantage of best practices on using newsletters to connect to listening