

WBAI Treasurer's Report  
June 11, 2025

The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on May 27, and June 10, 2025, although the legality of that June 10, meeting is questionable. The WBAI local Finance Committee met on May 21, 2025. These meetings were held by teleconference.

At the May 21, 2025, local Finance Committee meeting the interim General Manager told the committee that since he became interim General Manager what he called "Major Gifts" totaled almost \$375,000. He said that he'd reduced the cost of running the station. He said that the May 1, fund raising event had raised close to \$5,000. He said that the station was expecting a \$12,500 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to complete a series about oligarches and dark money. He said that the station has about \$35,000 cash in bank. He said that Pacifica has agreed to let WBAI keep more of money the station raised. He said that WBAI's semi-monthly payroll was about \$16,000 and that Pacifica has been taking an additional \$7,500 every pay period, which he said had been put in place when WBAI had been failing to make payroll. He said that the station has not missed one pay period since he became interim General Manager. He said that another \$2,500 sustaining sponsorship had just come in.

The interim General Manager then asked if I had seen the WBAI financials that were to be part of the next NFC meeting because they had been released to board members, he meant the PNB. He was surprised when I told him that I had not seen those. I'll write about that financial information later in this report.

The interim General Manager said that WBAI has a lease at 388 Atlantic Ave. and that through the generosity of a benefactor the station's rent is paid up through August.

The interim General Manager said that the station was doing a better job with regard to archiving and that there would be fewer problems with the archives.

There followed a discussion of the interim General Manager not giving the local Finance Committee financial information in writing since December of last year.

A committee member thanked the interim General Manager for things he's done and said that the committee really needs to get financial information in writing ahead of the meetings. The member said that sending the committee something in writing prior to the meeting would go a long way to enhancing the story the interim General Manager has to tell. And that with oral reports committee members have to examine the previous month's notes to compare what was said then with the latest oral statement, and that it was frustrating to have to do it that way. The member noted that we need to be able to verify things. The interim General Manager said that Pacifica controls all of the finances now, but that maybe the new WBAI Business Manager gets the bank statements and that maybe those could be sent the committee.

There was a brief discussion of the length of the then current on-air fund raiser and the fact that it was still pretty far from its \$250,000 goal. The interim General Manager said that WBAI had turned a corner and that what we're working on now is reviving the entire network.

A member noted that it would have been good if Pacifica had used that \$7,500 a month it took from WBAI and had put it toward the Tower Rent. The interim General Manager noted that the \$7,500 was taken out twice a month and that he had negotiated that Pacifica would only do

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that for every other pay period from now on. A member asked a question about how that \$7,500 is being booked and if it was being credited toward WBAI's Central Services fees. The interim General Manager said that the Tower Rent is Pacifica's obligation. He also said that the term "Central Services" is going away; he said that when he talks to the Executive Director that she says that there is no plan to hold people accountable and that that old model is irrelevant to the time we're in. He said that he was asking for an accounting of this. He said he was trying to find out what happened to the second SCA (Subsidiary Communications Authorization) client. The interim General Manager said that Pacifica is keeping track of how much WBAI is paying and the records show that the money went into the kitty and it came from us.

This brought the committee to a short discussion about the FY22 IRS form 990s, which the Executive Director had said at the May 13, 2025, NFC meeting had been done and would be posted. As of the posting of this Treasurer's Report they are still not posted on the Pacifica Web site.

The May 27, 2025, NFC meeting started out with the Executive Director saying that Pacifica's non-profit status was not in danger for non-payment of taxes, despite what some E-mails that were going around had asserted. She said that you have to be three years behind on your taxes for that to happen and the IRS does not move on delinquent non-profits right way. She said that the FY22 and FY23 taxes would be filed soon, and that Pacifica was almost complete with the FY24 taxes, for which Pacifica has gotten an extension from the IRS. She said that all registration fees had been paid. She said that the FY23 audit was with the auditors. She said that Pacifica had gotten an extension for filing the FY24 990s.

The work of this NFC meeting had previously been billed as an actual review of WBAI's compliance with its approved FY25 budget, which we'd been told by the Executive Director would be getting done for all stations. What we got was a "preliminary" draft FY26 budget with some actuals in four columns. It was not what I had expected. I was ready to discuss how WBAI was doing with regard to the FY25 budget. The Executive Director said that the spreadsheet we'd gotten was for projecting the second half of FY25 based on actuals from the first half. She also said that we were doing this to get ahead of the game for FY26 and that this would give us a rough idea for pre-populating the FY26 budget. She said that we'd look at eight of the draft FY26 budgets in August or September. I think we'll need a bit of luck to get the FY26 budgets approved before October 1.

I noted that the spreadsheet showed Listener Support for WBAI at \$872,419 for all of FY24 while the consolidated financials we'd gotten for all of FY24 showed Listener Support as \$782,929 a difference of more than \$89,000. With regard to the better numbers the Executive Director said that the National Office was reconciling bank statements and donations and that often donations are lumped into one big donation. Apparently that was why the Listener Support is listed as having been higher. Well, that was good news. The WBAI FY25 budget projected about \$1,200,000 in Listener Support.

The preliminary spreadsheet shows WBAI's FY24 Total Revenue actuals as \$1,117,076 and projects the FY25 Total Revenue as \$1,283,587. The WBAI FY25 budget that had been approved projected a Total Revenue of \$1,424,500. It seems like the Total Revenue projection

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for FY25 has been lowered a bit.

The Executive Director said that they have hired two full-time and two part-time people to focus on the budgets. I believe that they're not permanent hires. She also said that she would like to get rid of the *Great Plains* and *Allegiance* software because they're too complicated.

The Executive Director said that the WBAI interim General Manager was not at this meeting due to a family matter. It was suggested that it would be good to have station Management at the NFC for these kinds of meetings where we delve into the units' finances.

There was a discussion of in-kind donations, which is something that Pacifica used to do, but the rules appear to have changed on those, making them harder to deal with.

The Executive Director said that all stations were paying Central Services, but KPFK and WBAI were paying less than what Central Services fees are supposed to be.

We discussed what may be regular donations from Unions, which do not seem to be on the spreadsheet.

The June 10, 2025, NFC meeting was cancelled because the people who were supposed to present their preliminary projections for FY26 were not ready. But the NFC Chair said that the committee would meet anyway to discuss NFC issues. The meeting was listed as cancelled on KPFTX.ORG. We have been told before that the Open Meeting rules require that all business and considerations of things that are not of a confidential nature need to be done in view of the public. So I went on the call and I found that it had a quorum. Whether you used the 2003, bylaws or the New Day et al. Faction's bylaws there was a quorum present. There was a discussion of bankruptcy going on and the PNB Chair noted that some people in Pacifica had explored declaring bankruptcy in 2022, and that it was very expensive to do. She also said that Pacifica's Accounts Payable were down to about \$400,000 which is a big improvement. She said that stations must pay their Central Services fees.

When it was my turn to speak I suggested that the meeting was illegal because it was being done out of sight and sound of the public. This sparked a heated discussion with the Chair who told me to go away. He also said he'd make it a formal meeting and told the Secretary to take the roll. I questioned the legality of that maneuver. So the Chair asked all of the Treasurers, or former Treasurers as some people designate us, to leave. Many did. I did not.

The meeting continued. The National Business Manager was at this meeting and talked about how expensive it would be to make permanent full-time hires for the National Office; she said they would cost at least \$100,000 each per year. She also said that WBAI was not paying Central Services and health insurance premiums. I have to check about this because I believe I recall the interim General Manager saying that the station was paying the health insurance premiums. She said that KPFK was not paying Central Services either.

The Executive Director said that she wants to improve the stations' programming. This led to a discussion about motions that the PNB had passed some time in the last couple of years that said that the Executive Director could essentially take over a station that was under performing, and another motion that required that a list of the revenue from each program be sent to the PNB. The Executive Director said that WBAI is doing wonderful coverage of what's happening in Los Angeles now.

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The Executive Director said that she would go over Pacifica's Accounts Payable and show who's responsible for them. She said that large bills can be broken down.

There was a desire expressed for Pacifica to have a national news service. The Executive Director said that WBAI was doing something like that with its *We Decide: America at The Crossroads 2024* program. People would be needed to work on a daily national news program.

The Executive Director mentioned that she sent out bank statements to all Treasurers. I told her that I'd not gotten any since maybe a couple of years ago. She said that she sent them to the local Finance Committee mailing list. I pointed out to her that she was not a member of the WBAI local Finance Committee mailing list, and that she would get a bounce-back notice that the E-mail had failed to go through. She said that she would send me two years of bank statements. Bank statements are not all that useful, but something is better than nothing. What would be really good would be regular Income Statements, Accounts Payable and I suppose that a Balance sheet is still out of the question.

At the end of the meeting the Chair said that he was going to make a motion at the PNB based on what was said at this meeting.

The review of WBAI's finances on May 27, did not really occur, and there were no big denunciations of WBAI, which I'd been concerned about. The hidden meeting of June 10, was troubling, however. Was it legal? We've been told for years, at least by people in Pacifica, that all meetings that have a quorum and discuss business must be done before the public. Were people just pulling our legs about that transparency issue for years? The vituperation from certain elements on the NFC when I brought this up was really remarkable.

So some things are looking up and others are murky. I have to wonder if we're seeing wishful thinking in some cases.

At any rate by the next LSB meeting we may find out if the New Day et al. Faction will succeed in lying about WBAI and get a judge to allow them to hijack the bylaws, as they've been trying to do for so many years. I sure do hope they do not succeed in their hijacking attempt.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 24, 2025, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin  
WBAI LSB Treasurer