

WBAI Treasurer's Report
July 9, 2025

The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on July 8, 2025. The WBAI local Finance Committee met on June 18, 2025. These meetings were held by teleconference.

At the June 18, 2025, local Finance Committee meeting the committee discussed again the lack of written, detailed financial reports and the need for more information from WBAI and Pacifica Management. The fact that the FY22 IRS 990s had not been posted on the Pacifica Web site despite the Executive Director's statement that they were ready and would be posted in May, and that the Executive Director had still not sent me the bank statement she'd said she would send were discussed.

The interim General Manager sent me an E-mail the afternoon of the meeting saying that he wouldn't be able to make the meeting. In that E-mail he said that WBAI had \$64,941.94 in its Bank of America account and \$4,808.58 in its PayPal account. He also said that the station's Tower Rent was zero and that it was being negotiated. That afternoon he also sent me a "Major Donor Breakdown" prepared by the Business Manager, all of which I forwarded to the committee. It's posted below.

Major Donor Breakdown June 19th, 2024 - June 18th, 2025

Source	Amount
Bequests	\$457,370.01
Unions	\$220,590.00
One-Time Donations	\$92,889.07
BAI Buddies	\$58,404.24
Foundations	\$16,000.00
Car Donations	\$9,056.64
Corporate Donors	\$10,000.00
David Rothenberg	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$865,309.96

Major Donor Breakdown June 19th, 2023 - June 18th, 2024

Source	Amount
One-Time Donations	\$140,065.52
BAI Buddies	\$43,805.04

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Car Donations	\$3,377.40
David Rothenberg	\$2,500.00
TOTAL	\$189,747.96

Toward the end of the Treasurer's Report of that meeting the interim General Manager showed up and he gave an oral report. He noted that Management really had to do a lot of work to get the last \$215,000 for the bequests. It included having to deal with the other beneficiaries, and some lawyers from larger institutions that may not be inclined to automatically cooperate. He said that WBAI had 1,306 BAI Buddies bringing in about \$24,000 to \$25,000 a month which he said was not reflected in the statement that we'd been sent. He said that the \$58,404.24 figure, reflects only those BAI Buddies whose donations accumulate to put them into the Major Donor category. He said that Management is opening up a line of revenue from PSAs from non-profits. He said that the Nat King Cole New York Theater Workshop production will pay the station \$2,000 for the banner on the front page at WBAI.ORG and for a PSA that's in rotation. He said that the New York Taxi Drivers Alliance gave the station \$1,500 for a PSA related to their major settlement with Uber and Lyft. He said there was also \$1,500 raised for a PSA to advertise the times of the hearings for the Reparations Committee that's part of the New York State legislature. He said that WBAI needed to have 4,000 BAI Buddies to stabilize the station's finances. He said that the station is caught up with the Tower Rent at 4 Times Square and that Management is in negotiations with the Durst Organization that runs 4 Times Square for a reduction in the rent that will be more affordable. In return WBAI would pledge to pay the Tower Rent each month. He talked about raising significant funds from proposed Pacifica-wide programming, including the affiliates, around the current administration's cuts to Medicaid, the Veterans Administration and other institutions. He said that WBAI was the thought leader in Pacifica.

I asked about the Executive Director's statement which she'd made at the hidden NFC meeting on June 10th, about which I reported in the last Treasurer's Report, that WBAI was not paying health insurance premiums. The interim General Manager said that that was not true and that WBAI was paying health care premiums. He said that the \$14,000 to \$15,000 a month that WBAI was paying along with payroll was going to pay things like health insurance premiums. He said he would bring the Executive Director on the next call and straighten that right out.

I asked the interim General Manager how many FTEs are working at WBAI. He said that there are four full time, one part time. He said that for non-Union employees there is the interim Program Director who is part time and the News Director and himself. In answer to a question I had asked the interim General Manager said that the WBAI payroll was \$15,000 to \$16,000 every two weeks depending on who's on vacation. He also said that the payroll surcharge that WBAI pays Pacifica varies between \$7,300 to \$7,500 per payroll depending on the amount of the actual payroll. He said that about \$18,000 a month is being extracted from WBAI by Pacifica every month. He said that the Executive Director was pleased that Pacifica has not had to take money from other entities to pay either WBAI's payroll or health insurance.

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The interim General Manager said that he had sent a copy of a data point regarding just how much WBAI is paying to Pacifica to a committee member, and he offered to send it to me. So far I have not received it.

In answer to a question the interim General Manager said that he is the one who is negotiating with the Durst Organization over the Tower Rent at 4 Times Square.

In answer to a question the interim General Manager said that Pacifica is recognizing the extra \$15,000 to \$16,000 that WBAI sends in every two weeks as a Central Services payment. He said that Central Services payments is a legacy way of doing things that he believes is being phased out. He said that WBAI is also providing national programming that is part of the objective of the Executive Director. He says that the \$350 a week salary for the person who does that programming is paid for by WBAI, and that WBAI is also helping out the Pacifica Affiliates Network.

The interim General Manager added that the station is paying about \$9,600 for health insurance premiums for the four full time Union employees and he wants to see if maybe health insurance for them could be obtained through the Union (SAG-AFTRA) which he thinks would result in lower premiums.

The interim General Manager said that there is concern about physical safety of Pacifica employees, especially early in the morning. He said that he was working with the owners of 388 Atlantic Ave. on security issues.

The July 8, 2025, NFC meeting was mostly centered around KPFT making a presentation. It was mostly a narrative from the new General Manager of KPFT. There was another of those Preliminary Annual Budgets sent to the NFC that we've been seeing this year. All we can do is ask questions about them. The KPFT General Manager at one point mentioned that they had to change some of how they pitched on the air because of the FCC ruling. So they were doing that sort of pitching too but only WBAI had to pay a \$25,000 fine to the FCC. I suppose that the reason for that is because no one from the New Day et al. clique at KPFA had rushed to file a complaint against KPFT with the FCC, as they did against WBAI. KPFT is apparently using their Web site to sell things.

About an hour and a half before last night's NFC meeting we were sent a document titled "Pacifica Foundation Financial Policies and Procedures Manual." This will be discussed at the next NFC meeting.

A motion was made and passed about requiring that when a station's budget or actuals are being discussed at the NFC that the station's interim General Manager or General Manager and Business Manager, if that station has one, be at that NFC meeting, along with the National Business Manager if she's available. This is a good idea. It was too bad that this was not done when the NFC took up WBAI's Preliminary Annual Budget for FY26 at the May 27, 2025, NFC meeting. I know that I would have felt better about that meeting if WBAI Management had been present. I might have even had some questions answered at that meeting.

When the NFC got to an item on the agenda called, "Motion instructing (i) GMs stations in financial distress to provide a grid analysis and report to the NFC," the Chair moved to table it. This one could get contentious. WBAI Management has historically not been able to figure out

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what every program raises. Current WBAI Management has certainly gotten my on-air fund raising totals wrong in the past. Some stations get Nielsen ratings, some don't. As far as I know WBAI still can't afford to get them. This could result in variances among stations' assessments of what programs have what size audience. With regard to what programs raise how much money the Executive Director has already said that she wants to get rid of the *Allegiance* software that Pacifica has been using for years to track donations and donors because it's too complicated. I have to wonder how the grid analysis would be dealt with. I doubt that all Pacifica station Management personnel could even do it, much less get it right. This motion, if passed, might get applied to WBAI right away, I think. And it might not be applied in a reasonable and fair way. The committee tabled the motion, which means it's probably going to come up at the next NFC meeting.

As the meeting ended I quickly brought up the fact that at the May 13, 2025, NFC meeting the Executive Director had said that the FY22 990s had been done and would be posted soon, but they're still not posted yet. The Executive Director said that the FY22 990s had already been submitted to the IRS and that she would get a "clean copy" and get it posted on the Pacifica Web site.

I also reminded the Executive Director that she had said at the hidden NFC meeting of June 10. That she'd send me two years of WBAI bank statements. She said she'd send those out.

So here we are in the fourth quarter of FY25 and the latest Income Statement we have is for FY24 which ended on September 30, 2024. There is no way we can seriously examine the finances of any station, or of Pacifica as a whole, without accurate, up to date financial documents. The Executive Director says that the National Office is really working hard on getting the audits ready, but we are all being left in the dark in the meantime.

The NFC is way behind on any work on the real FY26 budgets. The June 24, NFC meeting was cancelled. So the entire month of June did not see any kind of progress on anything, even if you count the hidden NFC meeting of June 10, which I'd reported on in the June 11, 2025, Treasurer's Report. Will the actual approval of the budgets by the NFC and PNB be late, or even very late? Will the lack of Income Statements be a habit that will carry over to FY26?

So the real state of the finances in Pacifica is not at all clear. And the New Day et al. clique got a judge to bless their bylaws hijacking. I remain pessimistic about the future of WBAI and Pacifica.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 22, 2025, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer