

WBAI Treasurer's Report
August 13, 2025

The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on July 22, and August 12, 2025. The WBAI local Finance Committee met on July 16, 2025. These meetings were held by teleconference.

At the July 16, 2025, local Finance Committee meeting the interim General Manager attended the meeting and reported that WBAI had about \$67,000 cash in bank, with \$66,162.04 in the Bank of America account and \$4,848.26 in PayPal. He said that the station has made payroll now for 13 months in a row. He said that the station has paid the health insurance premium for the four engineers at the station, which costs \$9,600 a month. He said that the station had received \$15,000 from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation to support the program *Destiny and Democracy*. He said that the station continues to air coverage of live protest events. He said the station had successfully completed the New York Theater Workshop cycle of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for \$2,000. He said that non-profit organizations are looking to WBAI as a place where they can get their information out reliably.

The General Manager said that there had been challenges with regard to the air conditioning in the transmitter room at 4 Times Square. The transmitter got overheated at one point and the station went off the air. This was a long standing Summer time hazard when our transmitter was at the Empire State Building, "the more things change...." He said that the Chief Operator had to spend three days doing maintenance, including adding fresh refrigerant to the air conditioner, which had not been done for years at WBAI's transmitter and it had cost thousands of dollars.

The General Manager said that WBAI had been working to improve the streaming and reliability of the archiving. He said that WBAI can't afford to subscribe to the Nielsen ratings which means that when the station goes to government entities to see about doing paid PSAs for them we can't answer the question of how big our measured audience is. He said that the Chief Operator had noticed that Nielsen had attached technology that was monitoring both WBAI's air and the stream. He said that in talking to someone at Nielsen about making the monitoring digital instead of analog he was told that WBAI has a 0.3 Cume and about 130,000 listeners, I suspect that this is a weekly number. The interim General Manager is talking to people at Nielsens about these issues.

In answer to a question the interim General Manager said that the interest rate for the FJC loan was 9.5% and that the station was trying to open a line of communication to FJC through a lobbying firm. The interim General Manager said that the station is in contact with someone whose family is an FJC shareholder. She also gave the station \$1,000. She said she's put in a good word for WBAI with FJC. He noted that the loan was a big expense and we're treading water, paying interest and not diminishing the principal.

The interim General Manager said that people are finding that WBAI is valuable for broadcasting things like the "No Kings Day" demonstrations. He said that the station is attracting new programs, and people are coming back. He said that a doctor who is a retired member of the United States Health Service had given WBAI a \$5,000 contribution and he has become a BAI

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Buddy donor at \$500 a month, which is the largest BAI Buddy commitment that's been made.

The interim General Manager said that the Transport Workers Union had donated for the third time with \$6,500.

We discussed the issue of WBAI not always getting credited with revenue it's brought in, especially the bequest in the Summer of 2019, when the six figure revenue showed up on Pacifica's Income Statement but WBAI didn't get credit for it.

In the course of discussions the interim General Manager said that 25 Pacifica affiliate stations are getting programming from WBAI. He also said that looking through the back room at 388 Atlantic Ave. many boxes were found to contain books. He said that Management is looking to see if some of those books are owed to people as premiums, and if they're not then they're going to be used for the benefit of the station. He said that all of the boxes have been opened and the books have been inventoried. He said that with regard to WBAI's Subsidiary Communications Authority (SCA) channel he was going to talk to the company that hasn't been paying for the service for quite some time and that he would tell them that if they didn't pay he'd have the service turned off. He said that Pacifica needs to do national fund raising. He said that there would be national programming on health care and the possible meltdown of the safety net.

The interim General Manager said that the station had gotten \$1.500 from the Taxi Drivers Alliance for a PSA alerting taxi drivers to the deadline for them to apply for the money they were owed from the settlement with Uber and Lyft.

The interim General Manager told the committee about how PSAs can only be done for other non-profits.

The interim General Manager said that WBAI and Pacifica are not separate, an idea he has voiced before. I disagreed with him on the attitude of *some* people in Pacifica regarding WBAI. I know from experience that some have been looking to eliminate WBAI. I said that it would be fine if everyone in Pacifica looked at it the same way that the interim General Manager does, but I see evidence that this isn't happening. And there are people who don't hide their antagonism toward WBAI. He said that after the events of October 2019, he could understand my skepticism.

James Sagurton then recited a short history of the destructive and untrue things said about WBAI by some people in positions of power in Pacifica.

On the evening of the July 22, 2025, NFC meeting the Executive Director sent me a set of WBAI bank statements that I'd previously requested. These bank statements are only for the WBAI checking account at Bank of America, and there appear to be some pages missing. In addition people are named in the bank statements, so it's not something that should be made fully public, in my opinion. **I have appended the bottom line reports from January through June 2025, to this report.**

The Executive Director reported that she's created a basic Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual for Pacifica. She said it was a work in progress. She'd sent a copy of the preliminary draft before the meeting and said that she couldn't find a Pacifica SOP manual. I sent the Executive Director and the NFC a copy of the Pacifica draft "Financial Policies And Procedures Manual" from quite a number of years ago. I'm hoping it'll be helpful for her.

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The Executive Director said that her SOP manual would contain a grid analysis of all programming in Pacifica, and a "Programmers Agreement," which will be a contract between Pacifica and producers. She said that when the FCC training had been going on Pacifica Management had found that there were over 900 programmers in the network. She said that she wanted to show that Pacifica does not claim copyright to producers' programs if they are not using Pacifica resources to produce it, but that Pacifica owns the recording and the producer can do whatever they want with the programs they've produced. She said that for programs that use some Pacifica resources to produce a program that Pacifica didn't want the producer to give up all rights, and if the program was a podcast then there should be a signed agreement. During the discussion about the station Managements doing a breakdown of what programs raise how much money I noted that, in my experience at WBAI, no Management has ever achieved very good accuracy, especially with regard to the overnight programs that air between midnight and six o'clock in the morning. From her description at this meeting it sounds like this SOP manual is going to be a huge document.

The Executive Director also wants to do a Pacifica-wide inventory of all assets. It was noted at this meeting that that would be a huge undertaking, but it would be welcomed.

There were some discussions of news programming. The Executive Director noted that KPFA and WBAI were working together on some news programming. She said that an organization which she did not name which has had a national news program for 30 years and is in the process of closing down their production has asked if Pacifica wants to take it over. The Executive Director said that she's in communication with them. She noted that they have funders and private donors that are supporting their operation. She said that Pacifica is meeting with the funders to see if they'd be interested in still funding that programming if Pacifica were to take it on.

At the August 12, 2025, NFC meeting the committee went over the Pacifica Affiliates (PAN) Budget Worksheet for their proposed FY26 budget. PAN seems to be operating all right with regard to finances at this time.

The committee then discussed the "KPFK Monthly Income Statement For the Nine Months Ending Monday, June 30, 2025." For the nine month period covered they appear to be operating in the black. It's interesting that they have an Income Statement through June 30, 2025, but WBAI does not. KPFK has transmitter issues which they're hoping to deal with by repairing old equipment because they can't afford to buy new equipment. They want to do a capital campaign to raise money for repairs and eventually the replacement of the old equipment. The Executive Director said that there will be more discussions of budgets, but that for now she wants to do some brainstorming about leadership and positions needed at the stations. She said that for KPFK she wants to make sure to bring KPFK's figures to the NFC on regular basis. She said that KPFK has great potential.

Toward the end of the meeting the Executive Director said that she'd send the latest Accounts Payable to the NFC, but as I write this report it has not yet been sent.

It's interesting that KPFK has an Income Statement through the end of the third quarter of

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FY25, when WBAI has had nothing new since the end of FY24. Maybe we need to find out why that is. The local Finance Committee has brought up the issue of inadequate financial data for many months now, and I have brought it up on the NFC more than once. Perhaps for next week's local Finance Committee meeting the interim General Manager will give us something similar to what KPFK showed up with last night.

It would be good news if the interim General Manager's assessment of the situation in Pacifica as one where people do not have the knives out for WBAI were true. I've seen enough hostility from certain people over recent months to think that the knives may still be out.

WBAI seems to be doing better than it had been, and the station is building alliances with other stations. We need a full Income Statement to have a better idea of how things stand with the station. If Pacifica would put out a consolidated financials document for all of Pacifica through the end of the Third Quarter it would tell us a lot. If such a document exists I have not seen it.

The NFC is looking at and discussing "preliminary" budgets, but the actual work of dealing with the FY26 budgets has not begun, although I expect that they will be a lot like these unofficial numbers that we've been seeing. The NFC has not really done comparisons of Income Statements and the stations' FY25 budgets. We've looked at some data but we have not done the serious examinations that the Executive Director had said that we were going to do for FY25. I think that either the NFC is going to end up doing a rush job on the budgets, or else they'll be pretty late in being sent on to the PNB for approval. I think that the latter might be a better eventuality for Pacifica.

The interim General Manager thinks that we're all going to work together in Pacifica without malice now. I think that I want to see what the FY24 audits look like before I believe that. Those audits have been carrying some tall tales about WBAI in the past. I'll remain pessimistic for now. And I'll also hope that the Trump Administration just never gets around to venting its hatred on WBAI and Pacifica.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday August 26, 2025, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer

Here are the last six months of totals from the bank statement I've been given

January 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$77,806.50

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$80,749.70

February 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$59,721.79

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$60,721.27

March 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$71,268.41

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$61,478.54

April 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$46,722.54

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$63,367.26

May 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$45,527.36

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$55,394.75

June 2025

Total deposits and other credits \$272,740.44

Total withdrawals and other debits -\$228,016.76