

WBAI Treasurer's Report
December 10, 2025

The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on December 9, 2025. This meeting was held by teleconference. The WBAI local Finance Committee has not met since before the last WBAI LSB meeting.

The local Finance Committee had been scheduled to meet on November 19, 2025, but two days before the meeting date I got an E-mail from Otis Maclay, who runs KPFTX.ORG and who coordinates the meetings, saying that Maestro, the company that provided the teleconference service we'd used for meetings, had gone out of business! The November 19, meeting was cancelled and a poll of the committee members resulted in a meeting being scheduled for December 17, 2025.

The NFC was to have met on November 25, 2025, but the day before the meeting I saw that on KPFTX.ORG the meeting was listed as cancelled. Records indicate that the NFC Secretary had cancelled the meeting some days earlier. I asked on the NFC mailing list when it was decided to cancel the November 25, NFC meeting and by whom, and why hadn't anyone notified the committee? The PNB Chair replied that the NFC Secretary had informed the committee of the cancellation. I never got such a notification. The PNB Chair also said that the meeting had been cancelled because the WBAI interim General Manager was not able to attend the November 25, meeting, which had been scheduled to consider the WBAI draft FY26 budget proposal and she had suggested that the meeting be cancelled and the WBAI draft FY26 budget would be considered at the December 9, NFC meeting.

When I got the draft agenda for the December 9, 2025, NFC meeting I saw that it listed the WBAI draft FY26 budget as, "postponed to January."

So last night's NFC meeting considered the National Office draft FY26 budget. The discussion touched on the SCA revenue. Only WBAI and KPFT generate SCA revenue. WBAI has two SCA channels and KPFT has one. From this National Office draft budget it looks like they're projecting that WBAI will generate about \$7,000 in SCA revenue per month. The Executive Director said she thanked the WBAI interim General Manager for his work in getting one of the SCA clients to resume paying for the service, but she said that there are currently no agreements with the SCA clients. She also said that Pacifica was looking for a better agreement with the remaining clients.

During the discussion about SCA revenue James Sagurton brought up the fact that WBAI pays for the Tower Rent and the SCA revenue goes to the National Office so WBAI doesn't get the actual revenue nor does the station get a Central Services credit for that revenue which goes to the National Office. The Executive Director held that Pacifica owns everything and so the SCA revenue should go to the National Office otherwise it hurts the National Office because having the revenue go to the stations and not to the National Office or making the SCA revenue pay part of a station's Central Services fees would just decrease Central Services payments to Pacifica. The PNB Chair said that Pacifica's Director of Engineering and Compliance had told her that he's the one who sustains the SCA operation and that it cannot be effectively taken over by anyone at the local stations. When I got a chance I noted that WBAI's Chief Operator, whom WBAI pays, has had to deal with the needs of the SCA clients that are broadcasting from WBAI's transmitter at 4 Times Square, according to the WBAI interim General Manager. I also corrected a misapprehension among NFC members that the SCA revenue has always gone to the National Office. I said I remembered the PNB passing a motion in about 2006, give or take a year, that redirected the SCA revenue from WBAI to the National Office. The bottom line is that the National Office is budgeting all SCA revenue for itself and it is widely believed that the SCA technology

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is obsolete and will cease to be used soon as the current SCA clients go to the Internet for their needs.

The Executive Director said that WBAI and KPFK would not be billed for Central Services payments until February 2026. She said that she never forced a station to pay Central Services if it was a big burden.

The draft National Office FY26 budget shows that there had been a shortfall in Health benefits for WBAI, KPFK and WPFW that amounted to \$120,000 in FY25. The Executive Director said that KPFT had lent \$50,000 to pay that amount and would be paid \$10,000 a month for five months to make it up. So WBAI will be paying part of that.

The projected bottom line for the National Office's draft FY26 budget is that they will end up with a surplus of \$239,739 if all stations pay their scheduled Central Services fees, but if Central Services fees are paid at only the current rate the National Office will end up with a deficit of \$11,141 at the end of FY26.

The NFC voted to recommend the National Office draft FY26 budget to the PNB.

The Executive Director went over the progress of the latest on-air fund raisers going on at the stations. Luckily I'd had an exchange of E-mails with the WBAI interim General Manager before the meeting and was able to give an updated tally for WBAI's Winter on-air fund raiser, he said it was \$53,000.

I was able to get a couple of items on the agenda, and I was able to remind the Chair that they were there. The NFC agreed to release the "Consolidated Monthly Income Statement For the Six Months Ending Monday, March 31, 2025" which has been sitting on the NFC mailing list since August 14. I'll be posting that document along with this Treasurer's Report. I also got the committee to address whether it would cancel the December 23, NFC meeting, which they did. It's good when all of us know in advance that a meeting will be cancelled.

From some things said on the NFC mailing list, and outside of it as well, it had looked like some people on the NFC were going to attack WBAI and the WBAI representatives on the NFC during this meeting. That didn't happen. WBAI's draft FY26 budget is the only one left to be considered now, however, and it's officially set to be taken up at the January 13, 2026, meeting. There's no telling how that will go.

The finances are still very thin in Pacifica. An end of year deficit for the National Office is a possibility, and we're not sure what's going to happen with WBAI's FY26 budget. My previously expressed pessimism is not abated by any recent developments.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 13, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer