

WBAI Treasurer's Report  
March 11, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on February 18, 2026. This meeting was held by teleconference. The National Finance Committee (NFC) has not met since before the last WBAI LSB meeting.

The interim General Manager informed me the day before the February 18, 2026, local Finance Committee meeting that he could not attend due to a prior commitment.

At that meeting members raised the question of when the committee would see the WBAI FY26 budget. I told them that I didn't know and I noted that the interim General Manager had sent a copy of the draft WBAI FY26 budget to the NFC, but the NFC hadn't released that draft budget. Also, the NFC meeting where that draft FY26 budget was considered was held in executive session. I said that I wondered if the PNB would make it a secret budget. I said that I could ask at the next NFC meeting. Since there has been no NFC meeting since January 20, I have not yet been able to do that.

The committee also discussed the possibility that the PNB would throw all of the Treasurers, or as Directors on the NFC call us, "the 2025, Treasurers," off the NFC. At this point in the meeting the KPFA Treasurer spoke and started misquoting what I'd said at this local Finance Committee meeting. He then went on to accuse me of allowing misinformation to be spread at a recent WBAI Town Hall meeting without challenging it. I informed the KPFA Treasurer, and anyone else listening, that I had not attended the Town Hall meeting and so I couldn't have disagreed with anything during it. Members continued to voice their concerns about information not being released beyond the PNB.

The NFC meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 24, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET) was cancelled because the State of the Union address was being broadcast live that night starting at 9:00 PM (ET).

The NFC meeting scheduled for March 10, 2026, ran into technical problems. When NFC members tried to join the meeting we couldn't log in and Zoom said, "The host has another meeting in progress." After about half an hour of back and forth on the NFC mailing list the Chair announced that the meeting was cancelled.

Three NFC meetings in a row have been cancelled. Of the five NFC meetings scheduled so far for 2026, four have been cancelled. The Income Statement for all of FY25 has not been released yet. I've been waiting to ask that it be released but in the absence of NFC meetings that has not been possible. I'm hoping it can be released before the second half of FY26 starts on April 1.

It is my impression that some people in Pacifica just do not want financial information about Pacifica and its stations released. While some information needs to be kept confidential I believe that there is also an obligation for Pacifica to be as transparent as possible with regard to its finances.

The news we got at the end of January was that WBAI finished FY25 in the black for the

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first time in a long time. The station's draft FY26 budget projects WBAI finishing in the black by a good sized margin. While this is good news the tendency of the New Day Pacifica et al. faction to keep things secret without real justification and to not hold meetings when they're supposed to be held is troubling. My long standing pessimism is not assuaged.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 24, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin  
WBAI LSB Treasurer