

WBAI Treasurer's Report
April 8, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on March 18, 2026. The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on March 24, 2026. These meetings were held by teleconference.

The NFC "makeup meeting" that had been noticed on KPFTX.ORG for March 17, was cancelled by the NFC Chair via E-mail about 25 minutes before the meeting's scheduled start. Apparently there had been a mix-up with the person who runs KPFTX.ORG assuming that a meeting would be held to make up for the March 10, NFC meeting which had run into technical problems.

At the local Finance Committee meeting on March 18, 2026, the interim General Manager, whom I have heard is now the General Manager, wrote to me just before the meeting start time and said he likely wouldn't be able to make the meeting. So we didn't hear a report from him.

We had some technical issues with the audio on this Zoom call, but we persevered.

In the absence of any new financial information the committee discussed the possibility that some people in Pacifica just do not want financial information about Pacifica and its stations released. Committee members discussed the paucity of financial information and whether some in Pacifica just didn't want local Finance Committees. I noted that Pacifica's tax forms could all be looked at on the Pacifica Web site.

The committee discussed transparency and other local Finance Committees in Pacifica.

At the March 24, 2026, NFC meeting the NFC Chair went over the situation with the technical problems at the March 10, 2026, meeting and the erroneous notice of a meeting on March 17.

When the meeting started I suggested that the NFC agree to release the "Consolidated Monthly Income For the Twelve Months Ending Tuesday, September 30, 2025" to the public. There was no objection and I posted that Income Statement for all of FY25 to the LSB mailing list the next day.

It was established that the approved minutes of the January 20, 2026, NFC meeting would be public even though the meeting itself had been changed to an executive session meeting just before that meeting had begun. There followed a discussion of releasing the audio of that January 20, meeting to the public. The Chair agreed that releasing the audio would be on the agenda for the next NFC meeting.

The NFC passed the following **Motion:** (James Sagurton) "That the NFC shall meet every fourth Tuesday of the month unless requested otherwise." So the NFC will go from nominally meeting twice a month to meeting once a month. The NFC voted to meet once a month instead of twice a month at the March 13, 2018, meeting and that year the committee fell behind on its work. In subsequent years the NFC met twice a month, but some people think once a month will work this time.

The Executive Director went over the results of the Winter on-air fund raisers from the

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stations as of March 5, 2026. She said that WBAI's goal had been \$125,000 and the station had raised \$142,269 in 604 donations, 108 of which were new subscribers. She said that the station had also made phone calls to donors who hadn't donated in a year or more and had gotten 131 returning donors and 73 new BAI Buddies.

The Executive Director noted that the WBAI General Manager and the Director of the Pacifica Affiliates Network had set up a daily Pacifica Network News broadcast which has multiple Pacifica stations and others contributing. She said that it was extremely encouraging to see stations working together.

There was a discussion of reinstating "in-kind" donations in Pacifica. We used to do those in the '80s, but the initiative was dropped.

We're still not getting a lot of financial information of a sort that we used to get. At least we were able to get the consolidated Income Statement for FY25 released. I'm hoping that local and national Management will see the value of letting those involved in Pacifica governance see what the financial situation is like. I don't know that the NFC meeting only once a month is going to make things better. It didn't make things better when it was tried in 2018.

In my opinion it is time to insist that Pacifica start to acknowledge the valuable things that the WBAI General Manager is doing for the entire foundation, and considering that as a part of the station's Central Services fees.

What financial news we've gotten sounds all right, not great, but not terrible, but how this will work out in the long run is an open question. I see no reason at this time to remain other than pessimistic.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 28, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer