

WBAI Treasurer's Report
May 13, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on April 15, 2026. The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on April 28, and May 12, 2026. These meetings were held by teleconference.

The WBAI General Manager did not attend the April 15, 2026, local Finance Committee meeting. I'm sure it was a busy time for him and that's why he never replied to my E-mail asking if he would attend, but he hasn't attended a meeting since August, and the local Finance Committee has questions for him.

The committee discussed the need for financial information in order for the committee to do its job. Also discussed was the decision of the NFC to meet only once a month.

At the April 28, 2026, NFC meeting both the Executive Director and the National Business Manager were on the call. The NFC was told that the National Business Manager had to leave early to attend her son's birthday.

The minutes for the March 24, 2026, meeting were complicated because I had submitted corrections to the draft minutes and then someone else had submitted a document that crossed out my corrections on dubious grounds. There was a discussion of this. In the end the minutes of the March 24, meeting were postponed to the next NFC meeting.

There was a discussion of whether and when the audio of that January 20, 2026, NFC meeting, at which the WBAI draft FY26 budget was approved for sending to the PNB, would be released. The minutes of that meeting were declared not to be confidential although the entire meeting had ended up being held in executive session. The NFC Chair said he was hesitant to do that. A Director who was a guest at the meeting said that she had spoken to the PNB Chair about this and that the PNB Chair had said that she would work on making that audio available because the budget discussion was not confidential. The Chair said that it would be up to the PNB Chair to get that audio released. James Sagurton asked that the issue of getting that audio released to the public be put on the next meeting's agenda. The Chair said that that would be fine. Unfortunately that item was not on the next NFC meeting's agenda. I think that it will be a topic at some point in a future meeting.

The Executive Director said that she wanted the National Business Manager to be on the NFC calls so that she would know what reports the NFC needed. The Executive Director asked what the NFC was looking for when it meets. The Executive Director said that she and the National Business Manager would then be able to tell us why the National Office gets reports from people and why they don't. The Chair said we needed information on each station's financial progress so that we can pay our bills. The National Business Manager said that it sounded like what the NFC needed was a report from the donor database, which she said could be quarterly or monthly.

The National Business Manager said that WPFW, KPFT and KPFA were making regular Central Services payments but that WBAI and KPFK were not. She said that in FY24 the National Office had taken additional payroll funding from some stations and that was done until May of last year but that the National Office had not gotten a dime from WBAI with regard to Central Services. She said that KPFK had paid maybe twice since then but that for the most part those stations are not pulling their weight. I brought up the fact that the WBAI General Manager is doing a lot of work for Pacifica and he's paid out of WBAI's budget and I suggested that his work for Pacifica be counted toward WBAI's Central Services fees.

The Executive Director said that the National Office was preparing audits for FY22 and FY23

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and that they would be done by late June to mid-July and then she would start on FY24 and FY25 which she said would be done by the end of November. She praised the great coverage of the “No Kings” demonstrations and said she noted that the special programming was produced by the WBAI General Manager and hosted by Jenna Flanagan in New York. She said that the Pacifica Network News project was starting up and that WBAI General Manager Robert Hennelly and Pacifica Affiliates Network Director Ursula Rudenberg were the startup coordinators.

At the previous NFC meeting the committee had voted to meet once a month on the fourth Tuesday of each month. One NFC member said it was inconvenient for her and so the committee voted to change the monthly meeting date to the second Tuesday of each month.

The May 12, 2026, NFC meeting started out with a contentious discussion when the Chair tried to force through the minutes of the March 24, meeting as interpreted by the NFC Secretary. Those minutes almost entirely reflected the crossing out of my corrections. I objected and wanted to say why that shouldn't happen. I had to remind people that the NFC approved the minutes not just the committee Chair. The Chair was especially aggressive in insisting that I was the one being dilatory and he threatened to have me removed from the meeting. James Sagurton called a point of order and said that the Chair was bullying. He also pointed out that minutes were legal documents and needed to be accurate. In the course of these exchanges the Chair said that he did not have *Roberts' Rules of Order* 12th Edition and he knew what he wanted. In the end he said that he wanted the minutes to show attendance, dates, motions, who made the motion and whether or not the motion passed. That motion passed by three for and one against. We'll see what those minutes look like in a month or so.

The committee had put a discussion and review of Pacifica's new Policy Manuals on the agenda, but that got postponed to the next meeting after one member admitted to not having read any of the documents.

The Executive Director told the committee that Pacifica was on track for completing the audits. She said that the auditing firm had met with the Audit Committee the night before and the firm had given a presentation on what they were doing. She said that the auditing firm had given them an overview and had described the progress of the audit. She said that the auditing firm was getting the information they needed right away. She said that the National Office and the auditing firm have a shared workspace that's helping to keep everyone coordinated and on track.

The Executive Director told the committee that all of the Union contracts in Pacifica are up for renegotiation this year. She said that she was working with the General Managers and a law firm in northern California that specializes in Union negotiations and they have made a spreadsheet that has comparisons of each of the Union agreements on subjects and the Pacifica employee handbook. She said that the goal was to have as much parity as possible so as to make work life balanced between the Union and non-Union employees.

The Executive Director then talked about the Pacifica-wide elections that are happening this year. She talked about Staff getting E-mails from **team@pacifica.org**. I noted that my co-producer had not gotten an E-mail yet, and the Executive Director told us about a lot of E-mails that we were supposedly sent. I know that I have not gotten anywhere near the number of E-mails that she says were sent out, and other producers at WBAI have also told me that they have not heard from Pacifica about this election either. She said that the National Office was going to tell the General Managers to make sure that they get those E-mails out to the producers.

James sagurton said that after a discussion about this at the PNB that he's seeing the potential for

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a massive disenfranchisement of Staff people. The Executive Director said that the Program Directors approve the time that producers put in on the Pacifica Web site.

In answer to a question the Executive Director said that she had pulled the spreadsheets of people who have registered and who have been approved and they have full compliance of registered people and approval of that registration, "At KPFA, KPFT, KPFK, half at WPFW and probably a third at WBAI."

I sure do hope that there's no intent on anyone's part to lessen the number of producers who can vote from WBAI. The NFC Chair noted during this meeting that courts had ruled a couple of years ago that a station, he meant WBAI, had not been able to show that the people whom the station claimed were eligible to vote had actually done the work to be eligible. The Chair soon tried to cut off discussion of this topic, but his motion to shut down discussion failed by a tie vote and the committee talked some more. James Sagurton used the opportunity to note that no court had ever decided what the NFC Chair claimed they had. The NFC Chair then tried to prevent James Sagurton from speaking anymore, but he persisted in the face of this bullying behavior by the Chair and he said that the only person who had the authority to say who could vote in that election was the Election Supervisor at that time and she had approved the WBAI Staff voting lists for that election. I'm wondering if the New Day Pacifica et al. faction is going to try to disenfranchise the WBAI Staff again.

The NFC then had a discussion of possibly raising the membership fee from its current \$25 per year. I said that we needed to. I noted that when the bylaws were implemented in 2003, WBAI and some other stations had a membership fee of \$50 a year. Looking at an on-line inflation calculator I see that \$50 in 2003, is \$90.49 in 2026. The discussion went on for a while. The Executive Director said that she was sure that she could get information from the stations about how much donors gave.

There was then a discussion about not getting financial information. And people from WBAI weren't the only ones who were feeling that pain.

The NFC Chair has by his autocratic behavior been tending to make ordinary committee functions much harder than they need to be. I'm hoping that doesn't continue. Things like minutes are important for an organization that has to answer to federal and state governments. There are well established ways of complying with the law and following the rules is a big part of that.

I am really hoping that the WBAI Staff doesn't get disenfranchised in this upcoming election. I know that I have not gotten the many E-mails that the Executive Director said were sent out about this election. I know that at least some other Staff haven't either. I hope that the audits get done soon and I hope that we can all get the financial information that is necessary for WBAI and all of Pacifica to continue on. Many things are keeping me pessimistic at this time.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 30, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer