WBAI Treasurer's Report
June 10, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on May 20, 2026. The National Finance Committee (NFC) met on June 9, 2026. These meetings were held by teleconference.

At the May 20, 2026, local Finance Committee meeting the committee discussed the report from the Executive Director at the May 12, 2026, NFC meeting that WBAI only had about one-third of its Unpaid Staff registered to vote, the lowest percentage of any station.

The Pacifica Foundation's audits were also discussed. It was noted that while the Executive Director had said that the several audits, covering FY22, FY23, FY24 and FY25 were on track we're in the fourth year of having delinquent audits. Some committee members said that they were not so accepting of the idea that we're on track.

The deadline for the FY25 audit would normally be coming up pretty fast. That audit will have to wait until the audits for the preceding years are done, however; so it's entirely possible that the FY25 audit will be late as well. I noted that, in the past, Pacifica had done worse. In the previous decade Pacifica hadn't even bothered to do audits for some years, and then the Attorney General's Office of California put its foot down and people in Pacifica scrambled to get the delinquent audits done. So although this situation with regard to delinquent audits is not good there's no reason for grave concern *at this time*. It was noted that during the period when the audits were not done years ago that Pacifica was removed from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which cost some Pacifica stations, including WBAI, a great deal of revenue. It was also noted that after those audits were finally done years ago, and Pacifica had become current, that the next year's audit was not done and the cycle started over. There was a discussion of how the lack of audits contributes to the Pacifica stations' inability to get donations from Major Donors, who frequently ask to see the last couple of years of audits before they will make a sizeable donation. It was noted that the lack of current audits puts an informal cap on the size of donations and the types of organizations that would take Pacifica's viability seriously.

There was a discussion about how much money Pacifica is taking out of the station's revenue in order to pay for the audits. The WBAI General Manager had mentioned it in his report. I asked about this at the next NFC meeting.

At seven minutes before the scheduled start time of this meeting the WBAI General Manager wrote an E-mail to me saying, "I will not be attending." This marks the tenth local Finance Committee meeting in a row that he has not attended. This makes it difficult to really know much about the current financial situation at the station and it also makes it hard to speak with confidence about the station's finances at NFC meetings, which could be crucial.

At the June 9, 2026, NFC meeting the Executive Director walked the committee through the "PACIFICA FOUNDATION Consolidated Monthly Income Statement For the Five Months Ending Saturday, February 28, 2026." The Executive Director told the committee that essentially the numbers in the document were not all correct. She said that with regard to KPFA not all of the revenue during this time period had been logged in so the numbers were not accurate because KPFA had not recorded all of their revenue when it was needed to be recorded, she said that the

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National Office could only wait for so long before they had to start putting out financial documents. She said that because of these delays the Consolidated numbers as well as the KPFA numbers for Net Income (Net Loss) in this Income Statement are not accurate. She said that the National Office is moving KPFA's bank account to Bank of America where all of the other bank accounts in Pacifica have been for some time. She said that this will happen as soon as they can get new accounts set up at Bank of America. In answer to a question the Executive Director said that the information about KPFA's revenue that needed to be updated went far back, maybe to 2022, or 2023.

The Executive Director said that Pacifica was paying all of the essential bills, making payroll and paying the health insurance premiums. She said that they had divided up the cost of the elections and the audits and that the stations and the National Office are being tasked with making regular, monthly payments to cover those. I asked a question about the amount that each station was being asked to pay toward the audits. The National Business Manager said that the figure was $7,200 per month per unit and that this payment would keep being billed through the end of calendar year 2026.

The Executive Director said that Pacifica was getting no Central Services payments from KPFK and WBAI, and that there were delays from KPFA. She said that she and the National Business Manager were getting a little nervous about whether money will be coming in to cover the bills. She said that WBAI was having trouble paying the Tower Rent bill. She said that one month of the WBAI Tower Rent bill, totaling about $17,900, had paid on the day of this meeting. That paid off the bill for October 2025. She said that finances are tight.

James Sagurton said that he wondered if the NFC might encourage the WBAI General Manager to go for raising $187,000 so that not only can the entire Tower Rent arrearage be erased but to also pay a bit of the Central Services fees. The Executive Director said that she has had conversations with the WBAI General Manager stressing the importance of paying off the Tower Rent. She said that the on-air fund raiser goals needed to be higher. She said that the WBAI General Manager is going to put out a Tower Rent newsletter or E-mail blast and do an on-air fund raiser stressing the need to pay off the Tower Rent.

James Sagurton asked the National Business Manager what her sense was of how cash flow is going at WBAI. He said he'd heard statements that we were in the black, but that if you're not paying Central Services you're not really in the black. He asked if the WBAI cash flow situation was better than it had been two or three years ago. The National Business Manager said that it was about the same.

The NFC then went into a discussion of the draft Pacifica Foundation Financial Management Policies 2025 Manual. It turned out that what we were looking at was probably going to be replaced by a set of some smaller Standard Operating Procedures manuals.

WBAI has not been paying Central Services fees for a long time. But there's now going to be an effort to raise enough money to pay off the station's Tower Rent arrearage, which I've been told is around $170,000. It's being suggested that WBAI raise something in addition to that amount in order to make *some* Central Services payments. I've been through Tower Rent on-air fund raisers a number of times when either the Empire State Building or 4 Times Square has threatened to shut down our transmitter and take us off the air if they weren't paid something substantial very soon. Those kinds of on-air fund raisers raise money, but they have in the past tended to do so at the expense of the regular on-air fund raisers that pay for everything else. The issue is donor fatigue and while pitching to pay a specific thing can get an enhanced response from the listeners it tends to impact the next on-air fund raiser and make it tougher to raise money then. I don't know if there's a technique that can be used to raise the money we need for the Tower Rent and also leave listeners in a mood to donate again during the next on-air fund raiser that isn't about paying off the Tower Rent arrearage.

For a number of years KPFA has been slowing down Pacifica's efforts to get audits done. If the Executive Director is finally doing something about that it will help all of Pacifica.

The latest Income Statement isn't released yet but I can say that there are significant negative numbers for KPFK and WBAI. If this trend of having multiple stations being in the red isn't reversed pretty soon a very big crisis will hit all of Pacifica. I personally don't have a magic bullet to solve this cash flow problem. I don't know that anyone else does either. I remain pessimistic about the future for WBAI and Pacifica.

The next WBAI local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 14, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer