

WBAI Treasurer's Report
July 8, 2026

The WBAI local Finance Committee met on June 17, 2026. This meeting was held by teleconference.

The WBAI General Manager did not attend the June 17, 2026, local Finance Committee meeting. This was the 11th local Finance Committee meeting in a row that he had not attended. He sent me an E-mail that had a time stamp showing it had been sent 23 minutes after the official start time of the meeting. I was chairing the meeting when it was sent so I didn't see it until after the meeting had adjourned. I forwarded it to the local Finance Committee mailing list right after I saw it.

In his E-mail the General Manager said that he had hoped to attend the meeting but that he was at City Hall working on the upcoming New York primaries. He said that the station had \$31,000 in the bank and about \$6,800 in PayPal. He said that we'd just made an \$18,000 plus Tower Rent payment. He said that the station continued to be in fund drive and that he was in conversation with Pacifica leadership about the policy of the foundation taking the Subsidiary Communications Authorization (SCA) revenue. He said that the station had about \$70,000 in outstanding accounts receivable due over the next 60 days.

Committee members discussed the National Office not crediting WBAI for bequests in the past and not crediting WBAI for paying for some national programming. It was also brought up that the WBAI General Manager had gotten the *Radio Maria* subscriber to WBAI's SCA to resume paying again and that WBAI should get Central Services credit for that. I noted that some people in power in Pacifica have said that Pacifica is one big entity and that all of the revenue goes to Pacifica. I said that if that's the case then all of the bills were for all of Pacifica and the National Office shouldn't be trying to tally Central Services fees. I said that I had brought up at the National Finance Committee (NFC) that the WBAI General Manager was doing a lot of things for Pacifica while being paid as WBAI's General Manager and the station has not gotten Central Services credit for them.

I also reminded the committee that the NFC meetings were now only held once a month and there is a push to have the meetings be as short as possible; as a result not a lot gets done at those meetings. There was a discussion of what Central Services fees pay for. A question was also raised about Profit & Loss statements. I noted that the last two Income Statements have not been authorized to be released to the public and so I couldn't discuss what's in them. There was also a discussion about the need for transparency in Pacifica. The committee discussed the \$7,200 monthly charge for the audits and elections, which all stations are being charged. I noted that we are not getting enough financial information from the National Office and that even the Chair of the NFC has raised that issue.

There is not much to report this month. That doesn't mean that things aren't happening that I don't know about. At the next NFC meeting we are to take up the "Monthly Income Statement For the Six Months Ending Tuesday, March 31, 2026." It hasn't been approved for release yet so I can't give out the exact figures, but it will come as no surprise that the numbers through the end of the second quarter of FY26 show WBAI with a serious deficit. On-air fund raising in the Summer can be difficult and can result in the amount of time spent pitching being longer than usual. I haven't gotten any word yet about when the next on-air fund raiser will be, but it may need to be long. I remain pessimistic about the future for WBAI and Pacifica.

The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 14, 2026, at 8:30 PM (ET). The next WBAI local Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 7:00 PM (ET). These meetings will be held by teleconference.

R. Paul Martin
WBAI LSB Treasurer