

RATIFIED Minutes

WBAI Local Station Board March 2021 Meeting

Call to Order

Regular meeting of the WBAI Local Station Board, convened remotely due to Governor's shelter in place order. Held via Zoom on March 10th, 2021. [Link to Zoom video and audio recordings.](#)

Meeting presided over by Carolyn McIntyre with Charlotte Albrecht as Secretary.

Approval of Agenda

Michael moves to adopt the agenda (see below).

Agenda:

1. Convene meeting.
2. Adopt Agenda. (20 minutes)
3. Roll Call, including verifications respecting telephone attendees. (5 minutes)
4. Excuse absences. (5 minutes)
5. Approve outstanding minutes: [February 10, 2021](#) (5 minutes)
6. Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations. (1 Minute)
7. Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including Audio Clip About Bylaws (10 minutes) — Alex Steinberg, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton
8. [General Manager's Report](#). (8 minutes for report & 12 minutes for discussion) — Berthold Reimers
9. Programming Updates. (5 minutes for report & 3 minutes Q&A) — Linda Perry
10. Report on Allegiance (4 minutes for report & 4 minutes Q&A) — Chris LaPilusa
11. Discussion: April 7th, Increasing WBAI Membership and Proposed Pacifica Foundation Bylaws Referendum and Possible Resolution (30 minutes)
 - a. [Resolution of WBAI's Local Station Board Finding That Proposed "New Day Pacifica" Bylaw Changes Will Be Extremely Destructive and Adverse To The Interests of Pacifica](#), submitted by Michael White
12. Review of [Ad Hoc LSB Radio Committee Motion](#) (7 minutes) — Shawn Rhodes

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13. Report From Program Director Search Committee. (2 minutes) — Shawn Rhodes
14. Report of LSB Committee of Inclusion. (3 minutes) — William Heerwagen
15. [Treasurer's Report](#). — (5 Minutes report 5 minutes discussion) — R. Paul Martin
16. Report from Community Advisory Board — (2 Minutes)
17. Discussion: Creation of Programming Advisory Committee — (5 Minutes)
18. Raising money for COVID affected people. (2 minutes) — Errol Maitland
19. Resolution Supporting Use of Rotating Fundraising Slots in New 52-Week Schedule As Opportunity For Content-Based Fundraising That Builds Listenership. (5 minutes) — Michael D. D. White
20. Motion Respecting Hiring a Full Time Pacifica Foundation Executive Director and Funding That Person's Compensation. (4 minutes) — Mitch Cohen
21. Public Comment. (30 minutes, 2 minutes maximum per speaker before next in queue to speak. Must always begin no later than 9:15 PM ET.)
22. Unfinished Business. (5 minutes)
23. New Business.
24. Adjourn no later than 9:45 PM. (ET)

Attendance and Adopting Minutes

Voting Members in attendance: Charlotte Albrecht, John Brinkley, Mitchel Cohen, Jack DePalma, Jack Devine, King Downing, DeeDee Halleck, Maxine Harrison-Gallmon, William Heerwagen, R Paul Martin, Basir Mchawi, Hazel Pinder, Ralph Poynter, Shawn Rhodes, James Sagurton, Sharonne Salaam, Max Schmid, Alex Steinberg, Marilyn Vogt-Downey, Michael White, Amy Wilson, Carolyn McIntyre.

Excused absences: Safia Albaiti, Erroll Maitland

Michael motions to excuse all absences at today's meeting. No objections.

Michael moves to adopt February 10th minutes. No objections.

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Chair's Update About Pacifica's Executive Director's Response to Management Evaluation Report and Recommendations. No response to latest email, send after February LSB Meeting.

Report from Pacifica National Board Directors Including Audio Clip About Bylaws. We listen to an audio clip of Grace Aaron from a special episode in the WBAI Archives explaining the negative impact of the proposed new bylaws on station democracy. You can [listen to the clip here, beginning at 16:40](#).

Alex encourages outreach to friends, family, etc to become WBAI members by April 7th. Ballots will go out June 7th and be due July 7th. National board will vote on amendments first, then LSB will vote, as part of the process.

Berthold has not joined the call yet, so the chair elects to postpone items #8 and #9.

Report on Allegiance. Chris LaPilusa, WBAI's webmaster, presents. Allegiance allows us streamline donations, when previously four were used depending on medium of donation. Chris, Berthold, Linda, Hannah doing extensive training on the system. Will go live April 1st!

Basir: what's the benefit of this particular donor software? Chris: we had no donor management system before, so there was no way to identify donors. Also, Pacifica had already paid upfront costs of Allegiance, so this saved us at least \$4,000. Easily generate tax-receipts, trigger membership renewals, update expired credit cards, etc.

Mitch: is our database protected? Security practices? Chris: can look into practices, but know that many public broadcasters use it. It's the standard.

James: cleaning election lists no longer has to be manual. How is the learning curve, considering the complexity of the system? Chris:

Sharonne: how is this going to effect the calls coming in? Chris: had a call with a new call center company today, their systems are integrated with Allegiance's platform. Would alleviate a lot of listener concerns with the current call center.

John: what is the length of the contract? Chris: not sure, can get back to us.

Marilyn: volunteers used to be able to use the old system, Memsis. Who has access to Allegiance now? Chris: only myself, Hannah, Berthold, Linda. Marilyn: how will vols be able to help? Chris: there's not a way to volunteer on the membership maintenance side right now because of the disconnected nature of the current system, so it wouldn't be affecting anything.

Charlotte: how would this help shows get out premiums, tailor to their listeners? Chris: gives us the flexibility to create "storefronts" dedicated to a show, which can be promoted on air.

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Discussion: April 7th, Increasing WBAI Membership and Proposed Pacifica Foundation Bylaws Referendum and Possible Resolution. Michael White present his proposal [“Resolution of WBAI’s Local Station Board Finding That Proposed “New Day Pacifica” Bylaw Changes Will Be Extremely Destructive and Adverse To The Interests of Pacifica.”](#) James seconds.

Charlotte: agree with the spirit, but should be simpler, explaining clearly and concisely what the changes are, why they’re bad for democracy. A lot of detailed language to approve as a body, some we may not all agree with. We should work on this as a group. Not enough time to read.

Michael: the background on the neoliberal seizure of public media is important. This is timely, shouldn’t delay.

Jack Devine: it’s too long. Needs to be a paragraph, straight to the point.

Marilyn: agree with Jack and Charlotte. Have to emphasize removal of local station democracy.

Alex: we’re far away from the time of the referendum. Have time to do something concise.

Mitch: synopsis up top, but keep the rest as background. Supports re-write.

John Brinkley and Jack De Palma agree with Mitch’s general idea. Michael advocates for the strength of the existing resolution. There is some more discussion of how to implement this. An adhoc group volunteers to use this resolution as a starting point, write something new. Discussion of logistics.

General Manager’s Report. Presented by Berthold Reimers, text of the report is [here](#).

Marilyn: asks for comparison of March 2019 to March 2021 membership numbers. Points out grid has been incomplete recently, and constantly changing. Berthold: waiting to go live with Allegiance for the data.

Hazel: a show was recently off the air for two minute without a producers’ knowledge. Seems to be more tech difficulties, what is the cause of this? Berthold: everyone should have January 2021 to December 2021 schedule, with set preemptions. Updating grid has fallen through cracks some times.

John Brinkley: performance measurements for Allegiance? Contract? Will it make audit process easier? Berthold: nothing to do with finances really. Explains the current process (Volusion) a little.

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Mitchel: do you need volunteers to help update the website? Berthold: it's outdated. Chris is going to do an overhaul. Re: entering information in the grid, could definitely use volunteers.

Review of Ad Hoc LSB Radio Committee Motion. Text [here](#). Presented by Shawn, laying out how the LSB Report to Listeners shows have been operating so far. Motion passes with no objections.

Report from Community Advisory Board. Elections in May for Chair, Vice-Chair, recording Secretary. Voting members have to attend 3 meetings and be a member of WBAI.

Public comment begins at 9:15.

Report From Program Director Search Committee by Shawn. In the process of reviewing a huge amount of applications!

Treasurer's Report. R Paul presents, full text is found [here](#).

Dee Dee: what's happening with the loan principal coming due on April 21? Will find out more in an executive session of the National Finance Committee.

James: re: loan, there are negotiations that are promising.

John Brinkley motions to extend time to return to public comment and finish the stack, because some people did not get to speak. Passes with 3 abstentions, 2 against.