LETA FULL BOARD MEETING ♦

February 8, 2024 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA

**Members Present:** Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Eartha Cross, Dan Hare, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Tracie Woods, Christopher Wegmann, Dr. Tina Holland, Ted Beasley, and Irene Robinson

**Members via Teleconference:** Dr. Saundra McGuire

**Members Absent:**  Dr. Courtney Phillips, Sharon Reine, Therese Nagem, William Bradford, and Jeffrey Thomas

**Others Present:** Lisa Johnson.

**Employees Present:** Clarence “C.C” Copeland, Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Treece Mallard, Heather Purser, Kathy Scherer, Angela Bessix, and Matt Tessier.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS**: Matt Tessier swore in new board member Irene Robinson.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  Chris Wegmann, Chairman, asked for any public comment and there was none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Dan Hare, Secretary, asked that the minutes from the LETA full board meeting from December 14, 2023, be approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Laura Lindsey and seconded by Conrad Comeaux. With all in favor the motion passed.

**LETA/ Foundation Financial reports:** Conrad Comeaux presented the financial reports for LETA and the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting on behalf of David Tatman, Treasurer. A motion to approve LETA financials was made by Conrad Comeaux and was seconded by Irene Robinson. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**Friends of LPB Report:** Terri Crockett, Friends of LPB (FLPB) Executive Director, gave the FLPB report on behalf of Therese Nagem, FLPB Chair:

**Win the Wheels Raffle**

• Grand prize: 2024 Toyota Camry Hybrid.

• Win the Wheels raffle will conclude on Sunday, February 25, 2024, and current revenue is $65,060.

**March Pledge Drive**

Major donors, Mary Sue and Ron Garay pledged $6,000 to challenge viewers to become members.

**Financials – December 2023**

**Revenue:** At the end of December, membership revenue for the month was $388,563.70. Overall revenue at the end of the month was $1,549,439.73.

**Expenses:** Expenditures for the month totaled $ 153,415.53.

**Items of Note:**

Passport revenue is up 64% year over year.

Major donor revenue is up 22%.

2nd quarter transfer was for $397,040.85, bringing our total annual support to the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting to $650,014.62.

**Legends**

Legends Gala will be April 25, 2024.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Matt Tessier, Deputy Director, reported on the following:

* Matt gave an update on the board’s administrative rule being promulgated in order to take advantage of electronic meeting capabilities in accordance with Act 393 of 2023.
* The governor’s office issued an executive order applicable to state agencies, JML 24-05, titled Identifying, Quantifying and Mitigating the Adverse effects of illegal immigration.
* Federal funding for Dolly Parton was approved. $630,000 of federal funding is now available to help extend the life of the program.

**President’s Report:** C.C Copeland, LPB President and CEO, reported on the following:

* C.C gave an update on staffing changes including the retirement of John Blue, and the hiring of Treece Mallard and Heather Purser in Accounting and Devon Hadrick in Production.
* Office of State Purchasing issued two vendor certificates of purchase of a side mount antenna for the Lafayette transmitter and a top mount antenna for WLPB which should be completed by June 30, 2024, coming in under budget on both.
* C.C. discussed Louisiana’s congressional redistricting efforts.
* C.C. gave an update on LETA’s preliminary state budget totaling $3,436,736.00. Most of what we asked for, they gave us in the preliminary budget, and what they didn’t give us, we will pursue through supplemental appropriations, including $650,000 for a new AC chiller.
* Finally have a bid for roof repairs and solar panels.
* C.C. gave an update on all the current repairs and upgrades to LPB’s facilities.
* C.C., Chris, and Matt will travel to Washington D.C. to attend the APTS-Public Media Summit on February 26-28th 2024.
* C.C. gave a presentation on the planned boardroom improvements.
* C.C. briefed the board on LPB’s 2024 Governor’s Inauguration coverage, where our investment in a Flypack made coverage possible without a production truck.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

* Chris Wegmann, Chairman, reminded the board of upcoming meeting dates on March 14, 2024 (Executive and Finance Committee) and April 11, 2024 (Full board).
* Mr. Wegmann also thanked Laura Lindsey as her service on the Executive and Finance Committee came to an end.
* Mr. Wegmann would like everyone to send in a professional headshot.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Conrad Comeaux made a motion to add an item to the agenda concerning LETA’s appointment of a member to the CODOFIL board. Dr. Laura Lindsay seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed. Mr. Comeaux then made a motion to reappoint Mr. Benard Duhon to the CODOFIL board as a representative for LETA. Dr. Laura Lindsey seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**Adjournment:** Conrad Comeaux made a motion to adjourn, and Tracie Woods seconded at 1:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier