LETA FULL BOARD MEETING ♦

December 14, 2023 ♦ 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, Dr. Saundra McGuire, Shauna Sanford, Tracie Woods, Christopher Wegmann, William Bradford, Belinda Davis, Dr. Tina Holland and David Tatman.

**Members via Teleconference:** Jeffery Thomas.

**Members Absent:**  Dr. Courtney Phillips, Sharon Reine, Ted Beasley, Therese Nagem, and Irene Robinson.

**Employees Present:** Clarence “C.C” Copeland, Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Kathy Scherer, Angela Bessix, Ben Johnson, and Matt Tessier.

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

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

**BOARD MINUTES:** Shauna Sanford, Secretary, asked for the approval of the full board meeting minutes from October 12, 2023. Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, noted with regard to minutes, that the board only votes to approve LETA financial reports, and does not approve Friends of LPB financial reports or the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting financial reports. The Chairman also noted a correction to the minutes to change “LPB Holiday Party” to “Friends of LPB Holiday Party” under the “Save the Date” section. The Chairman also suggested future minutes be more succinct. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Laura Lindsay and seconded by Dr. Belinda Davis. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Conrad Comeaux, Chairman,announced that the Nominating Committee of Sonny Cranch, Dr. Laura Lindsey, and Eartha Cross have recommended new board officers as follows: Chris Wegmann (incoming Chairman), Tracie Woods (incoming Vice Chair), Dan Hare (incoming Secretary), and David Tatman (incoming Treasurer). After calling for any additional nominations, and receiving none, a motion was made by Dr. Belinda Davis and seconded by William Bradford to accept the nominations and to elect the board officers as nominated. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**LETA/ Foundation financIAL ReportS:** Dr. Tina Holland presented the financial reports for LETA. A motion to approve the LETA financials was made by Chris Wegmann and seconded by David Tatman. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, introduced a resolution from LETA requesting that the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting grant $1,400,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 to allow LETA to meet its financial obligations. A motion to approve was made by David Tatman and seconded by Dr. Belinda Davis. 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.

• Corporate Sponsors: Roy O Martin and Bubba Oustalet Automotive in Jennings.

**Antique Roadshow Preview Party**

Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Tickets are $100.

**Financials – October 2023**

**Revenue:** At the end of October, membership revenue for the month was $163,036.61. Overall revenue at

was $888,061.04.

**Expenses:** Expenditures for the month totaled $ 183,633.09.

**Item of Note:** FLPB received a planned gift of 37,200.00 from a loyal viewer.

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

* Executive Director C.C Copeland shared a congratulatory message from PBS on the announcement that LPB has been awarded one of sixteen competitive climate grants in order to produce a climate-related short film. LPB Senior Producer Ben Johnson, who will be working on the project, was congratulated and recognized by the board.
* C.C discussed the LPB-produced 1-hour documentary, *A Tall Order: The Louisiana State Capitol*, examining the construction of Louisiana’s Capitol, produced by LPB Producer Dorothy Kendrick.
* LPB did a live international broadcast with TV 5 Monde out of Paris on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, in partnership with Tele-Louisiane. C.C also discussed another partnership with Tele-Louisiane, the French-language series *La Veillee*, which airs on Thursday nights.
* C.C. gave a briefing on the upcoming 2024 Governor’s Inauguration on January 8, 2024.
* C.C informed the board that he successfully completed the PBS Inaugural Executive Leadership class, graduating from the program in November 2023.
* LETA’s Budget Requests for FY 24-25 from the state include a request for approximately $4 million to cover the agency’s technology and infrastructure needs.
* C.C updated the board on the short HBCU documentary LPB produced for Maryland Public Television, about the Bayou Classic. The film played in the Superdome during the game.
* C.C gave a presentation on planned boardroom and receiving area improvements.
* C.C reported on the status of the bid for WLPB & KLPB antennas.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

* Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, presented the board with two resolutions, recommended by the LETA Executive and Finance Committee for approval by the full board, regarding a compensation increase for LPB CEO/President Clarence “C.C” Copeland. The first resolution would grant C.C a 5% salary increase. A motion was made by Dan Hare and seconded by Dr. Tina Holland to approve the resolution and the salary increase. With all in favor, the motion passed. The second resolution would grant C.C a $400 per paycheck car allowance. A motion was made by Dr. Saundra McGuire and seconded by Shauna Sanford to approve the resolution and the car allowance.
* Conrad Comeaux reminded the board to complete their state ethics training.
* Conrad Comeaux circulated the 2024 LETA meeting schedule.

**Adjournment:** Conrad Comeaux called for adjournment at 1:13 PM.

Minutes submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier