LETA FULL BOARD MEETING ♦

April 11, 2024 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Christopher Wegmann, Dr. Tina Holland, Jeffery Thomas, Lance Harris, Sharon Reine, and Tracie Woods (12:09).

**PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:** Clarence “C.C” Copeland, Therese Nagem, and William Bradford

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  Dan Hare, Dr. Courtney Phillips, Dr. Saundra McGuire, Eartha Cross, Ted Beasley, David Tatman, Dr. Laura Lindsay and Irene Robinson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Powers, Louisiana Department of Education.

**EMPLOYESS PRESENT:** Matt Tessier**,** Kimberly Ducote and Angela Bessix.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS:** Matt Tessier swore in new board member Lance Harris.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM, but a quorum was not present.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: The minutes from the LETA board meeting held on February 8, 2024, were not adopted due to lack of a quorum.

**LETA 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. No financial reports were adopted due to lack of a quorum.

**Friends of LPB Report:** Therese Nagem, FLPB Chair, gave the FLPB report.

**Legends Gala**

* Overall Revenue Goal: $275,500

Current sponsorship revenue: $325,500 – 16.6% increase year over year

* Auction revenue goal: $100,000 – Online: $70,000 Live: $30,000

Current Auction Revenue: $9,952

**Legends Pre-Reception**

All LPB board members are invited to attend the private pre-reception at the Louisiana Governor’s Mansion prior to the gala from 5 - 6 pm. This reception offers a unique opportunity for board members to meet the honorees and major sponsors in an intimate setting before the gala event begins.

**Legends Auction**

Online auction closes on Sunday, May 12 at midnight, and the and the live auction items close at the gala.

**Financials – February 2024**

**Revenue:** At the end of February membership revenue for the month was $213,804.10. Through the first eight months of the fiscal year, overall revenue was $2,083,104.13.

**Expenses:** Expenditures for the month totaled $145,924.38

**Items of Note:**

Underwriting is up 104%

Renewals are up 6.8%

Passport revenue is up 73%

Raffle revenue is down 19%

As of February, the 3rd quarter of the transfer amount is $244,438.14, bringing our total support for the fiscal year to $894,552.76.

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

* HB 717 (Domangue) was withdrawn from the files of the house by the author. This bill would have required state agencies to give preference to French speakers in hiring for certain positions.
* HB 546 (Amedee) does not seem to be moving. This bill deals with French education in schools and would require LETA to be involved in suggesting French curricula.
* HB 547 (Amedee) would require LETA to request funding for French programming as part of our budget request every year. The bill passed the House floor yesterday and now moves to the Senate.
* HB 818 (Beaullieu) deals with appointments to the CODOFIL board. We need to reach out to the author about fixing language in the bill regarding LETA’s appointment to the CODOFIL board as it changes ‘LETA’ to ‘LPB’. This is a problem, since LETA is our legal name.

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

* C.C. is attending the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) conference in Las Vegas.
* C.C. gave an update on LETA’s preliminary state budget totaling $3,436,738.00. 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 three cameras for the Digital Division, the AC chiller, the parking lot, and new flooring.
* Supplies have arrived for the Next-Gen ATSC3.0 project.
* Ziggy’s Arts Adventure season 3 is underway and we are holding an underwriting day with potential sponsors in hopes of securing funding for season 4.
* LPB’s Education Services department has been awarded $87,000 through CPB’s Ready to Learn grant.
* Staff changes: Brett Glover, is our new Senior Producer over Louisiana:The State We’re In (SWI). Brett worked at WWL and WAFB. Brandon Maher joins us as our new Camera Operator.
* Christmas at the mansion will be December 9, 2024. CC has been working with the First Lady’s chief of staff to coordinate the program.
* Bids for the roofing project came in, and the project was awarded to Coleman Roofing Construction Company.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:**

* Chris Wegmann, Chairman, reminded the board to submit their Tier 2.1 Disclosure Statements to the Board of Ethics.
* Mr. Wegmann congratulated Nancy Tooraen Director of Education for being appointed to the Early Childhood Care Commission on behalf of LETA.
* Mr. Wegmann reminded the board of upcoming meeting dates on May 9, 2024 (Executive and Finance Committee) and June 13, 2024 (Full board).
* Mr. Wegmann recognized Conrad Comeaux for his service on the board.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM

Minutes submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier