

**LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD MEETING**

**August 14, 2025 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room
7733 Perkins Road ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70810**

Members Present: Tracie Woods, Sonny Cranch, Dan Hare, Sharon Reine, Dr. Sandra McGuire, Conrad Comeaux, Dr. Courtney Phillips, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Erin Donnelly, Sally Davis, and Lance Harris (12:05 pm)

Via Teleconference: Jeff Thomas, Dr. Tina Holland, and William Bradford.

Members Absent: Elizabeth Crochet, Bo Harris, Dr. Tina Holland, Misty Wyble, and Christopher Wegmann.

Staff Present: Clarence "C.C." Copeland, Kimberly Ducote, Angela Bessix, Matt Tessier, and Terri Crockett (Friends of LPB).

CALL TO ORDER: Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS: Matt Tessier, Deputy Director, administered the oath of office to new LETA member, Sally Davis, representing the Louisiana Superintendent of Education. Tracie Woods introduced Ms. Davis to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, issued a call for any public comments, and there were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dan Hare presented the minutes of the LETA full board meeting from February 13, 2025, and asked that the minutes be approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sonny Cranch and was seconded by Dr. Courtney Phillips. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Dan Hare noted that the April 10, 2025, LETA full board meeting was cancelled, and therefore, no minutes exist.

Dan Hare also presented the minutes of the LETA full board meeting on June 12, 2025, and asked that the minutes be approved. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Sandra McGuire and was seconded by Sharon Rein. With all in favor, the motion passed.

LETA FINANCIAL UPDATE: Sonny Cranch, Treasurer, presented the LETA financial update. Conrad Comeaux made a motion to approve the financial update, which was seconded by Dr. Courtney Phillips. With all in favor, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, introduced a resolution from LETA requesting that the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting grant \$1,400,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 to allow LETA to meet its financial obligations. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Conrad Comeaux and was seconded by Dr. Courtney Phillips. With all in favor, the motion passed.

FRIENDS OF LPB REPORT: Terri Crockett, Executive Director of Friends of LPB (FLPB) gave the FLPB report:

- **Power On Generator Raffle** – \$51,670 current revenue; a 19% increase.
- **Legends Gala** – Invitations have been issued to the following potential honorees for 2026: Matt Stuller, Richard Lipsey, Tommy Ryder, Dr. Calvin Mackie, Anthony Mackie, Nick Saban, and Lainey Wilson. Gala will be held on April 30, 2026.
- **Save the Dates**
 - Friends of LPB Annual Meeting September 11, 2025.
 - LPB Holiday Party December 4, 2025, at the Burden Museum and Gardens.

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

- We are continuing negotiations relative to the WLPB tower's land lease.
- Matt presented an update on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, outlining current participation levels, recent expansions, and ongoing efforts to increase enrollment and outreach.
- LPB did a summer series with the Manship Theater to offer PBS Kids movies free of charge to the community, including ASL accessible screenings.
- LPB has been working with the Louisiana 250 Commission, and its chairman, Rep. Mike Bayham, to find areas of alignment, particularly with regard to the American Revolution programming and resources that LPB will be airing and creating.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: C.C. Copeland, LPB President and CEO, reported on the following:

- C.C. welcomed LPB Executive Producer, Linda Midgett, to brief the board on upcoming original productions from LPB:
 - *Capturing America: The Carol Highsmith Story* – July 4, 2026.
 - *LA 64*- LPB's new travel show exploring Louisiana's 64 parishes – February 2026.
 - *Game Notes*- LPB's first foray into College Football around Louisiana – Begins August 2025.
 - *Circles: The Billy Cannon Story* – 2026
 - *Louisiana the State We're In* – Katrina 20th anniversary special.
- C.C. gave an update on the federal funding relative to Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) that was eliminated by Congress in the recent rescissions package, totaling nearly \$1.1b.
- C.C. indicated CPB will close September 30.
- C.C. also presented the negative impacts to various PBS member stations around the country resulting from the loss of federal funding.
- C.C. updated the board on PBS's plans for restructuring member station dues.
- C.C. indicated the KLTM transmitter installation in Monroe is on schedule. This is LPB's last VHF signal, which will be converted to UHF.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, stated that the next Executive and Finance Committee meeting is on September 11, 2025, and the next full board meeting will be on Thursday, October 9, 2025, in the LPB Boardroom.
- Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, presented the board with a resolution increasing the annual compensation of LPB CEO/President, Clarence "C.C." Copeland, by 5% bringing his annual salary to \$222,287.52, with his \$400 per paycheck vehicle stipend remaining

unchanged. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Conrad Comeaux and was seconded by Sonny Cranch. With all in favor, the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business before the board.

Adjournment: Tracie Woods, Vice Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:26 PM.

Minutes prepared by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier