LETA EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ♦March 14, 2024♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA



**Members Present:** Chris Wegmann, David Tatman, Sonny Cranch, Conrad Comeaux, Eartha Cross, Tracie Woods.

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

**Call to Order:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dan Hare, Secretary, presented the minutes of the January 11, 2024, Executive and Finance Committee meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded, by Conrad Comeaux. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**Financial Report:** David Tatman, Treasurer, presented the LETA financial report. A motion to approve the financial report was made by David Tatman and was seconded by Conrad Comeaux. With all in favor, the motion passed.

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

**Fundraising**

The spring on-air membership campaign culminated this past weekend.

Final revenue: $91,856 with 528 pledges.

**Winner of the Win the Wheels Raffle**

Final Revenue: 98,810

Winner: Mary Nagem

14% increase in revenue year over year

Special thanks to Jimmy Oustatet and Oustalet Automotive Group for their generous support.

**PowerOn Raffle**

The PowerOn Raffle is scheduled to start June 1st sponsored by Optimize EGS

**Financials – January 2024**

At the end of January, membership revenue was $192,557.47 for the month, and revenue was $1,742,235.20 through the first seven months of the fiscal year. Expenses for the month totaled $143,201.88.

**Legends Gala**

Current sponsorship revenue: $315,500

**Deputy Director’s Report:** Matt Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, reported on the following:

**Update on three pieces of legislation relevant to our agency:**

* HB 547 (Amedee) – would require LETA to request as a specific line item in our budget request, funding for French language educational programming. This would be similar to how we are required to request money for other public media companies WYES, WRKF, and WLAE.,
* HB 546 (Amedee) -would require three years of French instruction be offered in all public elementary, middle, and high schools The bill would require LDOE to maintain a list of French language materials specific to Cajun French and Creole for use in classrooms. To establish and maintain this list, the LDOE must consult with entities with expertise in such subject areas: (1) CODOFIL (2) LETA and (3) Center for Louisiana Studies (UL).
* HB 717 (Domangue)- Enacts the Louisiana French Commerce Act, which amends various bodies of Louisiana’s laws to promote/encourage Louisiana French language and culture. The bill would amend several laws relating to state agencies, including requirement that French or Creole language skills be a preferred qualification for positions that significantly involve Louisiana historical research, archives, cultural development, or international tourism or business.

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

* We covered the governor live for the opening of the 2024 Legislative Session, carrying it statewide as pool feed.
* On Monday we go before House Appropriations in the morning and Senate Finance in the afternoon for HB1 budget hearings. Our major repairs and acquisitions total $3,436,738 right now.
* Working to get funding through the supplemental appropriations process for additional projects.
* Chiller recently died, will need another one costing $650,000, with a 30-year lifespan.
* Attended the APTS meeting last month at Capitol Hill, Matt, and CC, were able to talk to Senator Bill Cassidy and Congressman Graves.
* Congratulations to our Educational Services team on being awarded a “Ready to Learn” grant for $87,000.
* In terms of LPB staff changes, we have a new senior producer named Brett Glover, a production opening for camera Operator 3, and the Business Office has an opening for an Accountant Technician.
* Ziggy Season 3 is moving along.
* Had a call with the First Lady’s executive staff regarding Christmas at the Mansion.
* Had mandatory ADA and FMLA training for staff this week.,
* The antenna at KLPB in Lafayette is scheduled to be installed late April, early May, and at WLPB in Baton Rouge June 6.
* Held a pre-bid meeting for the roof project and twenty companies showed up to receive project information from the manager of the project, Coleman Architects.
* We are transitioning from Zoom Microsoft Teams.

**CHAIRMAN’s Report:** Chris Wegmann reminded everyone to send in headshots, but we will also have Christopher LeCoq in the lobby to take headshots if you do not have one.

**Other Business**: There was no other business.

**Adjournment:** Chris Wegmann adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier