LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA



**Members Present:** Chris Wegmann, Dr. Tina Holland, Sonny Cranch, Conrad Comeaux, William “Dan” Hare, and David Tatman.

**Attendance via zoom:** Tracie Woods and Clarence “C.C” Copeland

**Employees Present:** Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Kathy Scherer, Matt Tessier, and Angela Bessix.

**Call to Order:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chris Wegmann asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Conrad Comeaux and seconded by Sonny Cranch. With all in favor the motion passed.

**Financial Report:** David Tatman, Treasurer, presented the LETA financial report. A motion was made to approve 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**

**New Year New You Pledge Drive**

* Took place over the weekend resulting in $36,495 and 166 pledges.

**Antiques Roadshow Premier**

* The LPB Antiques Roadshow Baton Rouge premier will be on Thursday, January 25 from 6:30p to 8:30p at LPB studios.

**Win the Wheels Raffle**

* Grand prize: 2024 Toyota Camry Hybrid, currently at $42,920 in revenue.

**Financials – November 2023**

**Revenue:** At the end of November, membership revenue for the month was $198,889.89. Overall revenue at the end of the month was $1,147,887.00.

**Expenses:** Expenditures for the month totaled $140,109.16.

**Items of Note:**

• Major donor revenue is up by 28%

• Passport, our most popular member benefit, continues to perform well.

**Deputy Director’s Report**

Matt Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, gave an update on Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library (DPIL). Before leaving office, Governor John Bel Edwards allocated funding from his Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF), that had to be spent by December 2023, for the DPIL. The money was successfully spent and will go towards extending the life of the statewide program. Matt also informed the committee that the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans will be running several episodes of Ritual as part of their exhibit. Ritual is the digital-first series produced by LPB for PBS Digital Studios.

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

* We survived the governor’s inauguration, which had a lot of last-minute changes due to weather issues. The event was moved up one whole day.
* Invested in a new digital mobile studio to help with these sorts of live events.
* The bid openings for two LPB antennas were held on December 23, 2023, for the KLPB (Lafayette) side mount antenna and the WLPB (Baton Rouge) top mount antenna. The project should be completed no later than June 30, 2024.
* We received the first draft of the proposed FY24 -25 state budget. The first draft funds everything requested, except for funding for cameras, flooring, and parking lot repairs, which we can hopefully get through the supplemental appropriations process.
* Received word from facility planning they have funding for the roof repairs to the building.
* The governor has called a special session on redistricting to run January 15th - the 23rd; Regular session will run March 11the - June 3rd.
* PBS will soon make a major announcement regarding Hulu and Disney Plus. PBS stations are already on Hulu Live Plus.

**Chairman’s report:** Chris Wegmann, chair, announced he will be attending the America’s Public Television Stations (APTS) Public Media Summit in Washington DC. Mr. Wegmann then explained that he would like to nominate Eartha Cross and Sonny Cranch to remain on the Executive and Finance Committee, and further explained that Conrad Comeaux would be a mandatory member of the committee as immediate past-chair of the board in accordance with the board’s by-laws. Dr. Laura Lindsay will be removed from the committee to accommodate the addition of Conrad Comeaux. A motion was made in-globo by Chris Wegmann to make the membership changes to the Executive and Finance Committee and seconded by Conrad Comeaux. With all in favor the motion passed.

**Other Business:** The committee discussed adding airfare and travel to the budget to accommodate board chairs’ attendance at the APTS Public Media Summit.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier