LETA FULL BOARD MEETING

♦August 12, 2021♦ 12:00 PM ♦

Meeting Conducted By Zoom ♦ 7733 Perkins Rd ♦ Baton Rouge, LA

**Members Present:** Valencia Burton, Julie Cherry, Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Eartha Cross, Nancy Harrelson, Bo Harris, Dr. Tina Holland, Kathy Kliebert, Laura Lindsay, Chris Wegmann, and Tracie Woods, Dan Hare, Rob King.

**Members Absent:** Richard Hartley, David Tatman, Ted Beasley, and Dr. Belinda Davis

**Employees Present:**  Beth Courtney, C.C Copeland, Kim Ducote, Linda Midgett, Marlesha Ross, Kathy Scherer.

**Call to Order:** Conrad Comeaux called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

**Approval of minutes:** Conrad Comeaux asked for the minutes from the 6-10-21 LETA meeting to be approved. A motion was made by Laura Lindsay and seconded by Sonny Cranch. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Chris Wegmann presented the Financial Report. Conrad Comeaux asked for a motion to approve the Financial Report. A motion was made by Julie Cherry and seconded by Laura Lindsay. Motion carried.

Laura Lindsay made a motion to add the Resolution of the funds transfer from FELPB to LETA to this meeting’s 8/12/21 agenda. Valencia Burton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chris Wegmann read the Resolution. The Board asked that language be added to the Resolution reflecting that the meeting is being conducted by Zoom and not in person at LPB. Chris Wegmann made a motion to approve the Resolution with this amended language. Valencia Burton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Valencia Burton and Dr. Tina Holland are signatories and plan to sign and return the Resolution to LPB.

**Friends Report:** Bo Harris gave the Friends of LPB Report that included financial highlights for the month. He announced the 2022 Louisiana Legends Honorees: Art Favre, Dr. Saundra McGuire, Dr. Stephen C. McGuire, Coach Paul Mainieri, Val Marmillion, and Tom Whitehead. This event will once again be an elegant sit-down dinner for 150 guests. The majority of the guests from this year’s Gala enjoyed this more intimate setting. The Louisiana Legends Gala and Awards Ceremony will take place April 28, 2022. Due to the increase in COVID cases, the FLPB Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 7.

**President’s Report:** Beth Courtney reported on the status of state and federal funding for public media. She has been in communication with Corporation for Public Broadcasting to explore ways they might support LPB’s new digital-first children’s series, *Ziggy’s Arts Adventure*. The CPB is also interested in funding a campaign to encourage vaccinations among groups that don’t have high vaccination rates, including college students. The “Planetary Premiere” and sneak peek of *Ziggy’s Arts Adventure* took place at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library on Goodwood on Sunday, August 1 with approximately 150 people attending. Beth thanked the production team for their work on this, and also thanked C.C and everyone who assisted securing funds from the State for infrastructure repairs. Beth mentioned the LETA Board Member vacancies, noting interest in having Board members from the Louisiana Department of Education and the Board of Regents.

Linda Midgett reported on Production Department activities. The special on Edwin Edwards that Bob and Beth Courtney provided commentary on was very well received. The grant from ExxonMobil for LPB’s digital series on The Green Book will accompany the Smithsonian’s travelling exhibition, which will open on August 21at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge. LPB’s 8-part digital series will premiere on November 8. Linda also updated the board on current stories in the works for Louisiana: The State We’re In, and reported that producer Avery White, has joined the LPB production team.

C.C Copeland gave an Engineering update. We are thankful that the legislature granted LPB the much-needed funding to make equipment repairs and upgrades. The KLPA RF-Combiner for Alexandria just recently burned up and will take about 8-10 weeks for the parts to arrive for the repair. It is now operating at 25% on the back up antenna. This will cost the agency $107,000 to repair and we are filing an insurance claim. As part of repairs funded by the legislature, the KLPA water system is being connected to the city water system. Another upcoming project funded by the state includes repair work to the roof at station headquarters in Baton Rouge.

Kathy Scherer gave upcoming Pledge programming highlights for August, and listed a number of programs that share stories about Louisiana and include locally-produced breaks.

**Other Business:** Valencia mentioned upcoming meeting will be by Zoom until further notice due to the spike in COVID numbers. Laura gave kudos to the staff for their exemplary work during the pandemic.

**Adjournment:** Valencia Burton adjourned meeting at 12:43 PM after a motion by Chris Wegmann and a second by Dr. Tina Holland.

Minutes submitted by Marlesha Ross and Kathy Scherer