

# LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

## FULL BOARD MEETING

October 10, 2024 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room  
♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70810

**Members Present at Anchor Location:** Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Christopher Wegmann, Dr. Tina Holland, Sharon Reine, Misty Wyble, Sandra McGuire, Ted Beasley, William Bradford, Erin Donnelly and Tracie Woods (12:08).

**Present via Teleconference:** Dr. Laura Lindsay and Jeff Thomas.

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Crochet, Dan Hare, Dr. Courtney Phillips, David Tatman, Bo Harris, and Lance Harris.

**Employees Present:** Clarence "C.C." Copeland, Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Angela Bessix, Kathy Scherer, Matt Tessier, Linda Midgett, Dorothea Wilson.

**Others Present:** Victor Howell.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS:** Matt Tessier swore in new board member Erin Donnelly.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Conrad Comeaux presented the minutes of the LETA full board meeting from August 8, 2024, on behalf of Dan Hare, Secretary. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Conrad Comeaux and seconded by Dr. Tina Holland. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**LETA FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Tina Holland presented the LETA financial report for David Tatman, Treasurer. A motion to approve the LETA financial report was made by Conrad Comeaux and seconded by Dr. Sandra McGuire. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOUNDATION FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** Chris Wegmann, Chairman, introduced a resolution from LETA requesting that the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting grant \$1,400,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to allow LETA to meet its financial obligations. A motion to approve was made by Conrad Comeaux and seconded by Dr. Sandra McGuire. With all in favor, the motion passed.

**FRIENDS OF LPB REPORT:** Terri Crockett, Friends of LPB (FLPB) Executive Director, gave the FLPB report on behalf of Bo Harris, FLPB Chair.

- Power-On Raffle - raised \$84,120. The winners are Carolyn and Charles Stutts from Denham Springs (members since 1977).

- Win The Wheels Raffle begins on Thursday, October 24, 2024, and runs through January 29, 2025. This year, we're excited to announce the addition of a third raffle featuring travel
- Louisiana Legends – current revenue is \$131,000. The honorees will be:
  - Judi Betts- Internationally known for her transparent watercolor paintings.
  - Dan Borne-Former President of the LA Chemical Association and Voice of the LSU Tigers.
  - John Dalton- 70th United States Secretary of the Navy.
  - Claire Babineaux Fontenot- CEO, Feeding America.
  - The Goldring Family- Sazerac spirits.
  - Doug Williams- Grambling and NFL Great, Super Bowl Champion (XXII) and MVP.
- Friends' holiday party will be Tuesday December 3, 2024.

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

- Members of the board must complete a certain number of educational hours, including one hour of sexual harassment and ethics training, which needs to be taken by December 31, 2024.

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

- C.C. asked LPB Executive Producer, Linda Midgett, to give a report on LPB's production efforts and Linda reported on the following:
  - *Louisiana: The State We're In*, our news and public affairs show, is in its 48<sup>th</sup> season. It is the most-watched show on LPB, and we have refreshed the look of the show and added new on-air talent including Karen Leblanc and Dorothea Wilson as anchors, and Victor Howell to cover sports stories. Dorothea and Victor introduced themselves to the board.
  - *Louisiana Spotlight: The State of Weight* airs on October 28, 2024.
  - *Ripple Effect: Trauma in Wake of Climate Change* premiered on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with a screener event held at the Pennington Center.
  - *Behind the Glory* – we are in our second season of this interview series filmed in association with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. Premieres October 17, 2024.
  - *Art Rocks!* – we are in our 12<sup>th</sup> season of this popular series.
  - *How We Got Over* – producer Dorothy Kendrick is producing this hour-long documentary which will air in December, exploring how the descendants of formerly enslaved people and sharecroppers in West Feliciana Parish have overcome a number of challenges to find a better way of life.
  - *La Veillee* – we are in season 3 of this popular French language series. Premieres October 17, 2024. The Series is produced in association with Tele-Louisiane.
  - *Paroles de la Louisiane* – another French language series, produced in association with CODOFIL, explores the idiosyncrasies of Louisiana French for application in the classroom.
  - *Louisiana Harvest of the Month* – produced in association with the LSU Ag. Center explores the bounty of Louisiana's harvests.
  - This is our second year producing content for Maryland Public Television's *HBCU Week* programming. This year they asked us to produce a short film exploring the Southern University Law Center. The Law Center will be hosting



a screener and panel discussion on October 16, 2024, which C.C will be a part of.

- C.C. gave an update on the *Ziggy's Arts Adventure* National Distribution Pilot which is being funded by a \$326,066 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to distribute Ziggy programming and educational resources through South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) and WKNO in Memphis.
- Ziggy won an award for best visual arts content at the NETA Public Media Awards, in a national competition.
- C.C. gave an update on the LPB roof repairs and solar panel installation, which should help reduce our Entergy bill.
- C.C. updated the board on two industry partnerships/mergers of note. DirecTV is purchasing Echostar, the parent company of Dish and Sling. Also, Amazon and Apple have reached a deal to provide Apple TV+ access through Prime Video.
- C.C., Matt, and Kim will be going to the House Appropriations Committee tomorrow to present to the committee who will be examining possible budget cuts across state government.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

- The next Executive and Finance Committee meeting will be November 14, 2024, and the next Full LETA Board meeting will be December 12, 2024.
- Chris Wegmann suggested having a full LETA Board meeting in Lafayette, tentatively scheduled for our February 2025 board meeting.
- A nominating committee was appointed to nominate board officers for 2025. The committee consists of Sonny Cranch, Dr. Laura Lindsay, William Bradford, and Dan Hare.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment:** Conrad Comeaux made a motion to adjourn and Sharon Reine seconded at 1:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier