LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

♦May 9, 2024♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room

♦7733 Perkins Road♦ Baton Rouge, LA



**Members Present:** Chris Wegmann, David Tatman, Conrad Comeaux, Dan Hare, Tracie Woods.

**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 12:05 PM. There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chris Wegmann asked for a motion to approve the LETA minutes of the March 14, 2024, meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by David Tatman and seconded by Conrad Comeaux. With all in favor of the motion passed.

**Financial Report:** David Tatman, Treasurer, presented the financial report for LETA and the Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting. A motion was made to approve the LETA financial report by Conrad Comeaux and was seconded by Tracie Woods. With all in favor of 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**

**Legends Gala**

* $357,000 raised; $328,000 in sponsorship/ticket revenue and $29,000 in auction revenue. Overall revenue is up 19% from last year.

**PowerOn Raffle**

* Will kick off on June 1st. Grand prize is a whole-house Generac generator, valued at $13,000. Raffle ends September 29th.

**MARCH 2024 FINANCIALS**

* Revenue at the end of March was $2,541,247.71.
* Expenditures for the month totaled $179,258.79.

**Deputy Director’s Report:** Matt Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, gave the following update on legislation:

* HB 547 (Amedee) - would require LETA to request, as a specific line item in our budget, funding for French language educational programming. The bill is pending in the Senate Education Committee.
* HB 881 (Beaullieu) – would change the makeup of the CODOFIL Board. LETA has one appointment to the CODOFIL Board under current law. The bill changed ‘LETA’ to “Louisiana Public Broadcasting” in the language of the current law, which was problematic. The bill has now been amended to fix that issue and is pending on the Sente floor.
* HB 546 (Amedee) -would require three years of French instruction 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). The bill has seen no movement.
* HB 446 (Hilferty)- Made changes for public notices for certain public boards and commissions.
* HB 265 (Amedee) – prohibits any state entity from using the word “free” in describing any benefit, product, or service when the word refers to a benefit, product, or service financed with public funds. The bill is pending in the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.
* SB 462 (Hodges) – Would allow the governor to appoint the chair of any public board or commission if the majority of that board or commission is made up of gubernatorial appointments. The bill is pending House passage.

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

* Our Budget passed the House uncut, with $3.4 million for acquisitions and major repairs. The budget bills are pending Senate approval.
* Ziggy day was May 7, 2024, to attract potential underwriters for funding for season 4. CC will present Ziggy to PBS Kids at the upcoming PBS annual meeting.
* LPAA has notified us that two of our three 2022 Ford Explorers are ready for our agency’s use.
* The start date of the roof repair is May 20, 2024, with a completion date of January 2025.
* Staff changes: Education Services has made an offer to Kathryn Stark for the Educational TV Technology Program Specialist position; Devon Gipson has moved on to a new job opportunity. Business Services has an opening in accounting for an Accounting Technician.
* Our PBS Dues estimate for 2025 is $2,460,983.
* C.C gave an update on some of the technological developments from his recent visit to the National Association of Broadcasters convention.
* C.C gave an update on our completed tower field study for the KLPA tower in Alexandria.

**Chairman’s Report**: Chris Wegmann, Chairman, gave the following report:

* The next full LETA Board Meeting will be held on June 13, 2024.
* Reminder that we did not have a quorum last month, and if we do not receive members’ RSVPs by the Monday before the meeting, members will receive phone calls.
* We have headshots for 11 out of 20 members.
* There will be no board meeting in July.

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

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

Submitted by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier