

LETA FULL BOARD MEETING ♦
February 9, 2023 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Boardroom & Zoom
♦7733 Perkins Road ♦ Baton Rouge, LA

Members Present: Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Eartha Cross, Nancy Harrelson, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Dr. Saundra McGuire, Sharon Reine, David Tatman, Dr. Courtney Phillips, Christopher Wegmann and Tracie Woods.

Members via Teleconference: Newt Dorsett (Zoom)

Members Absent: Dr. Belinda Davis, Dan Hare, Shauna Sanford, Dr. Tina Holland.

Employees Present: Clarence "C.C" Copeland, Terri Crockett, Kimberly Ducote, Marlesha Ross, Kathy Scherer, Matthew Tessier, Jason Viso, and Megan Wright.

Call to Order: Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Matthew Tessier, LPB Deputy Director, read the oath of office to Sharon Reine, representing the Louisiana AFL-CIO, to serve as a new board member of the Louisiana Educational Television Authority (LETA). The LETA Board welcomed Sharon Reine as a new member.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, asked for any was any public comment and there was none.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Conrad Comeaux, Chairman, asked for motions for the election of the 2023 LETA Board officers and Executive Committee:

- Chris Wegmann, Vice Chair, made a motion for Conrad Comeaux to continue as LETA Board Chair. The motion was seconded by Eartha Cross. With all members in favor, the motion passed.
- Sonny Cranch made a motion for Chris Wegmann to continue as LETA Board Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Dr. Saundra McGuire. With all members in favor, the motion passed.
- Dr. Saundra McGuire made a motion for Shauna Sanford to serve as LETA Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Nancy Harrelson. With all members in favor, the motion passed.
- Chris Wegmann made a motion for Dr. Tina Holland to serve as LETA Board Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Dr. Courtney Phillips. With all members in favor, the motion passed.
- Sonny Cranch made a motion for Dr. Laura Lindsay to join the LETA Executive and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Chris Wegmann. With all members in favor, the motion passed.

MINUTES: On behalf of Dr. Tina Holland, Conrad Comeaux asked for the approval of the Full Board Meeting Minutes from 12-8-22. A motion to approve was made by Dr. Laura Lindsay and seconded by Dr. Saundra McGuire. With all in favor, the motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Chris Wegmann presented the Financial Reports for LETA and FELPB. Sonny Cranch asked for a footnote to be added identifying the fiscal year on the financial documents. Kimberly Ducote agreed to add the footnote. Conrad Comeaux asked for a motion to approve the Financial Reports. A motion was made by Dr. Laura Lindsay and seconded by Tracie Woods. With all in favor, the motion passed.

FRIENDS OF LPB REPORT: Newt Dorsett, FLPB Chair, gave the Friends of LPB report that included financial highlights for the month:

- **LEGENDS GALA**

- Current revenue: \$247,000
- Revenue goal: \$345,000
- Online auction goes live on Friday, April 7 and closes on Sunday, May 14.
- With the demand for tickets and limited space, we have created a waitlist. Any available tickets will be offered to board members on a first come basis.

- \$3,000 – Pair of Tickets - guaranteed seats together
- \$1,500 – Individual Ticket – seat selection not guaranteed.
- All board members are invited to the private reception at the Governor’s Mansion from 5 – 6pm.
- **Gala Presenting Sponsor:** Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation
- **Gala Premier Sponsor:** The William Dore’ Family
- **Gala Benefactors \$10,000:** Cynthia and J. Marshall Jones Louisiana Lottery; RoyOMartin; Northwestern University; and The Pennington Family
- **Gala Stars \$6,000:** Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; Newt Dorsett; Goss Wealth Management; Bo Harris Wealth Management; Jones Walker LLP; Doctors Sandra and Stephen McGuire; Pennington Biomedical Research Center
- **FLPB DECEMBER 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
 - **Revenue:** At the end of December, membership revenue for the month was \$389,175.00. Through the first six months of the fiscal year, overall revenue was \$1,530,330.86.
 - **Expenses:** Expenditures for the month totaled \$151,104.30.
 - **2nd Quarter Transfer:** \$561,442.06.
 - **Total support for the fiscal year:** \$831,769.73.

Terri Crockett, FLPB Executive Director, thanked Newt Dorsett and reported on the success of Paula Carbo, FLPB Account Executive, who has secured a substantial amount of additional income for FLPB. Terri also detailed the opportunities for participation in the Antiques Roadshow production and taping in Baton Rouge including: the Roadshow ticket lottery, the FLPB VIP Experience, and volunteering.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: C.C Copeland, LPB President and CEO, introduced Megan Wright, HR Director & Jason Viso, Director of Programming, who each discussed their role at LPB. These introductions are part of the Board’s interest in meeting additional members of the LPB staff during the full board meetings of LETA.

C.C also gave the following reports and updates:

- The repair costs for the guy-wires for the Baton Rouge tower will be covered by the state’s Major Repairs Budget through the Office of Facility Planning and Control. The state is covering the cost of this state asset with the goal to complete the repair before the next hurricane season.
- C.C Copeland, Matt Tessier, and Kimberly Ducote met with the state’s budget analyst to ensure LPB is on track with all funding requests for infrastructure repairs and maintenance. We are requesting \$1.4 million.
- KLPA in Alexandria has been operating at 25% for a year and eight months, as we have been waiting for replacement equipment, but now we can report that the repair is 80% complete.
- LETA is the fiscal agent for WYES for state funding for their new transmitter; we are working through that process.
- André Moreau, Managing Editor and Co-Anchor for *Louisiana: The State We’re In*, announced his retirement, which will take place this spring. LPB is advertising for a new anchor, as well as a couple of other positions in production and engineering that C.C detailed.
- *An Evening at the Governor’s Mansion* will feature Louisiana singer and musician, Amanda Shaw, and will premiere on LPB on February 23.
- *The Precipice*, a new LPB documentary on the plight of the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe and its fight to be federally recognized, will premiere on LPB on March 9 as part of LPB’s Springfest Pledge Drive.
- *Ritual*, a new series from PBS Digital Studios produced by LPB in collaboration with Houston Public Media, explores the depths and varieties of rituals across the American South alongside the series’ host, musician, poet, and New Orleans native, Tank Ball. It is being very well received nationally with LPB receiving kudos for the digital production value. C.C showed the trailer to the Board.
- The state has banned use of the social media platform, TikTok.
- The FCC has now approved Amazon offering Broadband services including launching 3,000 low orbit satellites for this endeavor.
- Dr. Tina Holland is receiving an Executive of the Year Award from the Baton Rouge Business Report.
- C.C will attend the APTS Public Media Summit in Washington D.C. at the end of February and is scheduling meetings with legislators and legislative aids asking for their support of continued funding for public media through the allocation for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
- The deadline to submit nominations for high school students to be recognized as LPB’s Louisiana Young Heroes is March 1.

- Education updates include: on-going professional development training of educators for PBS Learning Media resources, planning for a new round of Ready To Learn community engagement workshops, and the development of educational resources for *Why Louisiana Ain't Mississippi... or Any Place Else!*
- C.C also presented definitions for common broadcast acronyms.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Conrad Comeaux reported that the deadline for Board members for Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure documents is May 15 for the previous calendar year.

Conrad Comeaux introduced the topic of remote meetings for public bodies. Sonny Cranch was given the floor to further discuss the topic. Sonny Cranch explained that the legislative task force working through the issue of remote participation of Board members of public entities has a deadline of March 31 for filing legislation. Sonny Cranch discussed efforts to write to Sen. Sharon Hewitt, the Chair of the Task Force, in support of this allowance and reviewed the language of the request with the Board. Board members decided to amend the wording of the request to be advocate for less restriction and more flexibility. Dr. Laura Lindsay made a motion to submit the request as amended. David Tatman seconded the motion. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment: Conrad Comeaux asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 PM. Chris Wegmann made a motion to adjourn. Sonny Cranch seconded. With all in favor, the motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Marlesha Ross, Kathy Scherer, and Matthew Tessier