LETA FULL BOARD MEETING

♦May 13, 2021♦ 12:00 PM ♦

LPB Board Room♦ 7733 Perkins Road ♦Baton Rouge, LA

ZOOM Conference (COVID – 19)

**Members Present:** Conrad Comeaux, Eartha Cross, Julie Cherry, Bo Harris, Dr. Tina Holland, Kathy Kliebert, Chris Wegmann, and Valencia Burton.

**Members Absent:**

**Employees Present:**  Beth Courtney, John Tooraen, C.C. Copeland, Kim Ducote, Nancy Tooraen, Marlesha Ross, and Kathy Scherer.

**Call to Order:** Conrad Comeaux called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

**Approval of minutes:** Conrad Comeaux asked for minutes of 4-8-21 to be approved. Motion was made by Julie Cherry and seconded by Chris Wegmann. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:** Chris Wegmann gave the Financial Report. Bo Harris made a motion to approve the financial report. Kathy Kliebert seconded. Motion carried.

**Friends Report:** Bo Harris gave the Friends Report that included updates on the Ultimate Patio Raffle winner and the Louisiana Legends Awards Gala as a live event. The event was a hit. Bo reported on the profit earned from the event. Friends may keep the event as a seated dinner.

**President’s Report:** Beth Courtney asked Kimberly Ducote, LPB Director of Business Services, to report on the new federal funding from CPB totaling $674,359. The money comes from the Care’s Act Fund. She also reported that the $250,000 from the state in the supplemental appropriation bill was passed in the House. LPB also requested 1.4 million for needed infrastructure repairs including the roof leak at the station in Baton Rouge, Lafayette transmitter work, painting the tower in Shreveport, and establishing a cleaner and better water line connection in Alexandria. We are hopeful the Senate will approve this very necessary funding. Beth also reported on the opportunities for support and advocacy we have in Education, and thanked David Tatman, whom she spoke with about our plans to help school districts.

Nancy Tooraen, LPB Education Manager, mentioned meeting with new Superintendent Dr. Narcisse. He is very supportive and was positive about securing funding for LPB to extend our outreach for Early Child Education for families with children 0-8, family engagement training, and family and community workshops. We will be utilizing Molly Denali, Ready Jet Go!, and Cat in the Hat. We will have an in-person camp for 5-6 year olds, June 21st-25th from 9-12pm in the auditorium. It’s going to be called the PBS All Star Camp. Each day the camp will focus on a different character. The characters will be Cat in the Hat, Molly Denali, Jet, and others. The puppet Ziggy from LPB’s upcoming digital series, Ziggy’s Arts Adventure, will visit the camp on June 23rd.

LPB Executive Producer, Linda Midgett, attended the CABL Leadership Louisiana event in Thibodaux at which Commissioner of Administration, Jay Dardenne, gave his presentation titled “Why Louisiana Ain’t Mississippi.” He acknowledged LPB and offered to give us the opportunity to record his presentation for educational purposes. It was announced that the Masterpiece adaptation of Sanditon, Jane Austen’s last unfinished novel, will have a second and third season, delighting fans, upset at the previous decision to end production after only one season. The WWII drama Atlantic Crossing, about President Franklin Roosevelt’s relationship with Norwegian Crown Princess Martha, is another series with broad viewer appeal.

C.C. Copeland reported on the PBS Annual Meeting schedule coming up including great new offerings from Independent Lens. Other new upcoming content includes *On the Brain*, *Harriet Tubman*, *Being Frederick Douglas*, *The Muslim Road Trip*, and *Generation 911*.There will be a live Memorial Day concert. Ken Burns new series, *Muhammad Ali*, will premiereon September 19, 2021 as a four part series. Beth mentioned that *All Creatures Great & Small* is airing additional seasons.

**Chairman’s Report:** No report was presented.

**Other Business:**  No other business was discussed.

**Adjournment:** Conrad Comeaux adjourned meeting at 12:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Marlesha Ross and Kathy Scherer