

Minutes for the regular National Finance Committee meeting January 14, 2025.

Meeting convened at 8:34 PM (ET) a quorum being present, the Chair and Secretary being present.

Attending: Christine Avalos, Tom Chase, Paul DeRienzo, Lynden Foley, Steve Kucala, R. Paul Martin (Secretary), Darlene Pagano (Chair), Myla Reson, Minerva Sanders, Susan Young also attending were Executive Director Stephanie D. Wells and PNB Director Cerene Roberts.

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Draft Agenda
4. Minutes Approval , Dec 10 2024 (5 minutes)
5. ED Report, Stephanie Wells (10 minutes)
6. Wrap up Discussions to create a 2024 Report out to the PNB (75 minutes)
 - a) Discussion of the usefulness of Maestro vs Zoom
 - b) Central Services motion for 2025 a process for instituting Central Service payments for FY25. See appendix. Still needed, Agreement for each station as to booking (and defining) each revenue account; a Foundation wide agreement on chart of accounts.
 - c) Budget Timeline for Stations, LSBs and PNB to assure that all FY2026 budgets are passed before the end of FY2025

Other consequences to network to handle.

- d) Process to handle deficit budgets, bi-monthly reports from ED and GM on bringing budget to actuals. Central Services payments accrued?
 - e) Q review of financials, budget to actuals. PNO deadlines to bring to NFC
 - f) NFC Communications with PNB and LSBs. Responsibility of Information sharing.
 - g) Compile a written report of our 2024 accomplishments (and shortcomings)
7. Adjourn by a suggested time of 10:30 PM (ET)

Roll call 8:35 PM (ET)

The Secretary called the roll.

Approve Draft Agenda 8:39 PM (ET)

Motion: (Myla Reson) “To approve the agenda” (Passed as amended without objection)

The Committee discussed the motion.

Amendment: (R. Paul Martin) “To strike the time limit on ‘Approve Draft Agenda’ and to add the word ‘minutes’ after the number of minutes for every item that has a time.” (Passed without objection)

The committee discussed the amendment.

Minutes Approval , Dec 10 2024 8:43 PM (ET)

Motion: (R. Paul Martin) “To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024, NFC meeting.” (Passed without objection)

ED Report, Stephanie Wells 8:43 PM (ET)

The Executive Director read from a written report. The committee discussed her report with her.

In answer to a request the Executive Director said that she’d release a redacted version of her written report for distribution to the public.

Wrap up Discussions to create a 2024 Report out to the PNB 9:13 PM (ET)

Motion: (Susan Young) “To move ‘Discussion of the usefulness of Maestro vs Zoom’ up to ‘a’ under ‘Wrap up Discussions to create a 2024 Report out to the PNB.’” (Passed without objection)

Discussion of the usefulness of Maestro vs Zoom

Motion: (Myla Reson) “As soon as practicable, the National Finance Committee (NFC) of the Pacifica National Board (PNB) will conduct its meetings via the Zoom platform.” (Passed 7 for, 2 against, 1 abstention)

The Committee discussed the motion.

“As soon as practicable, the National Finance Committee (NFC) of the Pacifica National Board (PNB) will conduct its meetings via the Zoom platform.”			
21:33	Yes	No	Abstain
Christine Avalos	1		
Tom Chase	1		
Paul DeRienzo		1	
Lynden Foley			1
Steve Kucala	1		

R. Paul Martin (Secretary)		1	
Darlene Pagano	1		
Myla Reson	1		
Minerva Sanders	1		
Susan Young	1		
TOTALS	7	2	1

Central Services motion for 2025 a process for instituting Central Service payments for FY25. See appendix. Still needed, Agreement for each station as to booking (and defining) each revenue account; a Foundation wide agreement on chart of accounts. 9:37 PM (ET)

The committee discussed Central Services fees which have been set for FY25. The Chair said that this would be part of the mandated report to the PNB of what the committee has done in 2024.

Budget Timeline for Stations, LSBs and PNB to assure that all FY2026 budgets are passed before the end of FY2025 9:57 PM (ET)

The committee discussed the timeliness of the FY25 budgets and the need to get the FY26 budgets done before the start of FY26.

NFC Communications with PNB and LSBs. Responsibility of Information sharing. 10:15 PM (ET)

The committee discussed communicating with the PNB, LSBs, Pacifica Management and unit Management regarding the work that the committee does.

Motion: (Susan Young) “To adjourn.” (Passed without objection) 10:29 PM (ET)

Adjourned 10:29 PM (ET)

Submitted by R. Paul Martin, Secretary

PACIFICA FOUNDATION CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES EMERGENCY RESPONSE UPDATE January 13, 2025

KPFK has remained on the air without interruption despite challenges posed by the recent wildfires. Last week, KABC-TV, KOCE-TV, and KCET-TV, all of which have transmitters on Mt. Wilson, briefly lost their over-the-air television signals due to malfunctioning emergency backup generators.

Although KPFK's generator is aging and in need of an upgrade, KPFK's engineer, Stuart Landau, has done an exceptional job monitoring the station's tower and ensuring continued operation. According to Stuart, "The fire is no longer a concern, but the winds are picking up again. We have enough fuel to last the next five days, though it may take several days before utility power is restored. Thankfully, we were able to refill the fuel tank with 167 gallons of diesel fuel.

"I've raised the transmitter's output power to 10kW but will reduce it to 3kW during overnight hours to conserve fuel. We should be able to top off the tank a few times this week, which will keep us operational as long as the generator holds up. While the generator is old, it's performing admirably. The transmitter is the only system running on the generator, as the building's exhaust fan and air conditioning are not connected. However, the building's temperature remains low, which is beneficial."

Thanks to these efforts, KPFK continues to provide uninterrupted service to its listeners.

Maggie LePique, KPFK Interim General Manager (IGM), and Gary Baca, Interim Program Director (IPD), are working tirelessly to organize coverage of the confirmation hearings this week while also coordinating live and pre-recorded hourly updates on the ongoing Southern California fires. Their efforts ensure that critical information reaches our listeners as promptly as possible.

Special thanks go to KPFA's news team and Antonio Ortiz, KPFA IGM, for including coverage of the LA fires in their 6:00 PM newscast, which has been airing on KPFK for the past month. Maggie, Gary, and Wendell Handy, KPFK Board Operator, are also actively coordinating volunteer reporters from among our programmers. These volunteers are providing live hourly updates and reporting on local stories directly from our communities.

During times of crisis, the familiar voices of KPFK's team play a vital role in maintaining the trust and reliability that our listeners depend on.

The Pacifica Radio Archives remain safe in an underground cold storage facility, which has not been threatened by the wildfires. However, work on the Pacifica Legacy Project—focused on cataloging and preparing items for shipment—was paused when the fires began for the safety of our staff, volunteers, and interns.

Amid the ongoing efforts to organize reports, conduct interviews, and generate stories from the field, many of our staff and programmers have faced significant personal challenges. Some have been forced to evacuate or remain under active evacuation warnings. Others have experienced devastating losses, including the destruction of their homes and neighborhoods.

Every individual connected to KPFK and the Pacifica Archive Legacy Project has been directly impacted by these events and remains on high alert. We kindly ask for your understanding and support as our dedicated team works tirelessly to provide vital information during this challenging time.

Many thanks to Ursula Ruedenberg, Pacifica Affiliate Network Manager, and Stephanie Schubert, Operations Coordinator for the Pacifica Affiliate Network, who are working with affiliate

stations experienced in covering major disasters to provide insights and interviews on disaster management.

Many thanks to WPFW IGM Miyuki Williams, WPFW Program Director Katea Stitt, and Myla Reason, KPFK LSB Member, for coordinating and recording public service announcements (PSAs) for KPFK.

Chris La Pilusa, WBAI IT/Webmaster, has been pivotal in helping KPFK keep its website updated with essential public safety announcements and links. Additionally, Robert Hennelly, WBAI Interim General Manager (IGM), and Keziah Glow, WBAI Interim Program Director (IPD), are working closely with KPFK to provide support, share critical information, and deliver news coverage. WBAI has produced a series of public service announcements encouraging individuals to donate through WBAI to help cover KPFK's additional expenses during this crisis.

I encourage you to listen to "*We Decide: America at the Crossroads*," which aired on WBAI on January 13th. This program featured an interview with recently retired Deputy LAFD Chief Daryl Arbuthnott, as well as a conversation with Jay April, who runs the Pacifica affiliate station KAKU in Maui, which was tragically destroyed during the 2023 wildfires.

Here is the link: <https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=55212>

The Pacifica Foundation Emergency Response Team is focused on establishing best practices to guide our organization moving forward. Emergencies are not limited to natural disasters; given the potential challenges posed by the upcoming presidential administration and political climate, developing a comprehensive Pacifica Foundation Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is a top priority.

The ERP will aim to ensure the safety and well-being of employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and assets during emergencies. It will provide clear procedures to respond effectively to incidents and minimize harm to people, property, and the environment. The plan will address various potential emergencies, including natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, earthquakes, floods, hurricanes), structure fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills, workplace violence, and utility outages.

The ERP will also include detailed contact information for Emergency Response Team members at both local and national levels. While actively working on the Pacifica Foundation ERP, we continue to support KPFK during the current crisis and are gaining valuable insights into what is needed to prepare proactively for future unforeseen events.

We deeply appreciate the dedication of the staff and volunteers throughout our network who are working tirelessly to support KPFK during this challenging time.

PAYABLES

Total known aged payables as of January 14, 2025: \$508,494

FJC LOAN – Total outstanding principal: \$1,945,201.40

- The November invoice from FJC did not include December's interest in the amount due. Upon identifying this error, FJC issued an updated invoice on December 19, 2024, reflecting the corrected total. \$48,790.94 was due on December 31, 2024.
- After speaking with FJC last week, we will be able to pay a smaller amount this month. We are scheduled to make a payment of \$25,000 and will make an additional payment in February.

CENTRAL SERVICES PAID

DIVISION	Central Service Payments Received for January 1-15, 2024
Pacifica National Office (PNO)	n/a
Pacifica Affiliates Network (PAN)	\$ 3,200
Pacifica Radio Archives (PRA)	n/a
KPFA	\$ 17,333
KPFK	\$ -
KPFT	\$ 11,884
WBAI	\$ -
WPFW	\$ 12,640
PAYROLL	\$ -

AUDIT AND TAXES UPDATE

- Bank reconciliations have been completed for all divisions for FYE2024. We are awaiting revisions/approval from each station before finalizing.
- We are working with the audit firm providing information for the 990s for FY22 and FY23. Taxes will be filed by 2/15/25. Upon completion of the 990s, the audit process will officially begin.
- The Pacifica Foundation uses Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains. It is not the most user friendly. We have asked our auditing firms for suggestions on other software programs we could use that would fit our business structure (seven units, accrual accounting, one tax ID). We are looking to streamline processes and make the monthly reporting process easier.

PACIFICA STATEMENT RE: UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION

Below is "The Pacifica Foundation: A Commitment to Truth and Free Speech," which will be published on the pacifica.org website, shared or linked on station websites, and distributed to the affiliate network of stations.

The Pacifica Foundation: A Commitment to Truth and Free Speech

As a trusted source of news and information, the Pacifica Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to deliver accurate, impartial, and thorough reporting, regardless of the political climate. During the upcoming term of the 47th President, as with any administration, we are committed to serving the public interest by prioritizing facts, context, and transparency while upholding the highest journalistic standards expected of community radio.

We categorically reject any attempts to undermine fundamental rights, including public protest, free speech, and the independence of nonprofit media outlets. We oppose efforts to target political opponents, punish marginalized groups, or impose restrictive policies that threaten the democratic principles we hold dear.

Pacifica’s five major stations, along with our global network of affiliates, will continue to provide a platform for diverse voices, fostering informed and respectful dialogue on the critical issues of our time.

Throughout this administration, we are committed to educating our listeners on the stakes at hand and equipping them with the knowledge needed to advocate for their freedoms.

We will also call on Congress, state, and local leaders to exercise their constitutional powers to ensure oversight, investigate wrongdoing, and reject any policies that erode civil liberties.

Free speech is the cornerstone of a healthy democracy, empowering individuals to express diverse viewpoints, challenge authority, and engage in open dialogue. Now, more than ever, we must stand together to protect these freedoms and meet the challenges ahead. The Pacifica Foundation will remain resolute in its commitment to providing accessible, unbiased reporting, thoughtful discourse, and community engagement, ensuring that underrepresented voices and critical issues receive the attention they deserve. We will also continue to play a vital role in emergencies by delivering localized, timely, and relevant information and resources during crises.

By championing free speech and promoting informed citizenship, we strengthen our collective ability to address societal challenges and uphold the values of democracy and inclusion.

Since 1946, the Pacifica Foundation has been an independent voice in the media landscape, protecting free speech, civil society, and democracy. We deeply value the trust placed in us and will continue to fulfill our role as a defender of fundamental rights and freedoms, holding leaders accountable and empowering the public to stay informed.