

Held Wed, June 4, 2025, 7-9 PM CDT online via Zoom <https://zoom.us> ID: 811 895 6459

7:10 Call to Order

Ben Theobald (Chair) called the meeting to order, after various attendees struggled with Zoom.

7:03 Introductions

Ben called for attendees to introduce themselves. We had quorum.

7:21 Approval of the Agenda

Gina Pagliuso moved to approve the agenda; Richard Schoell seconded; approved.

7:23 Approval of the Minutes

Jeff Machota moved to approve the 06 March 2025 draft minutes; Jeanie Covert seconded. Some corrections were offered; approved as amended.

7:25 Reports**7:25 Station Manager's Report**

Eric Bohlen (Station Manager) reported that the WEFT App had 450 users with 6000 sessions of 30 minutes or more, and that Krannert Center re-upped their support of the app. Eric mentioned several volunteer opportunities for staffing tables at Jazz in the Park, ongoing Friday Nights and farmers markets. Eric thanked those who helped with the Wine Walk. The Rose Bowl is hosting a fundraiser event on June 22 to support WEFT billed as WEFTopia with several local artists donating performances.

Eric reported that the new feed cable work at the tower was complete in March, and there have only been short bursts of static reported from time to time.

7:33 Board of Directors Report

Vicki Niswander reported for Audrey Fisher (Board Chair) that there is only one applicant for a Member-elected BoD seat, so they invited the applicant to a board meeting to avoid a mail campaign. Airshifter training is scheduled for June 29 and there was interest from WEFT visitors at the Wine Walk. They are still seeking reviewers for the proposed new bylaws.

7:36 Treasurer's Report

Mark Niswander shared the spreadsheet of WEFT's finances and pointed out that there was \$27K donations in April and \$43.7K total so far toward the tower campaign and only \$1300 shy of the goal. Mark's report includes nearly \$9200 for labor at the tower to the climbing crews. We also owe for the cable and associated hardware. We paid \$4800 to Inrush that appeared in an earlier report. There was discussion of bookkeeping services; Mark reports we may have found a new bookkeeper.

7:43 Governance and HR Committee Reports

Governance was touched on in the board report, and there is no HR report. Vicki described a link to the differences document that compares the current and proposed bylaws. The biggest change is eliminating the three separate electing bodies in favor a single September election to a 3 year term for board seats, with terms staggered over 3 years.

7:51 Programming Committee Report

Gina Pagliuso submitted a PC reported. See attached report below. In addition to summarizing the items in her report she asked that air shifters close Zara when they start a new show. And if anyone hears curse words in a Zara played song, please let the PC know.

8:04 Music Committee Report

Bob Paleczny reported for Anthony Santarelli and thanked Eric and others for helping re-organize the music collection shelves for better accessibility. He also thanked Rick Schoell for moving Bob Selby's donated music collection to the back studio. Bob also mentioned that the genre charting efforts get back to the labels who appreciate that their music is getting aired. Vicki mentioned that artists often thank WEFT on social media for playing their songs.

8:08 Digital Library Report

Bob Paleczny described the work to replace the transmitter feed cable under the supervision of Mike Dorris of Inrush Consulting. Now reflected power back to the transmitter is down to under one watt from recent values of 90+ watts. There was a Station-Transmitter-Link (STL) summit meeting to deal with the remaining static in our over-the-air signal, and that group is working on getting internet service at the transmitter site to replace our aging and microwave link which may be the source of our on-air static and which may be blocked by a new hotel building in the near future.

The NPR Sound Exchange report is due soon, and Bob is working on it and is waiting to hear if WEFT is compliant and what our Aggregate Tuning Hour is. The new Optimod Trio FM multiplex generator was installed by Mike Feldman in the Great Hall equipment rack, and Mike Dorris helped configure and adjust it. Dave Vollenweider is working on feeding the Optimod's Radio Data Stream (RDS) generator to include current song title in addition to just displaying "WEFT". There is an effort to move the "ripping" computer to the Great Hall and improve the organization of the digital library.

The Front Studio mixing board has crashed on a few occasions requiring a power cycle to recover, so the committee is looking into replacing the board. It is also looking for reliable CD players that do not have trouble playing track 1 after a few months use like the Newmark and Gemini players we've been using. There was some discussion on finding reliable CD players, and other stations report moving away from playing CDs.

Jeff Machota reported that the long-time building manager at the Lincoln Building was fired and we may have trouble accessing our STL equipment that's in the elevator loft there.

8:26 Financial Development Report

Vicki Niswander reported that WEFT Fest is scheduled for Sunday, 28 September from 2 to 6 PM. Several performers are lined up including Mousepad and the K-Tels.

8:29 Remote Access Team Report

Gina Pagliuso provided a written report (attached below) and said that RAT just keeps on RATtin'. There was some discussion with Ed Hadley, Bob Paleczny, and Paul Meuth about difficulty using the remote desktop software with changed revisions and forced passwords re-entry.

8:34 Community Outreach Report

Denise Curia reported for Todd Hunter and re-iterated that the Wine Walk was a success in big part thanks to Eric for providing an array of freebies and setting up displays in the foyer and Great Hall. The first tabling at the Market on the Square happened that week, and there are other volunteer opportunities including Friday Night Live and some park district events upcoming.

8:37 Comments

Vicki Niswander asked for suggestions for specific equipment purchases that could be the subject of a grant request. She also reminded us to all plan to attend WEFT Fest and to pitch in on volunteer tasks to spread out the work load.

8:39 Voting

There are no open Programming Committee seats or Associates Executive Committee seats, so only two open Board of Directors seats could be filled. There were no nominations for the board.

8:44 Agenda Complete - adjourn

With no new business, the meeting adjourned at the completion of the agenda.

The next Associates meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 04 June 2025, at 7-9 PM online via Zoom.

WEFT treasurer report - May 2025

Current balances

PNC Savings account	\$17,897	(earns 0.02% interest)
PNC Checking account	\$17,351	(0% interest)
PNC CD (Goldman Sachs)	\$25,812	2 yr @5.05%, 6/11/26
Schwab cash	\$29,633	(earns 0.45% interest)
Schwab CD1 (Flagstar Bank)	\$38,019	1.5 yr @ 4.75%, 7/7/25
Schwab CD3 (Amer Expr)	\$24,860	2 yr @3.7%, 9/25/26
Schwab CD4 (Cross River Bnk)	\$19,978	1 yr @4.1%, 1/2/26
Schwab CD5 (First Nat Bank of MI)	\$24,988	2 yr @4%, 1/22/27
PayPal	\$1,397	
Total	\$199,935	

Stock				
AAPL	586	\$202.82	\$118,853	
PSEC	3000	\$3.23	\$9,690	Pays monthly dividend of \$135.
Total stock value			\$128,543	
Total assets			\$328,478	

Monthly activity

Income	
Donations-April	\$27,114
May	\$8,405
June	\$247
Amount attributable to Tower Power 2025 campaign	\$43,700

Bills paid

American Tower	\$829	
Ameren (trnsmt)	\$907	
Ameren (studio)	\$177	
Constellation	\$108	
Comcast	\$368	
AT&T	\$212	
DonorSnap	\$79	
Eric Bohlen (health ins stipend)	\$250	
Paychex TPS taxes	\$962	
Paychex EIB invoice	\$55	
Paychex payroll	\$2,135	
PayChex Flexperks	\$43	
Quickbooks Online (annual fee)	\$702	
Wilkinson Barker Knauer	\$214	
Pacifica (annual dues)	\$525	
Champaign Center Partnership (annual dues)	\$100	
Minuteman Press (BOD candidate appeal mailing)	\$234	
Installation Services (2 climbs, \$2160 & \$7020)	\$9,180	
Misc.	\$308	(includes sewer fees, trash collection, credit card fees, bank fees, etc.)
Total	\$17,388	

Notes

Bold indicates relatively steady amount from month to month.

PC Report for March 6, 2025 Associates' MeetingNew/Time Change Shows:

My Favorite Vinyl – Monday 8-9am

Illinois History – Wednesday 5-5:30pm

The Poet and the Poem from the Library of Congress – Wednesday 5:30pm

Catch the Beat – Wednesday 5:30-6pm (off and on throughout the quarter)

Four Show rotation – Magical Mystery Tour/Behind the News/On the Ground/EcoJustice Radio – Wednesday 6-7pm

First Wave/UpFront Soul – alternating Saturdays 5-6pm

Special Programming:

Catch the Beat – see above

Hands Off national broadcast (Cope C/Paul M contributors) - 4/7

Ended Shows:

Latin Waves – Wednesday 5-5:30pm

Illinois History – Wednesday 5-5:30pm

Catch the Beat – Wednesday 5:30-6pm 4 week run ended tonight – Cope Cumpston

Friday Forum – Wednesday 6-7pm

Whirled Waves – Friday 2-4pm Marleen H will be vacating the slot when Craig K returns to curate Senor Blues (end of June).

Wait, What? – Saturday 5-6pm

PC Membership/Open Seats:

Three BOD elected seats are available – please see Audrey or Gina for BOD election procedure if interested.

PC working on:

The PC has continued holding meetings via Zoom. Meetings have been held regularly throughout the quarter.

Airshifter tracking tool – reminder emails went out to any Airshifters that have not attended two Associates' meetings in the past year (9 Airshifters) and all Airshifters in arrears with their membership dues (8 folks) on 6/2/25 (11 meeting/5 dues prior to March 2025 meeting).

Airshifter training – Next round of training will be held on June 29, 2025 (3pm)

PC continues emailing new/changed on-air programming highlights to wefto. Please email Don H at dhittle@gmail.com with special programming notes to share via "Program Notes" emails. Open time slot list was emailed on March 25.

Reminder emails were sent to wefto on April 4 and April 8 and posted in the booth on April 4 – no calls to action, MUST NOT broadcast commercials, please read UW announcements as written, Zara startup instructions, correct station ID (WEFT Campaign), etc.

New Zara playlist was set up in late March (thanks to DL) to cover hip-hop/R&B shows when Airshifters are unable to produce programming.

Please notify Eric if curse words are heard during Zara ON – due to open MM slots, playlist runs through to 9am some mornings.

`PC Report for March 6, 2025 Associates' Meeting (con't.)

Please close out of Zara playlists when you're on-air. Minimizing the playlist may cause confusion if another Airshifter doesn't notice the Zara icon in the tool bar. Only one Zara playlist may be open at a time.

Additional channel/slider labels were added to the board near the ON/OFF switches for ease of channel operations.

Current Open Show Time Slots:

Sunday

Open Format 3-7am

Celtic Music Go Bragh Go Bragh 6-8pm (alternating weeks)

Monday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am

Monday Morning Menu 6-8am

Monday Morning Jazz 9-11:30am

World Beat 2-4pm

Tuesday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6:30am

World Beat 2-4pm

The Courier 4-5:30pm (Excellent volunteer opportunity)

Wednesday

Freeform Overnight 1-6am

Morning Menu 6-9am

The Courier 4-5:30pm (Excellent volunteer opportunity)

Thursday

Freeform Overnight midnight-6am

World Beat (until June 2025) 2-4pm

Informational Format 5:30-6pm (currently Making Contact)

Roots, Rock Reggae collective (2 weeks/month open)

Friday

Freeform Overnight 2-6am

The Courier 4-5:30pm (Excellent volunteer opportunity)

Blues Live Collective 8-10pm (2 weeks/month open)

Open Format 10pm-midnight (2nd, 4th and 5th weeks)

Saturday

Freeform Overnight midnight-7am (or 8am – alternating weeks dependent)

Open Format 8-10am (1st, 3rd and 5th weeks alternating with Higher Ground) – currently Peace Talk Radio, Economic Update, Counterspin

Program proposal forms (hard copies) are in PC binder in the back studio. Digital versions found at http://new.weft.org/about/show_proposal.html and may be emailed to programming@weft.org.

RAT (Remote Access Team) Report for June 4, 2025 Associates' Meeting

As of May 27, 2025, 14 shows per week were being home-produced and 46 shows per week were being produced in-studio. The balance of 22 shows per week was being covered by RAT member remote operations (Courier/Informational programming/Zara).

As of April 22, 2025 14/46/22

As of March 24, 2025 14/46/22

WEFT RAT continues to support Airshiffters who choose to remain at home via remote Zara coverage or through facilitation of the broadcast of home-produced programming.

Attending 04 June 2025:

Eric	Bohlen
Andrew	Cardinal
Lorri	Coey
Jeannie	Covert
Denise	Curia
Rick	Esbensshade
Mike	Feldman
Jason	Finkelman
Edwin	Hadley
Ian	Hammond
Marleen	Hendrickx
Adrian	Lugo
Jeff	Machota
Paul	Mueth
Mark	Niswander
Vicki	Niswander
Gina	Pagliuso
Bob	Paleczny
William	Saylor
Richard	Schoell
Don	Tanner
Ben	Theobald
Barbara	Trumpinski-Roberts
Evelyn	Underwood
Dave	Vollenweider
Zack	Widup
Dante	Winslow
Dave	Witzany

Excused:

Przemyslaw	Bosak
Richard	Bressler
Cope	Cumpston
Kurt	Eilbracht
Kevin	Elliott
Todd	Hunter
Kristy	Rice