

Held 6. March 2025, 7-9 PM CDT online via Zoom <https://zoom.us> ID: 811 895 6459

7:02 Call to Order

Evelyn Underwood (Chair) called the meeting to order.

7:03 Introductions

Evelyn introduced herself then called attendees to do so. We had quorum.

7:22 Approval of the Agenda

Kevin Elliott moved to approve the agenda; Rich Bressler seconded; approved.

7:23 Approval of the Minutes

Jeff Zolitor moved to approve the 04 December 2024 draft minutes; Todd Hunter seconded. Some corrections were offered; approved as amended.

7:27 Reports**7:27 Station Manager's Report**

Eric Bohlen (Station Manager) asked for email from those who actually uses the CDs in the Great Hall, since the Music Committee is planning some adjustments to the shelf space.

The WEFT listening app had 315 users with an average of 25 sessions per day split 50-50 between the live stream and listening to archived shows, which can be found from the show grid.

Eric reported that this summer will be busy for Outreach - Boneyard Arts Festival, Wine Walk, Friday Nite, and the other events where WEFT has a table. Eric continues to work with University of Illinois class projects in Marketing and Advertising, such as producing a 'zine about WEFT, and adding TikTok engagement.

2025 is Prairie Air, Inc.'s 50th Anniversary which is a promotional theme.

Eric is getting quote for Tower Climbers to replace damaged 300' feed line. Instead of a Spring Pledge Drive we plan a focused campaign to cover the estimated \$20K to \$50K "Power to the Tower".

7:40 Board of Directors Report

Audrey Fisher (Board Chair) reviewed the Bylaws refresh status; Vicki Niswander (Board Vice-Chair) mentioned there is a shared folder now that has a comparison between current and proposed bylaws, so that interested parties can review and comment.

7:46 Treasurer's Report

Mark Niswander shared financial spread sheet and mentioned WEFT has total assets of \$351K but is running a \$64K per fiscal year deficit budget: \$160K out vs. \$100K in; that's \$19/hr to operate the station. There were a few questions about specific items.

7:56 Governance and HR Committee Reports

Governance was covered in the board report, and there is no HR report.

7:57 Programming Committee Report

Gina Pagliuso submitted a PC reported. See attached report below. There are some programming changes including a new drop-in "Good News, Good Planet", and some one-off specials. Airshifter Training is in planning. The PC sends email reminders about schedule changes and operational rules, and sends individual reminders about dues which prompted some discussion.

8:07 Music Committee Report

Anthony Santarelli gave a thank-you to Eric for clearing a logjam in the CD shelving space, and cleaning up the attic space. There was a question about joining the MC and how to find the meetings.

8:12 Digital Library Report

Bob Paleczny shared a written DL report, see below.

Bob mentioned we are entering another Sound Exchange reporting period, where we turn on the Spintron end-time field. We've instituted Zara Automatic Music Recognition which means that Zara spins are now reported. Now Aggregate Tuning Hours are over 2100 where previously they were 1500-1600.

The front mixing board has had partial crashes a few times requiring it to be power-cycled. The new Optimod FM processor is installed in the Great Hall equipment rack but switching over from the old Optimod is pending repair of the transmitter / antenna feed line.

DL committee is consider changing the "collecting" computer in the basement to a Great Hall computer.

The tower climbing team checked the connection from the feed line to the antenna and that checked out OK, so we don't need to replace the antenna. Also, they can install a new feed cable with needing a crane.

8:21 Financial Development Report

Vicki Niswander reported that they are preparing a campaign letter to support the transmitter repair. Vicki is preparing an Illinois Arts Council grant proposal, and solicited summaries of any artist interviews air-shifters may have done.

8:23 Remote Access Team Report

Gina Pagliuso provided a written report (attached below) and said that remote operations have been stable recently.

8:24 Community Outreach Report

Todd Hunter reported that the Outreach committee activity will pick up in the summer when WEFT can have information tables. Eric Bohlen mentioned that Goodie Bags has been a successful effort getting new listeners and volunteers. Gina asks if there is a list of events that volunteers can help with.

8:30 Comments

No comments or question prior to voting.

8:31 Voting

There are no open Programming Committee seats, three open Board of Directors seats, and all five seats open on Associates Executive Committee. We continue to vote by Zoom private message to Vicki Niswander, the Zoom meeting host. Vicki described explained how to run through the board.

8:32 Voting - Board of Directors

Bob Paleczny and Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts Associate-elected odd-year terms are expiring, and an additional odd-year seat is open. Vicki nominates Barb and Bob. Bob Paleczny accepts, but for an open even-year seat, thus for a 1 year term; Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts accepts for a 2-year term.

After some questions about board member duties and meeting frequency, Kaitrin Higbee nominates herself. Todd Hunter moves to close nominations, Gina Pagliuso seconds.

The candidates make statements, accept questions and endorsements. Vicki describes how to vote.

8:45 Voting - Programming Committee

There are no Associate-elected PC seats open. Vicki explained how to run through the board.

8:46 Voting – Associates Executive Committee

All five AEC seats expire in March, including the Chair, Secretary, and three at-large seats. Mike Feldman nominates himself to continue as Secretary. Evelyn Underwood explains she was Chair for just a year, and would continue but as an at-large member. Zack Widup would continue as an at-large member, but can't commit to serving as Chair. Gina offers to nominate Todd Hunter and Ben Theobald; Ben accepts and Todd declines.

8:53 AEC Election Results

Vicki Niswander reported that Bob, Barb, and Kaitrin were all elected to the Board of Directors.

Continuing the AEC nominations, Evelyn talks Ben into standing for Chair. Todd nominates Dave Vollenweider for an at-large seat, and Dave accepts as long as he's not Secretary.

8:57 Vote to Extend

Gina Pagliuso moves to extend the meeting by five minutes; Todd Hunter seconds; the ayes have it.

8:59 AEC Election Results

Vicki Niswander reported that the AEC slate was elected.

9:00 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.

No Treasurer's Report supplied.

PC Report for Mar 6, 2024 Associates' MeetingNew/Time Change Shows:

Catch the Beat – Wednesday 5:30-6pm
Friday Forum – Wednesday 6-7pm
WEFT Re-Sessions – Wednesday 12:01-1am – Eric Bohlen
Frame Noise – 4th Wednesday 7-9pm – Przemek Bosak
The Moshpit – 2nd and 4th Wednesday – Zunaira Shoaib
Beats Sticks and Kicks – Thursday 10pm-midnight
Zara RPM – 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays 10pm-midnight
Good News Good Planet – M-F 6:30am (except T – 7:30am)

Special Programming:

Catch the Beat – see above
A Christmas Carol – Dec. 23 6-8pm
The Get Out of Jail Free Radio Hour – December 28 12:01-3am
UpFront Soul – Jan 20 6-8pm (Dr. King special)

Ended Shows:

The Get Out of Jail Free Radio Hour – Saturday 12:01-1am – Matt Henshaw
Frame Noise – 4th Wednesday 7-9pm – Przemek Bosak
Catch the Beat – Wednesday 5:30-6pm 5 week run ended 2/26 – Cope Cumpston
Four Show rotation – Magical Mystery Tour/Behind the News/On the Ground/EcoJustice Radio – Wednesday 6-7pm
First Time Ever – Thursday 11pm-midnight – Eric Bohlen
Jazz Silhouette – Friday 9-11:30am – on hiatus

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 (11 Airshifters) and all Airshifters in arrears with their membership dues (6 folks) on 11/28 and 11/27 (12 meeting/6 dues prior to Dec 2024 meeting).

Airshifter training – will be scheduling another round of training to be held in early April.

PC continues emailing new/changed on-air programming highlights to wefto

The PC has discussed the possibility of hosting locally produced, pre-recorded shows. There are currently no projects lined up, but this may be a good way to get new voices on the air.

Reminder email will be sent to wefto within the week – no calls to action, MUST NOT broadcast commercials, please read UW announcements as written, Zara startup instructions, correct station ID (WEFT Champaign), etc.

PC Report for March 6, 2025 Associates' Meeting (con't.)**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 6-9am

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

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 8-10pm (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.

Digital Library Associate Report Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 3/6/2025

1. Transmitter/Antenna – Reflected Power problem
Continues to get worse
Volunteer tower visit the afternoon of 3/3/25 – did not fix
Eric working with radio engineering group out of Chicago area – 3/6 visit
Verified problem in feed line about 30 feet from transmitter
Suspect additional transmitter issue
2. NPR/Sound Exchange – 2 week reporting
1st Qtr. '25 report – turned on End Time/Duration field Sat 3/1/25 at midnight
Data due 4/2/25? - Streaming and Playlist files
4th Qtr. '24 report marked Incomplete – emailed Jeff Cabiness (NPR) for results
Complete - ATH = 2106 (previous quarters were 1650 to 1700)
3. Orban Optimod Trio is installed – output not hooked up
Mike Feldman is supervising installation – clean up of existing rack equipment
Currently side by side with existing Optimod
Has RDS built-in? Easier/Same to feed data as Dave's?, easy to disable?
Support through Broadcast Supply Worldwide (BSW is vendor)
Dave has opened VPN port (info to Mike) for Orban tech to access Optimod
4. Change collecting computer from basement system to Great Hall computer?
Will have to collect and clean on a regular basis
Have discussed at Music Committee meetings – believe folks have transitioned
Have collected 2024 2nd half files – Bruce's Jazz, Barb's Folk & Country Bob's Blues
Have to merge files on Master DL Hard Drive
5. Possibly move collecting computer in basement (i5 WIN 10)
To replace Streaming/Recording computer in Great Hall
Dave does use current basement system to talk to his Open Suse server
6. Have had a couple more instances of Front Studio mixing board flaking out
Half of board goes dark, half stays lit but unresponsive
Power cycle of board fixes it (tech needs to do this on-site)

RAT (Remote Access Team) Report for March 6, 2025 Associates' Meeting

As of February 25, 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 Jan 27, 2025 14/47/21

As of Sept 23, 2024 13/48/21

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.

06 March 2025 WEFT Associates Meeting attendees:

Eric Bohlen
Przemyslaw Bosak
Richard Bressler
Andrew Cardinal
Lorri Coey
Jeannie Covert
Cope Cumpston
Denise Curia
James Eagan
Kevin Elliott
Richard Esbenshade
Mike Feldman
Audrey Fisher
Lora Goodnight
Indy Gupta
Edwin Hadley
Ian Hammond
Marleen Hendrickx
Kaitrin Higbee
Don Hittle
Kristin Holtz
Todd Hunter
Paul Mueth
Mark Niswander
Vicki Niswander
Gina Pagliuso
Bob Paleczny
Kristy Rice ?
Anthony Santarelli
Bill Saylor
Richard Schoell
Don Tanner
Ben Theobald
Barbara Trumpinski-Roberts
Evelyn Underwood
Dave Vollenweider
Lynn White
Zack Widup
Dave Witzany
Jeff Zolitor

Excused Absence Requested:
Clara Bright
Jason Finkelman
Jeff Machota