

**Friends of WWOZ Board of Directors / NOJHFF
WWOZ Chief Operating Officer's Report
January 6, 2017**

With the quiet holiday period behind us, we are ramping up planning for the busiest months of the year, running through Jazz Fest in early May. We will begin with a live Twelfth Night broadcast from Blue Nile with on Friday January 6 at 10:00pm. Big Chief Monk Boudreaux and the Golden Chiefs will be performing in this kickoff of carnival season.

Programming

Several live broadcasts are scheduled for the next few weeks. In addition to the above, we are planning to broadcast from the Danny Barker Banjo & Guitar Festival on January 12 and the NOJHFF annual MLK concert, Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement, from Dillard on the 13th.

As usual, the holiday season has kept us very busy scheduling lots of substitutions for regular hosts. Our next host (DJ) meeting will be held January 26th at the Foundation auditorium.

Development

The Spring 2017 Pledge Drive will be held March 14-24. Tracks for the CD (#45) are set with all drawn from performances in our studios during 2016 pledge drives.

The Underwriting team has developed new materials to support a big push going forward. We have clarified our policies and guidelines and rates. We also have defined more broadly the targets for corporate support.

New Media

Throughout the month of December we ran an extensive series of social media posts focusing on performance video highlights from our studios. An *In Memorium* thread acknowledged those musicians and cultural leaders who passed in the last year.

Engineering/ Technology

As mentioned in the last meeting, a finalized list of capital needs was presented to the Technology and Programming committee which has endorsed the proposal. Most of the list was created in committee meetings with Dave Ankers earlier in 2016 augmented with some central software system needs for fundraising and volunteer management.

After negotiating with AT&T, we have come up with a new deal that will significantly drop the cost of our office phones and broadcast lines. Beginning this month, the monthly billing for all these services will drop to \$1,700 from over \$3,100 a month, a full year saving of over \$16,000.

We've begun to implement the plan for further backup and storage. Over the holidays a multiple backup drives failed and have been replaced. New backup systems will allow us to avoid the danger of losing all our music library and other data should this occur in the future.

Community Advisory Board

Progress continues on developing a candidate list to fill the newly open positions on our Community Advisory Board. We have narrowed down an extensive list presented by the old CAB along with some very good suggestions that came in from a few board members and staff.

Over the next few weeks we will be sitting down with the prime candidates to determine their interest and ability to serve and to make sure they are oriented to the scope of the CAB and the responsibilities and commitment expected. We hope to have a slate completed for approval in early February.

Appendix A: Monthly Report – Accounting & Finance (CFO)
Through December 2016

We completed our Audit and have the “clean” opinion report ready to present to the Board in January. Only a few entries were noted, and those mostly pertained to the valuation of In-kind transactions.

We also spent the month transitioning health insurance providers. After much consideration, we decided to change our carrier from Coventry/Aetna to Blue Cross. The former was no longer offering the same coverage, and the latter represented less than a 10% increase over the prior year and is also where we already have our dental/vision plans.

We renewed our \$250K Line of Credit with First NBC. No significant changes were noted.

We also commenced the first round of Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) compliance matters. They have revamped reporting requirements to more strictly address their qualification for our Community Service Grant. Accounting worked closely with the COO to ensure accuracy under the CPB’s heightened level of scrutiny. We continue to work with the CPB to finalize this report, and expect to have our regular disbursement from them timely in January.

We continued to refine our Financials with a focus on the FY17 Budget with the first round of Budget to Actual financial reporting during the month as part of the Finance Committee meeting December. We also met individually with the Finance Chair to advance our work toward streamlining our monthly reporting and synchronizing the format with that of the Foundation. The December version of these Financials will be presented at the January Board meeting.

Appendix B: Chief Development Officer Report

Through December 2016

We are on pace to an early sell-out for Brass Pass. We have currently sold twice the amount of tickets during this same time period as last year. Large percentage of purchasers are first time buyers who are purchasing 2 or 3 tickets at once. In December email and social media we have alerted audience that there may be price increase in January.

We have begun offering buyers the opportunity to purchase membership and Brass Pass. Previously, Brass Pass purchasers were considered to be members.

Membership

Below are results (to date) of several end-of-year campaigns:

- #GiveThanks Campaign (Thanksgiving) \$12k
- ‘Tis The Season’ Campaign (December) \$43K
- Major Gift \$11k

As of this date, Membership has receipts equaling 55% of the Membership revenue budget goal or the year. *Note: Because of the delay in processing, this is not fully reflected in the December financial report but it is a good indicator that our membership goals are well in reach.*

Underwriting

- Completed Underwriting Rates and Policies.
- Completed documents for designer to create brochures on Value of WWOZ for sales team.

WWOZ also sponsored a New Year’s Eve concert with Foundations of Funk and Dumpstaphunk at the Joy Theater.

- Appendix C -

Programming

Live Radio Broadcasts (all in studio):

December 9 – The Loyola Jazz Band

December 12 - *Cuttin' Class* with the Thelonious Monk Institute/NOCCA Sextet

December 15:

- 1) A 30 minute set with Voices of the Nation, a group composed of Mardi Gras Indian chiefs (New Orleans Music Show)
- 2) Three HOURS of live music straight from our studio (7-10pm). Scheduled performers included Dr. Michael Torregano, Sr., Calvin Johnson, Albinas Prizgintas, Keith Porteous, One Love Brass Band, Folk Blues Explosion, Chip Wilson, and Mark Rubin.

Video

Recorded

12/1 Latin All Stars at Cafe Istanbul (5 bands)

12/1 Interview: Aurora Nealand with Maryse Dejean

12/4 Klezmer at Allways Lounge

12/5 Bassentric improv at Hi Ho Lounge: Albey Bagochian, James Singleton, Aurora Nealand, Rev Gooden

12/9 *Cuttin' Class*: NOCCA

12/15 Freddy Blue's Jam Session

12/15 Voices of a Nation at WWOZ Studios

12/23 Interview: Big Chief Alfred Doucette

12/25 Second Line: Lady + Men Rollers

Published Videos

12/5 Eisenhower Academy Middle School

<https://vimeo.com/194405120>

12/6 King James & The Special Men, 'Special Men Boogie'

<https://vimeo.com/194560142>

12/6 Brother Tyrone & The Mindbenders, 'New Indian Blues'

<https://vimeo.com/194581632>

12/6 Denise Lasalle, 'Juke Joint Woman'

<https://vimeo.com/194587487>

12/7 Walter Wolfman Washington & The Roadmasters, 'I Want To Know'

<https://vimeo.com/194712085>

12/9 Bobby Rush, 'Ain't She Fine'

<https://vimeo.com/195006926>

12/9 Vasti Jackson, 'Standing On The Corner'

<https://vimeo.com/195010836>

12/14 Seva Venet, 'Royal Garden Blues'

<https://vimeo.com/195658007>

12/14 Leroy Jones, 'Basin Street Blues'

<https://vimeo.com/195658802>

12/21 Michael Torregano Sr., 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

<https://vimeo.com/196653114>

12/21 Calvin Johnson & Albinas Prizgintas, 'Christmastime Is Here'

<https://vimeo.com/196658724>

12/27 Lady + Men Rollers 2nd Line, Christmas Day 2016

<https://vimeo.com/197231833>

Press

Nola.com: Carol Solomon Obituary, December 6, 2016

“Ms. Solomon was an active supporter of many local organizations, serving as a founding member of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana Women's Leadership Initiative and a board member of the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation and the Louisiana Association of Health Plans. She also served as president of **WWOZ's** board of directors and on the boards of the Louisiana Public Health Institute, Jefferson Business Council, New Orleans Opera Association and United Way board of trustees.”

Gambit: The Latest: Second Line Sunday: Lady and Men Rollers, December 23, 2016

“King Rollers 2016: Shamarr Allen

Queen Rollers 2016: Karen Ricks

Special thanks to the Norman Dixon Foundation, office of secondary employment, Ms. Carolyn our 'seamstress,' Chief Monk Boudreaux, city of New Orleans Council Members, Ben Gersh Bacardi DJ Jubilee Nord, Mrs. Lena, Classy Ladies, **WWOZ**, Action Jackson, Jazz Heritage, all who gave us stops.”