

APPROVED MINUTES

LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION Clerks Only Meeting Monday, April 1, 2024 2:00 PM New Orleans, LA

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association Clerks Only meeting was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. Kim Turlich- Vaughan, President called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge:

Louis Perret gave an opening prayer and Jeff Skidmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Jill Sessions called the roll with the following Clerks present:

Stacey Hurst, Bridget Hanna, Erin Hebert, Connie Desselle, Brian Lestage, Jill Sessions, Mike Spence, H. Lynn Jones, Cherie Lott, Susan Racca, Andy Anders, Doug Welborn, David Dart, Randy Deshotel, Randy Briggs, David Ditch, Gina Perrin for Jon Gegenheimer, Rick Arceneaux, Louis Perret, Annette Fontana, Jason Harris, Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Darren Lombard, Donna Glapion, Lisa Diggs, Veronica Koclanes, Dana Benson, Kim Turlich-Vaughan, Robin Hooter, Stuart Shaw, Shelly Salter, Mildred Cyprian, Shane LeBlanc, Felicia Feist for Eliana DeFrancesch, Charles Jagneaux, Becky Patin, Melissa Henry, Jeff Skidmore, Johnny Crain Jr., Mark Graffeo, and Stewart Hughes.

Welcome from Host Clerk

Kim Turlich-Vaughan gave a welcome and updates for the 78th Annual Clerks of Court Conference events for the week of Monday, April 1, 2024, to Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Approval of the Minutes from Clerks Only meeting on November 28, 2023

A motion to approve the prior minutes was made by Bridget Hanna and seconded by Robin Hooter. No discussion was had. The motion was passed with no opposition.

Financial Reports

Treasurer Annette Fontana presented the Association Financial Report as of February 29, 2024:

BALANCE SHEET		INCOME STATEMENT	
Assets			
Total Current Assets	\$684,561	Total Revenues (FYTD)	\$663,487
Total Other Assets	\$6,219	Total Expenses (FYTD)	\$681,304
Total Assets	\$690,780	Net Income (Loss)	(\$17,816)
Liabilities and Capital			
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 78,015		
Total Capital	\$612,765		
Total Current Liab. & Capital	\$690,780		

Treasurer Annette Fontana presented the Retirement Financial Report as of January 31, 2024:

BALANCE SHEET		INCOME STATEMENT	
Assets			
Total Current Assets	\$684,561	Total Revenues (FYTD)	\$663,487
Total Other Assets	\$6,219	Total Expenses (FYTD)	\$681,304
Total Assets	\$690,780	Net Income (Loss)	(\$17,816)
Liabilities and Capital			
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 78,015		
Total Capital	\$612,765		
Total Current Liab. & Capital	\$690,780		

A motion was made by Rick Arceneaux and seconded by Randy Deshotel to receive the financial reports for the Association and with no opposition, the motion was passed.

Board Reports

LACCRMA Report

Mark Graffeo reported net assets of \$1,636,000. The fund is strong and claims are down. He reminded everyone of the labor hotline with Renee Culotta and the commercial crime, employee dishonesty and cyber liability insurance for additional protection. Mark Graffeo is stepping down as chair with Brian Lestage being voted in as the upcoming Chairman and Rick Arceneaux will be the Vice Chairman. The 2024 renewal applications will arrive via e-mail.

LCRAA

Rick Arceneaux reported the Board met on February 20, 2024, and presented the following financial report ending on January 31, 2024:

BALANCE SHEET		INCOME STATEMENT (FYTD)	
Assets	\$7,151,868	Revenue	\$1,169,566
Property & Equipment	\$925,867	Portal Direct Costs	\$329,406
Total Assets	\$8,077,736	Revenue Direct Cost	\$840,160
Liabilities	\$0.00	Grant Program Cost	\$205,101
Net Income	\$490,395	Administrative Expenses	\$144,664
Total Net Position	\$8,077,736	Net Income	\$490,395
Total Net Liabilities	\$8,077,736	Total Assets	\$8,077,736

Retirement

Debbie Hudnall reported there are currently 2,134 active members in retirement. There are 1,584 retired members and survivors as well. The amount of payroll for the salaries for all members of retirement is \$104,780,000. This past year \$48,122,000 in benefits were paid out. It is projected that the increase in payroll for 2024 will be \$107,000,000. The clerks' offices have been paying 23% for employer contribution rate. The actuarial required amount is 21.55% and the board voted to maintain that employee rate at 23% which allows for more funds to go into the funding deposit account. The UAL will be paid off by 2029 and the actuary is calculating that the employer rate will go down approximately 12% in 2029. In 2014, there were 2,219 employees in the retirement system. In 2014, the retirement system was 74% funded and as of June 30, 2023, the system is 81.46% funded.

Insurance

Debbie Hudnall explained that the Trust is doing quite well. There was a small increase in the rates this year.

Supplemental

Shane Leblanc presented the financial report ending on February 29, 2024:

Balance Sheet		Income Statement (YTD)	
Total Current Assets	\$385,998	Total Revenue	\$1,314,898
Total Other Assets	\$159,545	Total Expenses	\$1,280,800
Total Assets	\$545,545	Net Income	\$34,098
Total Current Liabilities	\$169,000		
Total Capital	\$376,545		
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$545,545		

Committee Reports

Education Committee

Kim Turlich-Vaughan reported the committee received the final numbers from the Institute in February. There was a profit made of \$2,608 with 252 registered attendees and 8 sponsors. The attendance is up from previous institutes, but the cost has gone up for food and equipment. The committee will be meeting by Zoom to decide on a location for the fall institute.

Scholarship

Randy Deshotel reported that the deadline for the scholarships is April 1, 2024, and that 11 applications were received. There is approximately \$16,000 available to be awarded for scholarships this year.

Executive Director Report

Cyber Security, Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training

Cyber Security, Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training must be taken by all Clerks of Court and all employees annually.

Financial Disclosure Reminder

Financial disclosure is due May 15th and if an extension was filed for your taxes, then include of copy of that in lieu of the financial disclosure.

eClerksLA – Criminal Search

Debbie Hudnall discussed the new criminal search on eclerksLA is up and running. Jefferson Parish and Rapides Parish records are online for adults. They are working with the other software providers on quotes to move forward with other parishes. Debbie stated she spoke with the Executive Director of the District Attorney Association regarding reminding the District Attorneys that juvenile records only will include crimes of violence. She has built a chart and sent it to the DA Association using the 60 charge codes for the crimes of violence. Once they approve it, she will send it to the vendors.

Legislative Day

Legislative Day is set for Tuesday, April 16th. Debbie encouraged everyone to attend and to invite their legislators. The amount has been increased to \$150 to help cover the cost.

Legislation

Debbie Hudnall distributed a handout and discussed several specific bills that will be heard in the upcoming legislative session.

HB 29 is a retirement bill regarding the language of “living with” in the law regarding the spouse and a change regarding Option 1 in retirement.

HB 90 was substituted by HB 763. It is regarding federal election guidance in funding.

HB 104 is regarding the tort cases with the \$10 fee for reporting would be rescinded in the law completely.

HB 108 is the commissioner pay raise bill, but it has been withdrawn. There is a substitute bill that has been filed.

HB 159 provides for post-conviction relief that the court of appeal will be opposing.

HB 165 is relative to the first offense possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia both being expunged.

HB 220 provides for publication of polling places.

HB 248 would create a compensation commission for other elected officials.

HB 251 regarding the extension of the terms of offices for elected officials.

HB 262 provides for uniform campaign contributions limits across all levels of office.

HB 319 is relative to notice for the reason of changes in polling places. Debbie is working with the legislator regarding the change in language from “shall” to “may” with the understanding that she would encourage all clerks to post the information on their website regarding polling places.

HB 332 is with respect to the judge’s pay raise.

HB 343 has been substituted with HB 792 and is that the judicial district court shall report on a monthly basis the cases that are handled.

HB 360 is regarding getting rid of the LCRAA portal and adding 4 judges to the LCRAA Board and it does not have the support of the Governor and we will need to oppose this bill.

HB 396 is an increase for the district attorneys and their ADAs.

HB 419 is regarding the \$50 commissioner pay raise.

Hb 449 is dealing with the Judgment of Interdictions in whereas the curator would send by certified mail the copy of the judgment to the registrar of voters and to furnish them with the date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number.

HB 483 provides for qualifications of early voting elections commissioners.

HB 488 provides relative to block chain and digital access regulations which could majorly affect the recording in offices. Debbie encouraged everyone to oppose the bill with their legislators.

HB 553 provides relative to the disposition of 17-year-old records being expunged whose charges were dismissed through pretrial diversion or other specific means.

HB 580 is regarding bankruptcies and cancellations.

HB581 provides for the abilities and restrictions to witness election documents. Debbie has been working with the secretary of state on this bill.

HB 624 will need to be opposed regarding the information being transmitted to the attorney general.

HB 680 is regarding the legal notices and Debbie believed the Clerks would be removed from the bill.

SB 19 will be removing the bill regarding the jury bond set at \$5,000 and is changing it to be at the judge’s discretion.

SB 75 provides for electronic filing and record retention.

SB 130 provides for elimination of the monetary limitations on jury trials.

SB 134 is regarding the registration of voting for a person convicted of a felony.

SB 155 discusses the marking of absentee ballots. Debbie is working with the secretary of state on this bill as well as SB 218 that is relative to voting.

SB 261 is discussed regarding the clerks’ position on this bill in which provides for watchers in early voting and allowing political parties to have watchers and super watchers.

There was a previous discussion and vote held regarding supporting or opposing the justice of the peace amount being increased to \$7,500. The vote was held that the clerks wanted the amount to remain at

\$5,000. There were two clerks who had indicated separately to some justices of the peace that they were not opposed so the issue is brought back up. Bridget Hanna stated that it was her understanding that the bill was going to be pulled from this legislative session.

Regarding the clerks COLA bill, David Dart spoke with the chairman of the Judiciary committee, Rep. Robbie Carter, who is opposed to the bill due to some local issues. Rep. Carter said he would have an amendment to the bill. The clerks discussed reaching out to their legislators to support the bill when it comes through committees and the floor for votes.

New Clerks Orientation

Debbie reported the new clerks' orientation was well attended and the new clerks are very ambitious.

Election of LCRAA Commissioners

All levels of the board are available for the election. There will be two elected from the large and small parishes and one from the medium parishes. Two have qualified for the small parishes and one for the medium parish so they are automatically elected. There are three that have qualified for the large parish positions. Ballots are distributed for the voting to be held.

The results of the election for the large parish positions are Lynn Jones and Louis Perret.

New Business

Charlie Jagneaux discussed the issue with the drayman delivering the election machines and suggested a committee be formed to review and discuss the issues to bring to the secretary of state. Debbie Hudnall recommended the committee be appointed. The committee is appointed as Louis Perret, Charlie Jagneaux, Robin Hooter and Johnny Crain, Jr.

Louis Perret discussed issues regarding how many clerks had the governor's appointee to the board of election supervisors changed out or asked to change parties to that position. A discussion was held regarding how many were changed or recommended a change.

Louis Perret asked that in the future if someone would like to discuss a topic at a clerks only meeting to please let him know in advance. He also asked that if a clerk does not know their legislator, then they need to meet them to discuss the COLA to assist since he will be going to the table to battle for the COLA. He encourages everyone to participate in all events for the association. He also stated he would be asking some of the members to serve on a committee regarding the direction of the clerks association with Debbie Hudnall's contract.

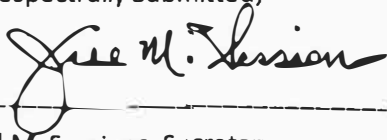
Other Comments

Kim Turlich-Vaughan encouraged everyone to attend the VIP vendor show that begins at 5:00pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill M. Sessions", written over a horizontal line.

Jill M. Sessions, Secretary

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Turlich-Vaughan", written over a horizontal line.

Kim Turlich-Vaughan, President