

APPROVED MINUTES

LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 08, 2017 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 1:00 P.M.

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Board of Directors meeting was held on the above date at the Association Office and called to order by President David Dart. Tammy Foster gave the opening prayer and Brian Lestage led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Bridget Hanna called roll and the following members were present: David Dart, Steve Andrews, Brian Lestage, Bridget Hanna, Robin Hooter, Johnny Crain, Jr., Becky Patin, Carol Jones, Randy Deshotel, Tammy Foster, Doug Welborn, and Cliff Dressel.

Also present: Executive Director Debbie Hudnall, Rodd Naquin, Kim Turlich-Vaughan, Darlene Landry, Frank Borne, Chris Kershaw and Theo Sanders.

At this time Theo Sanders representing LAMP shared some comments with the board members.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Cliff Dressel and seconded by Robin Hooter to approve the minutes of November 30, 2016. Motion passed without opposition.

Financial Reports:

Treasurer Robin Hooter presented the financial reports for the period ending February 28, 2017. She reported the total current assets for the Association as \$530,311, total other assets of \$182,653, and total assets of \$720,598. Total current liabilities of \$58,424 were reported with total capital of \$662,174 and total liabilities and capital of \$720,598. The Treasurer informed the board that the current fiscal year to date actual total revenues were \$535,815 and total expenses were \$554,211 with a total net loss of \$18,396 compared to current year to date budget which estimated total expenses at \$575,841 with a net loss of \$58,474. Treasurer Hooter pointed out some significant differences in specific line items for current year to date actual as compared to current year to date budget. She stated that current year to date actual revenues for Associate dues were \$13,520 compared to current year to date budget of \$0. Institute earnings for current year to date actual were \$8,266 compared to current year to date budget of \$2,500. Current year to date actual income from the directory was \$6,150 compared to current year to date budget of \$2,000. Motion made by Steve Andrews to receive the financial reports as presented, seconded by Tammy Foster. Motion passed without opposition.

Board Reports:

LCRAA

Executive Director Debbie Hudnall reported that LCRAA is doing very well with \$2.5 million total assets. She reported total current liabilities of \$306,000 which includes grants that have been approved but not paid.

Chris Kershaw reported that 14 grant applications were submitted for the 1st quarter for a total of \$668,000. The Board awarded 5 grants for a total of \$181,320. To date LCRAA has received 62 applications for a total of 1.9 million dollars with 35 being approved for \$780,000.

Debbie Hudnall also stated that she is presently looking into a system that would automatically redact documents for all Clerks who are members of LCRAA.

Retirement & Relief Fund

President David Dart reported that the board met this morning and it was reported by Summit Strategies Group that the fourth quarter of 2016 proved to be eventful and was defined by two prominent events: first and foremost the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States, and secondly the Federal Reserve interest rate hike in December. As the election outcome was largely unexpected by investors and pollsters, markets adjusted to likely policy changes throughout the remainder of the quarter. The market reaction was generally consistent with the President's proposed economic and trade policies, which are expected to promote growth and increase inflation.

President Dart also reported a 7.5% rate of return so far this year. Financial statements through January 31, 2017 show total investments of \$530,804,890, total assets of \$568,424,220 and a total net income of \$36,998,688. The Retirement Board voted to continue the employer contribution rate of 19%. President Dart advised the board that the investment committee met by telephone several times and that they are looking into the possibility of Summit Strategies managing our hedge fund sector. More information will be given as this situation is discussed.

Debbie noted that GASB 68 has been received and will be posted on the Association website. She stated that this report is what auditors for the Clerks will need for their audit this year and she informed the board that the total amount of liability increased from last year.

Supplemental Compensation Board

Randy Deshotel gave a report on the balance sheet ending with January 31, 2017. He reported \$69,077 in total current assets, \$121,480 in total other assets and \$190,557 in total assets. Current liabilities were reported as \$123,500, total capital of \$67,057 and total liabilities and capital of \$190,557. He stated that the supplemental compensation board will continue to monitor to decide if we need to increase fees for next year.

Committee Reports:

2017 Conference Report

Debbie Hudnall reported that the annual conference is to be held in Lake Charles at the Golden Nugget from July 17-20th. Lynn Jones and his staff are continuing to plan this event.

Education Committee

Tammy Foster informed the Board that the next institute will be held August 15-18th in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn. The committee will meet soon to plan the institute. She also reported a \$3,300 profit from the Clerks institute held in February.

E-Filing Committee

Debbie reported that they met last week and had a successful meeting. Lynn Jones was elected Chairman and Dale Atkins Vice-Chair. A member from the Louisiana Institute for Justice was present. They are going to have presentations from a couple of vendors that may be able to provide the e-filing service for the Clerks.

Scholarship Committee

Brian Lestage was appointed Chairman for this committee. They will be meeting soon to review new criteria for scholarships. Debbie reminded the board that those employees whose offices are paying associate dues will be able to apply for a scholarship.

Executive Director Report:

Associate Members

Debbie Hudnall reported that \$13,520 in dues have been collected with a portion of that amount going to the scholarship fund. The balance in the scholarship fund is \$10,000.

Legislation

Debbie reported that bills are starting to be filed for this year's legislative session and gave a summary of some of the bills that the Clerks Association will be filing.

Recording bill - Sen. LaFleur stated he would like to have standardization of indexing as adopted by the LCRAA Board. Some items that will be included in this bill: Clerks shall have capability of e-recording within 5 years; Clerks Offices will not have to use microfilm as a means of back-up; remove the requirement of having bound books; add requirement that Clerks leave last 4 digits of social security number on documents that are redacted; adjust fees for recording with 3 tiers.

Advanced Deposits- Civil suits with \$10 or less would not have to be refunded after 5 years of no activity. Anything over \$10.00 would be refunded and if checks are not executed – Clerks would advertise and then petition the court for an order of funds to be transferred to the operating account. On Monday Debbie, Mike Thibodaux and Wade Shows will be meeting with legislative auditors to present the draft of the bill.

Discussion held on new bail bond law.

Litigation

Lawrence Vs. State of Louisiana
State of Louisiana Vs. Cornella Carroll

No report back from Sheri Morris on this litigation

Bridget Hanna updated the board on the Ascension Parish case involving a pauper case on appeal in which a paid attorney paid all court costs up until appeal and then requested pauper status for the appeal. She stated that the District Court denied the pauper application but the parties were taking writs to the 1st Circuit. She stated that she has attorneys that will represent her office at the appeal level but conveyed that she believed it would be a good idea for the Clerks Association to be involved since this ruling would set precedence and could affect all Clerks. Randy Deshotel made a motion to have Debbie speak to Sheri Morris about the Clerks Association getting involved with this case, seconded by Cliff Dressel. Motion passed without opposition.

Debbie advised the board that she requested that Sheri Morris draft an e-recording policy but she has not received it yet.

Debbie reported that there have been some issues with 2014 Legislation dealing with corporations which does not have a requirement that they be recorded in the Clerk's office. She stated that she has sent an email to Rep. Foil to ask if that was his intent but has not heard back from him yet.

District Reports:

District 1

Johnny Crain, Jr. reported that they met briefly at the recent institute and will meet again on March 22nd to go over policies and try to get them uniformed.

District 2

No report

District 3

Becky Patin reported that they recently had a meeting with good attendance. She conveyed to the board that Mike Thibodaux has requested to be placed on the LCCRMA Board since there is an opening. She also reported that they discussed upcoming legislation.

District 4

No report

District 5

No report

District 6

Randy Deshotel reported they have not met recently but will hold a meeting soon.

District 7

Tammy Foster reported that they met on February 14th. She said that her district wanted to suggest that the Clerk's charge \$50 per name for a 10 year period for mortgage certificates.

District 8

Doug Welborn reported that they have not met but will meet soon.

District 9

No report

Other Business:

Debbie reminded the Board that the Clerks Legislative day will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd at the Pentagon Barracks.


Comments by Board Members: None

There being no further business, Steve Andrews moved to adjourn, seconded by Doug Welborn. Motion passed without opposition.

Respectfully Submitted:


Bridget Hanna, Secretary

Approved:


David Dart, President