# LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2009 1:00 PM BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Board of Directors met on the above date with the following members present: President Robby Barousse, Louie Bernard, Mark Graffeo, Lynn Jones, Bill Hodge, Gary Loftin, Lanell Landry, Michael Thibodeaux, Edmond Kinler, Dot Lundin, Diane Meaux Broussard, Jim Martin, Carol Jones, Carolyn Ryland, ElRay Lemoine, Cliff Dressel, and Darlene Landry. Also present: Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director and Randy Zinna, Attorney. Guest present: Bert LeBlanc, Jerry Smith, Don Gunaldo and Allan Blanchard.

The invocation was given by Louie Bernard and Mark Graffeo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time the oath of office was administered to Mark Graffeo as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Jim Martin as a new Board member from District 4.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Louie Bernard made a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting of March 4, 2009, as presented. The motion was seconded by Gary Loftin.

Motion carried.

#### COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT

President Robby Barousse informed the Board that HB 84, term limits for elected officials, had been converted to a study resolution. He also informed the Board that HB 150, a local bill for Acadia parish and Iberia parish, had passed the House committee without opposition. This bill would allow for a car allowance for the clerks in those two parishes.

### FINANCIAL REPORT- (Report on file in office)

Bill Hodge reported that the total revenue for February was \$48,341 with total expenses of \$32,502, leaving a fund balance as of February 28, 2009, of \$377,428. The total revenue for March was \$44,391 with total expenditures of \$33,552 leaving a fund balance as of March 31, 2009, of \$362,870. Bill further reported that Louisiana Clerks Legal Fund balance sheet for February 28, 2009 showed a fund balance of \$417,770.85; and the balance sheet as of March 31, 2009, showed a fund balance of \$379,988. Gary Loftin made a motion to receive the financial reports. Motion was seconded by Michael Thibodeaux. **Motion carried.** 

<u>AMENDED BUDGET: (Exhibit A)</u> The Executive Director presented the Board with a proposed amended budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009. After discussion, Bill Hodge moved that the amended budget be approved. Motion seconded by Lanell Landry. **Motion carried.** 

### LOUISIANA CLERK OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, MAY 13, 2009 PAGE 2

**2009-2010 BUDGET:** (Exhibit B) The Executive Director presented a proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010. After discussion, ElRay Lemoine moved that the proposed budget be approved. Motion seconded by Bill Hodge. **Motion carried.** 

#### **BOARD REPORTS**

Retirement and Relief Fund – Board of Trustees – President Robby Barousse reported the Retirement Board had a very lengthy meeting with a presentation from Dan Holmes with Summit Strategy. He reported that the rate of return for the month of April was 5.85%. although rate of return is a -23.07% for the fiscal year. The fund had increased from \$250,000,000 to \$262,000,000. He informed the Board that the Retirement Board of Trustees had voted to invest in TIPS (Treasury Inflation Protected Securities) to be managed by State Street. He also announced that an Investment Advisory Committee had been appointed consisting of: Bill Hodge, Mark Graffeo, Michael Thibodeaux and Gary Loftin. This committee would be able to meet more frequently which is needed due to the market environment. Also, the Investment Committee would be interviewing two Emerging Market money managers, Acadian and DFA, to report on at the next Board meeting. President Barousse also reported that the actuary, Greg Curran, reported on the possible increases of the employer contribution ranging from 21% to 27% effective July 2010.

<u>Supplemental Compensation Board</u> – Debbie Hudnall reported there would be two vacancies on the Supplemental Board because Gary Loftin and Willie Deon's terms were over. She also said that she had spoken with both members and they were willing to serve another term. Louie Bernard moved that Gary Loftin and Willie Deon be reappointed to the Supplemental Compensation Board. Motion seconded by Mark Graffeo. **Motion carried.** 

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2009** Convention Report – Tom Sullivan reported that about 375 people attended the 2009 Convention and he was happy to announce that it did operate in the green and everyone seemed to have a good time. He reported there were still some outstanding bills that he was trying to finish paying. He hoped to be able to report in about 30 days where the finances stood.

**2010 Convention Report** – Don Gunaldo was present representing Clerk of Court Dale Atkins. He told the Board he was there asking for permission for the Host Committee to be able to control the monies for the registration and expenses of the convention. He said Debbie had mentioned that they needed to get permission from the Board because the auditors had recommended that the funds be under the jurisdiction of the Association Board.

## LOUISIANA CLERK OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, MAY 13, 2009 PAGE 3

He reported that the convention would be at the Sheraton Hotel with room rates of \$109.00. He said they had not prepared a budget at this time, but they would work on that. After discussion, Bill Hodge moved that the Convention Committee comply with the By-laws in that the Convention Committee set the registration fees and they be approved by the Board of Directors and that the Conference Chairman present a proposed budget to the Board of Directors at least 90 days prior to the conference for approval. Motion seconded by Gary Loftin. **Motion carried.** 

Education Committee – Bill Hodge reported that the Education Committee met on April 28th at the Baton Rouge office. The Institute will be held at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge on August 18 - 21, 2009, and at the Paragon in Marksville (tentatively) February 9 - 12, 2010. All of the programs were planned for the August Institute.

#### FEE LITIGATION

Randy Zinna gave an update on the fee litigation by reporting they were working on the final documents. He said he was still working on the calculations of the legal fees, but there should not be another assessment.

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Debbie reported to the Board that Dannette Davis had just submitted her retirement effective May 31, 2009. Debbie related to the Board that Dannette said she loved all of the clerks and had enjoyed working for them over the many years.

**LEGISLATION**(**Report on file in office**) Debbie gave a legislative update reporting this was suppose to be a fiscal session, but that many court costs bills had been introduced without prior approval of the judicial council. She reported that she had spoken to Justice Kimball and Justice Kimball said any court costs legislation passed would be subject to the approval of the judicial council.

GASB45 – Debbie reminded the Board they needed to return the signed agreements to the actuaries because their agreement on their fee was based on 25 clerks participating.

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE** – Debbie reminded the Board that the Financial Disclosure reports were due June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**AIR CONDITION UNIT REPLACEMENT** – Debbie asked for ratification of the President's approval of a purchase of a new air condition condenser that had been installed at the association office. Motion was made by Jim Martin that the purchase be approved. Motion seconded by Lynn Jones. **Motion carried.** 

## LOUISIANA CLERK OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING, MAY 13, 2009 PAGE 4

**AUDIT PROPOSALS:** Debbie presented a 2009-2010 audit proposal from Duplantier for the Association in the amount of \$4,250. When asked if a proposal was obtained from any other firms, Debbie responded that she felt more comfortable staying with the same firm they have used for many years especially in light of the fact of having a new employee handling the accounting. In case Renee might need any assistance, she would have Duplantier available and they are extremely knowledgeable on our accounting systems. The Executive Director presented a 2009-2010 audit proposal from Duplantier in the amount of \$3,850 for the Supplemental Fund. Gary Loftin moved that both proposals be approved. Motion seconded by Louie Bernard. **Motion carried.** 

TASK LAUNCH – (Report on file in office) Debbie reported to the Board that she had received communications from a company Task Launch which would be an effort to provide a single resource of timely and organized information across the State in reference to Clerks' offices. They will be distributing a questionnaire to all of the Clerks and wanted to let the Clerks know about their project.

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled in Shreveport on August 5, 2009. .

### ADJOURNMENT

Lanell Landry moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Lynn Jones.

Motion Carried.

Debbie Hudnall for

Secretary Linda Cook

Robby Barousse

President