

## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008 MARKSVILLE, LOUISIANA**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association met on Thursday, February 28, 2008 in Marksville, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Martin who then asked Dot Lundin to give the invocation and Allen Blanchard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

The following members were present: President Jim Martin, Michael Thibodeaux, Robby Barousse, Louie Bernard, Diane Meaux Broussard, Mark Graffeo, Lynn Jones, Louis Perret, Cliff Dressel, Dot Lundin, Allen Blanchard, Pat Gladney, Bill Hodge, Lanell Landry, Ann Johnson, Bubbie Dupont, Peter Fitzgerald and Tom Sullivan. Also present: Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director and Attorney, Randy Zinna.

**Member absent:** Beverly Gordon.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Louie Bernard made the motion to approve, as presented, the minutes of the last regular meeting of Thursday, December 6, 2007. The motion was seconded by Lynn Jones.

**Motion carried.**

#### **COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT**

President Martin thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Since his term as President was coming to an end he expressed his pleasure to have worked with this group.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

##### **Association Report: (Attachment 1)**

Treasurer Mark Graffeo presented the financial reports of the Association for November, December and January. He pointed out to the Board in November financial statements that Chairman Lynn Jones had returned to the Association \$17,000 from the 2007 Convention receipts. He further informed the Board that \$20,162 had been expended out of the \$25,000 allocated for the office remodeling. He also reported the current assets were \$269,791 and total assets were \$318,794.

##### **Legal Fund Report: (Attachment 2)**

Treasurer Mark Graffeo presented the financial reports of the Legal Fund for November, December and January. The total assets through January 31, 2008 were \$340,933.

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**Legal Fund History: (on file in office)**

Treasurer Mark Graffeo presented the financial history of the Legal Fund. Revenues received totaled \$1,127,436 and legal fees paid totaled \$825,005 and the ending cash balance as of February 13, 2008 was \$306,574.

A general discussion was held to determine how to collect money owed by Parishes who owe money to the legal fund. A motion was made by Lanell Landry and seconded by Tom Sullivan to have Ms. Hudnall contact each Parish by phone that has an outstanding balance to check on the status of the payment.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

**Fee Litigation**

Randy Zinna reported that the trial date is one (1) year away in March 2009.

Jay O'Brien presented a report via teleconference and brought Board Members up to date on the pending law suit.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Insurance Trust – Board of Trustees –**

President, Jim Martin, said that the Board met today and had a good meeting. They presented checks to the Brad Farello Memorial Fund totaling nearly \$4,000 with money still being collected. He reported the Insurance System is on a much sounder basis than it has been in a long time with \$1.4 million dollars in reserve. The actuary report for the insurance program for the next three (3) years looks very strong. He also reported that Jefferson Davis Parish would like to join the Insurance Trust and that the Hunt Group is working on that process.

**Retirement and Relief Fund – Board of Trustees**

First Vice President, Mike Thibodeaux, reported that the fund gained \$19,000,000 for the calendar year although it lost \$6,300,000 for the quarter. The Board voted to change the SMID funds money managers from Lotsoff to IronBridge.

**Supplemental Compensation Board**

Debbie Hudnall reported, on behalf of Gary Loftin, that assets of the fund total approximately \$60,000 and that approximately \$4,000 per month is being used to cover the difference of the revenue and expenditures. She reported if everything remains the same over the next 4 months, approximately \$16,000 of the fund balance would be used. Because there was a larger increase last year in monthly compensation rather than a 13<sup>th</sup> check, there will probably not be an increase in the supplemental pay next year although there will probably be an increase in contribution. The Supplemental Board will meet in April and make their recommendations.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2008 Convention**

Louis Perret reported things were going well, that 168 people had registered and door prizes were needed. He advised the Board that registration fees had been set at \$400 for clerks and \$160 for spouse or guest with daily rates of \$160. A motion was made by Cliff Dressel and seconded by Louie Bernard that registration fees be approved for the convention. **Motion carried.** He informed the Board that expenses would run about \$59,000 with the exception of the Early Bird party and the hospitality suite.

**2009 Convention**

Tom Sullivan reported the 2009 Convention will be held in Baton Rouge from April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Hilton with the Sheraton as the back-up hotel. He will have more information and a presentation for everyone at the Lafayette Convention.

**Clerk of Court Data Networking System**

Mark Graffeo reported the committee met on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss grant money and how to obtain the \$500,000 Capital Outlay Grant. This money would provide a Statewide Data Network that would interface all of the clerks' offices. The committee recommended that the committee proceed with criminal records first. A lengthy discussion by all Board Members followed. Many questions and concerns were discussed. Louie Bernard made a motion for the Committee to proceed with the RFP to develop a Statewide Data Network system for the clerks' criminal records. The motion was seconded by Tom Sullivan. The Committee is to look into issues that were discussed and if issues are resolved, the committee is to proceed with the project. **Motion carried.**

**Legislation**

Debbie Hudnall gave an update on Clerks' proposed 2008 Legislation. After much discussion, Cliff Dressel moved that the proposed legislation for the Registry of Court be tabled. Motion was seconded by Mike Thibodeaux. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Bill Hodge to defer action on the bill to increase pay for deputy custodians and absentee commissioners. It was seconded by Mark Graffeo. **Motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Board Meeting will be Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the State Convention.

Louie Bernard commended President Jim Martin on an outstanding leadership year.

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**ADJOURNEMENT**

A Motion was made by Tom Sullivan to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Lanell Landry. **Motion carried.**

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DIANE MEAUX BROUSSARD  
Secretary

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JIM MARTIN  
President