



LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION

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PROPOSED MINUTES

DISTRICT CLERKS OF COURT MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

3:00 PM

CONFERENCE CALL

The Louisiana District Clerks of Court held a phone conference call on May 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm. President Brian Lestage called the meeting to order.

Debbie Hudnall called the roll with the following present:

Robby Barousse, Bridget Hanna, Darlene Landry, Connie Desselle, Brian Lestage, Jill Sessions, Mike Spence, Lynn Jones, Cherie Lott, Susan Racca, Clyde Ray Webber, Jr., Rene Williams, David Dart, Randy Deshotel, Ann Johnson, Randy Briggs, David Ditch, Amy Patin, Laura Culpepper, Richard Arceneaux, Louis Perret, Steve Andrews, Linda Cook, Jason Harris, Carol Jones, David Stamey, Chelsey Napoleon, Kim-Turlich-Vaughan, Lanell Landry, Robin Hooter, Shelly Salter, Lance Marino, Mildred Cyprian, Shane LeBlanc, Eliana DeFrancesch, Becky Patin, Melissa Henry, Gary Stanga, Theresa Robichaux, Dodi Eubanks, Diane Meaux Brossard, Jeff Skidmore, Johnny Crain, Jr., Holli Vining, Mark J. Graffeo, Robyn Creech, Felicia Ann Hendl and Chelsey Chandler.

Also present: Gina Perrin, Debbie Hudnall, Chris Kershaw, Davis Silk and Dagmar Hebert.

Debbie Hudnall reported to the Clerks that the Supplemental Board – Chairman Jill Sessions, Marion Hopkins, David Stamey, David Dart and Jim Martin – have had numerous meetings and have been working diligently to find a solution due to the drop in suits because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She provided a history of the Supplemental Fund and how the per suit fee and CAP is calculated.

Debbie stated that the current situation with the pandemic has affected the number of suits filed and thus the amounts received from each parish for the supplemental fund have decreased by approximately 50%. Debbie referred to the document that was emailed to the District Clerks prior to the meeting. To continue the clerks supplemental pay at the current amount, the Board would like to recommend the following proposal:

Due to the decrease in suits filed based on the COVID-19 prescription period extensions, the average amount collected for the first 6 months of the 2019-2020 fiscal year was calculated for each parish. The Board would recommend that each parish pay the average amount for the months of May, June and July. For the month of May, each parish would remit the difference between the average amount and the fee already submitted to the Association. If this proposal is approved, the clerks supplemental pay would remain at the current \$2,050 per month.

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There was discussion regarding how long this proposal would be in place, what fund the clerks would make this payment from and the Association providing a letter for the Clerks to maintain in their records regarding this change in the remittance.

A motion was made by Jim Martin to approve the proposal as presented with each parish paying the average amount for the months of June and July, and submitting the difference between the average and the amount already paid for the month of May. The motion was seconded by David Dart. **MOTION CARRIED WITH NO OPPOSITION.**

Debbie stated that once the additional amount was received by each parish for May, the Association office would mail the May supplemental pay to the Clerk's office. She explained that the payment should be made to the Clerks Supplemental Fund and would be paid out of the Clerks Salary Fund.

Supplemental Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020-2021

At the direction of the Supplemental Board, Debbie presented to the Clerks the proposal for the next fiscal year as follows:

Effective July 1, 2020, the per suit fee would increase from \$18.00 to \$18.50. The CAP would be divided into two different ranges based on number of suits: 500 suits and above - \$5,400 and 300 suits and above - \$5,200. Orleans Criminal's remittance would increase from \$1,000 to \$1,100. The Clerks Supplemental pay would remain the same at \$2,050 per month. This proposal would cover the pay each month and add a small amount to the surplus. These new rates would be reflected on the July report that is submitted to the Association office in August.

Debbie reminded the Board that this proposal is based on non-CAP clerks reporting an average of 3,600 suits per month. She noted that there are many items affecting the suits for example COVID-19 and tort reform. She also reminded the Clerks that the Supplemental Board will continue to review the Fund.


A motion was made by Steve Andrews to approve the proposal for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented above. The motion was seconded by Jeff Skidmore. **MOTION CARRIED WITH NO OPPOSITION.**

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully Submitted:


Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director

APPROVED:


Brian Lestage, President