

APPROVED MINUTES

LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION 66TH ANNUAL LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT CONVENTION OPENING GENERAL SESSION WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011 AT 9:00 AM

The 66th Annual Louisiana Clerks of Court Convention was called to order by President Louie Bernard. The invocation was given by Clyde Ray Webber. The colors were presented by VFW Post 9573 from Natchez, Mississippi. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by First Vice President, Mark Graffeo. The Alcorn State University Choir sang the National Anthem and entertained the group with several patriotic tunes.

Convention Chairman, Clyde Webber, welcomed everyone to Vidalia and introduced Mayors Copeland, McGlothlin & Middleton from Vidalia, Ferriday and Natchez.

Welcoming Remarks

President Bernard welcomed everyone to the 66th Annual Conference and thanked Clyde Webber for hosting the conference. He took a moment of personal privilege to recognize and thank Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director of the Clerk's Association, for the extraordinary job she had performed during the past year. Louie said that it had been a very eventful year and that Debbie had provided an experienced hand during all the tumultuous days. He observed that, even while on vacation, Debbie had constantly called or texted the President, thinking through the issues that had been before us. He said Debbie was not simply "involved" with making ours a better Association, but that she was "committed" to that goal. He concluded by asking Debbie to stand and take a bow for a job truly well done.

President Bernard then introduced the following State-wide elected officials, each of whom briefly addressed the Clerks: Secretary of State Tom Schedler; Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain; and Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon.

Roll Call

Treasurer Tammy Foster then conducted a roll call of the parishes and the following Clerks were present: Gerald Harrington, Hart Bourque, Darlene Landry, Brian Lestage, Jim Martin, Cynthia Johnston, Lynn Jones, Eugene Dunn, Carl Broussard, Janet Payne, James Patrick Gladney, Clyde Ray Webber, Beatrice Carter, David Dart, ElRay Lemoine, Michael Thibodeaux, Ann Walsworth, Rick Arceneaux, Louis Perret, Vernon Rodrigue, Steve Andrews, Linda Cook, Tom Sullivan, Marion Hopkins, Carol Jones, Louie Bernard, Arthur Morrell, Dot Lundin, Lanell Landry, Carolyn Ryland, Tammy Foster, Lena Torres, Becky Patin, Cliff Dressel, Dodi Eubanks, Diane Broussard, Holli Vining, Mark Graffeo, Christine Crow, and Peter Fitzgerald.

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Introduction of Past Presidents

Lynn Jones, Second Vice President, introduced the following past presidents who were present: Michael Thibodeaux, Jim Martin, Cliff Dressel – 2 terms, Gary Loftin, Gerald Harrington, Carolyn Ryland, Louie Bernard – 2 terms, ElRay Lemoine, Doug Welborn, Bud Bergeron, Ann Walsworth, Eugene Dunn, Debbie Hudnall, Hart Bourque, and Clyde Webber.

Recognition of Retired Clerks

Tom Sullivan, Third Vice President, introduced the retired Clerks who were present: Bud Bergeron, Carlton Duhon and Debbie Hudnall.

Recognition of Deceased Clerks

President Louie Bernard took a moment for a special reflection on the recent loss of retired Clerk, Allen Blanchard, and then all shared a moment of silence for all of the deceased Clerks.

By-Laws Committee Report

Lanell Landry, Parliamentarian, reported that the By-Laws Committee met on April 19th and that they recommended the following amendments to the By-Laws be adopted:

1. Article VII (a) be amended to reflect that the following parishes be moved from District 1 to District 8: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana and Livingston.
2. Article VII, Section 2 be amended to reflect the following:
 - (a) Each District Representative is encouraged to hold quarterly district meetings to provide opportunity for Clerks in said district to exchange ideas on the operation of their offices; cultivate friendships among the district members; and to participate in the formulation and advancement of official policies of the Association
 - (b) If such meetings are conducted and recommendations, actions, or ideas are set forth by the respective districts, a written report shall be presented by the District Representative to the Board.

- (c) If a District Representative is unable to attend a quarterly Board meeting,
he/she shall submit his/her written report to the President of the
Association prior to the Board meeting.

President Bernard reminded the body that the By-Laws required that all amendments be presented on the first day of the convention and voted on the last day of the convention.

Nominating Committee Report

Chairman, Mark Graffeo, reported that the Nominating Committee met on April 19, 2011 and submitted for the consideration of the general membership, the following list of persons to serve on the respective Boards for the year 2011-2012.

Association Board of Directors

President	Mark J. Graffeo
1 st Vice President	H. Lynn Jones II
2 nd Vice President	Tammy Foster
3 rd Vice President	Diane Meaux Broussard
Secretary	Holli Vining
Treasurer	James W. Martin
Historian	David Dart
Parliamentarian	Richard M. Arceneaux
1 st District Member	Felicia Ann Hendl
2 nd District Member	Vernon H. Rodrigue
3 rd District Member	Carl E. Broussard
4 th District Member	Cynthia J. Johnston
6 th District Member	Lanell Swindler Landry
8 th District Member	Cliff Dressel
Member at Large	Darlene D. Landry
Immediate Past President	Louie Bernard

Retirement and Relief Fund Board of Trustees

President	Mark J. Graffeo
1 st Vice President	H. Lynn Jones II
2 nd Vice President	Tammy Foster
Treasurer	James W. Martin
Clerk Member	Cliff Dressel
Immediate Past President	Louie Bernard

Insurance Trust Board of Trustees

President	Mark J. Graffeo
1 st Vice President	Tammy Foster
Treasurer	James W. Martin
2 nd District Member	Vernon H. Rodrigue
4 th District Member	Holli Vining
6 th District Member	Lanell Swindler Landry
8 th District Member	Cliff Dressel
Retired Clerk Member	John Dahmer
Immediate Past President	Louie Bernard

Supplemental Compensation Board of Trustees

Clerk Member	Gerald W. Harrington
Clerk Member	Brian Lestage
Ex-Officio Member	Mark J. Graffeo

Louisiana Association of Clerks of Court Risk Management Board of Trustees

Clerk Member	James Patrick Gladney
Clerk Member	Clyde Ray Webber, Jr.
Clerk Member	Ann B. Walsworth

Carolyn Ryland moved that the Report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and those nominated be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Janet Payne. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

In special honor and recognition of two Clerks who have announced their retirement for July 2011, President Louie Bernard made the following special presentations:

Honorable Carolyn Jones Ryland Clerk of Court Rapides Parish

You have been our 'go to' Clerk for 19 years.
What a difference you have made in all of our lives!
For service over and above the call of duty,
We salute you!

Carolyn Ryland thanked everyone and said that the Louisiana Clerk of Court family meant so very much to her and she would never forget them.

Although unable to be there, President Bernard made the following special presentation to:

Honorable Samuel G. "Sammy" Couvillon

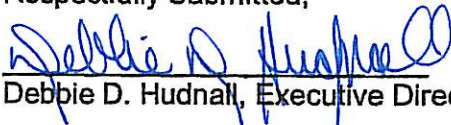
For all you have done to touch our hearts over these many years . . .
For the example of courage you have given to us all . . .
We thank you and we love you!

The recipients received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie D. Hudnall, Executive Director

APPROVED:


Louie Bernard, President