

**LOUISIANA CLERKS OF COURT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA**

The Louisiana Clerks of Court Association Board of Directors met on the above date with the following **members present**: Cliff Dressel, Jim Martin, Michael Thibodeaux, Robbie Barousse, Diane Meaux Broussard, Mark Graffeo, Lynn Jones, Gary Loftin, Allen Blanchard, Joan Carraway, Bill Hodge, Lannell Landry, Ann Johnson, Bubbie Dupont and Peter Fitzgerald. **Members absent** were Beverly Gordon, Johnny Crain, Gasper Schiro, and Tom Sullivan.

The invocation was given by Lanell Landry. Jim Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter Fitzgerald made the motion to approve, as presented, the minutes of the last regular meeting of Thursday, December 7, 2006. The motion was seconded by Bubbie Dupont and it was unanimously approved.

COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT

President Dressel informed the Board that he along with Jim Martin, Mark Graffeo, Hart Bourque, Debbie Hudnall and Randy Zinna met with the Attorney General Foti on February 28th to discuss AG Opinion 06-0114. This opinion, which was released on November 9, 2006, stated that the payment of all or any portion of the employee contribution to the retirement fund would be additional compensation to the Clerk which would be part of the maximum salary. He informed the Board that the group presented the clerks' point of view on the issue. President Dressel thought it was a very good meeting and that the General had agreed to review the opinion and would let us know during the week of March 12th – 16th if there would be any amendments to this opinion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mark Graffeo presented the financial reports for the months of November, December and January which were furnished to each Board member. **(Exhibit 1)** He asked that the Board members review November and December and he would be happy to answer any questions. He reported as of January 31st, 2007, total receipts for the year was \$210,327 with total expenditures of \$226,299 leaving a fund balance of \$199,809 plus \$46,709 in Dues Receivables. Mark further reported on the Legal Fund for the months of November, December and January. **(Exhibit 2)** A motion was made by Ann Johnson to receive the financial Reports. The motion was seconded by Lynn Jones. The motion carried.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE

Debbie Hudnall gave an update to the Board on the amount of the outstanding dues and outstanding legal funds due. Debbie advised the Board that John Hunt reviewed the insurance on the Association office, its operations and activities. He noted that there was a \$500,000 Employee Fidelity/Dishonesty bond on each of the 3 entities and he thought only one bond was necessary and suggested that we ask our auditor. Michelle Cunningham and Randy Zinna both agreed only one bond was necessary. The Board authorized Debbie to make the necessary changes.

Debbie further reported everything was going fine at the Association Office, although the office had been operating shorthanded because of illness in the office. The staff had been working diligently to try to pick up the slack for those absent. She expressed her appreciation to Doug Welborn for sending a member of his staff over to the Association office to help answer telephones when they were shorthanded one day.

BOARD REPORTS

Insurance Trust – Board of Trustees – Jim Martin reported that the State was in the process of dropping some 35,000 state employees from FARA and there was some concern if that would affect the Clerks' insurance. He further reported that President Dressel had appointed a committee to pursue putting the insurance out for bids.

Retirement and Relief Fund – Board of Trustees

President Cliff Dressel reported the following:

1. The fund balance as of 1/31/2007 was \$330 million.
2. The rate of return for 2006 Year was 13.6%.
3. The return on investments for last quarter was \$14.4 million.
4. The return on investments for last year (12 months) was \$37 million.
5. The retirement Board voted to reduce employer contribution from 16.75% to 11.75% effective July 1st, 2007.

Supplemental Compensation Board –Debbie D. Hudnall reported the fund was experience a good year. The total receipts for the fund through January 31, 2007, was \$700,000 and paid out \$658,000 with a balance of \$41,000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

By-Laws Committee – Lynn Jones reported that we will be meeting between now and the State Convention for changes and would be presenting amendments at the convention

Conference Committee – Lynn Jones reported that this was the first time in 25 years that the Clerks had held their State convention in Lake Charles and the Convention Committee was working hard and looking forward to it. He reported that an agenda would be going out in the next week.

Education Committee – Bill Hodge – no report.

Judicial Council – Charlie Jagneaux – no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Debbie Hudnall reported that at the last Board of Director's meeting a motion was made that the Association pay a stipend to Attorney Randy Zinna, for the extra work that he had been performing on behalf of the Clerks, in the amount of \$4,500. This amount was to be shared equally by all 3 boards and each Board would reimburse the Association for the payment. Debbie had asked the Retirement Board to consider reimbursing the Association for 60% of the stipend and the Insurance Trust and Board of Directors to pay 20% each. She informed the Board that The Retirement Board voted to reimburse the Association \$2700 and the Insurance Trust voted to reimburse the Association \$900.00.

Gary Loftin and his Election Deputy Susan reported they had experienced difficulty in the last election tabulation. They found reading the cartridges were now considerably slower and that was with a small ballot. He expressed concern that for the fall election with large ballots it would cause a real problem. He had reported this problem to the Secretary of State's office and he felt the clerks should be aware and be prepared for this problem in the fall elections. Gary asked that Mark Graffeo speak to Angie LaPlace about this issue.

ADJOURNEMENT

Lanell Landry moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Hodge seconded it and the motion was unanimously carried.

DIANE MEAUX BROUSSARD
Secretary

CLIFF DRESSSEL
President