

**LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
June 8, 2007**

**\* M I N U T E S \***

President S. Guy deLaup called to order the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association at 10:35 a.m., Friday, June 8, 2007 in Sandestin, Florida. Business was conducted in accordance with the agenda below.

**Agenda Item 1.      Roll Call**

Present were:

President, S. Guy deLaup  
President-Elect, Elizabeth Erny Foote  
Secretary, Mark A. Cunningham  
Immediate Past President, Marta-Ann Schnabel  
Chair, Young Lawyers Section, Karleen Joseph Green  
First Board District Representative, Ronald J. Sholes  
First Board District Representative, Beth E. Abramson  
Third Board District Representative, Steven G. Durio  
Fourth Board District Representative, John F. Robichaux  
Fifth Board District Representative, James E. Boren  
Sixth Board District Representative, W. Jay Luneau  
Seventh Board District Representative, Carrick B. Inabnett  
Eighth Board District Representative, Donald R. Miller  
At-Large Member, Shannan L. Hicks  
At-Large Member, Walter M. Sanchez  
From the Faculty of Loyola University School of Law, Dane S. Ciolino  
From the Faculty of Southern University School of Law, Russell L. Jones  
From the Louisiana State Law Institute, James J. Davidson III  
House of Delegates Liaison Chair, Richard L. Becker  
House of Delegates Liaison Member, Jack K. Whitehead, Jr.

Also present were:

Executive Director, Loretta Larsen  
Access to Justice Director, Monte T. Mollere  
Communications Director, Brooke K. Monaco  
Director of Professional Programs, Cheri Cotogno Grodsky  
Executive Assistant, Ramona K. Meyers

Absent were:

Treasurer, James R. Nieset  
Second Board District Representative, Joseph A. Conino  
At-Large Member, Kelly M. Legier  
House of Delegates Liaison Member, Jeffrey A. Riggs

**Consent Calendar**

The following items were included on the Consent Calendar and moved for approval without discussion and/or debate and unanimously approved.

2. Bank Resolutions.  
Resolutions covering all accounts of the Association requiring that all checks be signed by Treasurer James R. Nieset or Assistant Treasurer Loretta Larsen, and countersigned by one member of the Board were circulated for signatures by the designated members.
3. Presidential Authority.  
The Board, acting in accordance with the Charter, authorized President deLaup to make committee appointments as required during his term of office and also to create such special committees and/or task forces he deems necessary and proper.

**Agenda Item 4.        Consideration of Any Items(s) Removed from Consent Calendar**

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion/debate.

**Agenda Item 5.        House of Delegates**

The Board unanimously approved the actions taken by the House of Delegates at its meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2007.

**Agenda Item 6.        Election Procedures 2007/2008**

Ms. Larsen presented two options by which the 2007/2008 elections could be conducted: Option 1) qualifying forms would be printed and mailed to the membership and ballots would be printed and mailed with the option of returning the ballot via regular mail or by voting online; and Option 2) qualifying forms would be printed and mailed to the membership with ballots available online only. Mr. Luneau moved to adopt Option 2, to mail the qualifying announcement to all members of the Association with notice that balloting would be conducted online only. The motion was seconded and Ms. Schnabel moved to amend the motion to include an additional postcard mailing reminding members that voting would be conducted online only with instructions on accessing ballots online. The additional mailing would apply to the primary election only. The amendment was seconded and the motion as amended was adopted by a vote of 12 in favor, 8 against. Ms. Larsen stated that the qualifying mailing would include language encouraging members to provide email addresses to the LSBA if they have not already done so. Further, announcements regarding elections would be included in the *Louisiana Bar Journal*, "Bar Briefs" and Louisiana Bar Today.

**Agenda Item 7. Group Insurance Committee**

Ms. Foote presented the report of the Group Insurance Committee, which included the following recommendations that were approved by the Board:

- ◆ A 16.5% overall rate increase for the medical plan, effective August 1, 2007. This is due to the surge in loss ratio from 77.5% last renewal period to a 98% this period;
- ◆ Move all individual insureds and firms with a loss ratio of over 100% to the next, more expensive tier. This keeps the tiers current and fair in light of past practices; and
- ◆ Add a new marketing tier for the HSA plan which should keep the LSBA competitive with commercial carriers in the marketplace and enable the LSBA to continue to attract healthy insureds.

**Agenda Item 8. Board of Governors Statements Confirming LSBA Policies**

The Board reviewed and took the following action on statements confirming LSBA policies:

- a. Antitrust Avoidance  
Voted to review and possibly revise statement for consideration at the August meeting.
- b. Confidentiality  
Unanimously approved and signed statement.
- c. Conflict of Interest  
Unanimously approved and signed statement.

**Agenda Item 9. Budget Committee Election**

Mr. Sanchez was unanimously elected by the Board to serve as its representative to the Budget Committee for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

**Agenda Item 10. Consideration of 2007/2008 Budget**

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ms. Larsen presented an overview of the proposed budget for FY 2007-2008. Following discussion of several line items, a motion was made by Mr. Robichaux to decrease the Diversity Program expense from \$75,000 to \$35,000. The motion was seconded and defeated. Following additional discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented. The motion was adopted with Mr. Miller opposed.

**Agenda Item 11. Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization**

The Board of Governors considered suggestions submitted by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization for recommending appointment to the Supreme Court. A motion was made by Mr. Miller to defer action on the recommendations and authorize the president, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, to make the appointments at his discretion. The motion was adopted.

**Agenda Item 12. Committee on Bar Admissions**

The Board of Governors unanimously approved recommending Kelly M. Legier to the Supreme Court for its consideration of appointment to succeed Hon. Piper D. Griffin as examiner for Constitutional Law on the Committee on Bar Admissions.

**Agenda Item 13. Organizational Review/Planning**

- a. Bar Association Operational Survey  
Mr. deLaup informed the Board that the ABA Division for Bar Services sent surveys to the Board, House of Delegates, committee and section chairs, past presidents and staff in advance of the on site interviews scheduled June 14 & 15. At that time, the team will conduct interviews with all staff and some officers, with telephone interviews conducted with additional Board members and select section and committee chairs. The team will submit their findings and recommendations prior to the September strategic planning retreat.
- b. Strategic Planning Retreat  
Mr. deLaup presented preliminary plans for the Board's retreat scheduled September 15 & 16 in Springfield, Louisiana.

**Agenda Item 14. Report of the President**

- a. Leadership LSBA 2007/2008  
President deLaup informed the Board that he would be selecting members of the 2007/2008 Leadership LSBA Class and asked Board members to contact him with candidates.
- b. 2007/2008 Midyear Meeting  
President deLaup informed the Board that the Midyear Meeting would be held January 11 & 12, 2008 at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans.
- c. 2008 Annual Meeting  
President deLaup reported the 2008 Annual Meeting would be held June 11-13 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Sandestin, Florida.

- d. Committee Appointments  
President deLaup informed the Board that he was in the process of appointing all committees.
- e. Appointment of Board of Governors Liaisons to Committees  
President deLaup circulated a committee list and asked each Board member to select at least one committee to serve on as Board Liaison.
- f. August 2007 Meeting  
President deLaup reported the next meeting would be held on Saturday, August 25 in New Orleans. Information on the meeting will be emailed to all members in July.
- g. Local Outreach  
President deLaup informed the Board that a major initiative of his term would be outreach to local bar associations to educate them on the member benefits offered by the LSBA and to solicit their input as to what the LSBA could do to support their efforts. He encouraged the District Representatives to contact the local bar associations in their districts and report to the Board at each meeting.

**Agenda Item 15. Report of the President-Elect**

- a. 2009 Annual Meeting  
Ms. Foote informed the Board that she would make a decision on the location of the 2009 Annual Meeting in the fall and stated that it was likely the meeting would not return to the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. She stated that the Judicial College had indicated they may not return to the resort and she felt it was in the best interest of the Association to continue to hold the Annual Meeting at the same location as the Judicial College. She stated that a committee would be formed and that a survey would be conducted to obtain member input regarding possible meeting locations.

**Agenda Item 16. Report of the Secretary**

Mr. Cunningham stated the transition from the 2006/2007 Editorial Board to the current Board had been smooth and he was looking forward to his term as LSBA Secretary.

**Agenda Item 17. Report of the Treasurer**

In the absence of the Treasurer, no report was given.

**Agenda Item 18. Report of the Immediate Past President**

Ms. Schnabel presented no report at this time.

**Agenda Item 19. Report of the Young Lawyers Section**

Ms. Green reported on the “Barristers for Boards” and “Wills for Heroes” programs as well as the Mock Trial competition. She stated that the Young Lawyers Section was joining with the LCLCE program to revitalize the Mock Trial programs in Lake Charles and Alexandria in an effort to encourage lawyer and student participation in the program.

**Agenda Item 20. Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Larsen reminded the Board of its special password protected area of the LSBA web site, stating that she would forward the login information to the Board and be available to answer any questions the Board may have regarding this area of the web site.

Ms. Larsen reported that Jessica Cassioppi accepted the position of Program Coordinator and would be responsible for meeting planning and other special events/projects. Further, Corey Carter accepted the position of Operations Coordinator and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Louisiana Bar Center.

**Agenda Item 21. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Mark A. Cunningham, Secretary

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Date