

LOUISIANA COURT ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
SPRING CONFERENCE MEETING

MINUTES

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1999

A meeting of the Louisiana Court Administrators Association was held on this date in the Maple Room at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mary Rome, President, at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Those members in attendance were:

Mary Rome, President
Suzanne Stinson, Secretary-Treasurer
Sara Andrews
Cliff Berry
Ronnie Bullion
Donna T. Carter
Dr. Hugh M. Collins
Barbara P. Coulon
Ted Cox
Rose Marie DiVincenti
Melissa R. Easley
Millie C. Ezernack
Cynthia R. Gaudin
Tina LeMaire
Delora Lovejoy
Fay D. Markham
Anna L. Paxton
Diana Pratt-Wyatt
Stephanie Richardson
Carla Smith
Elizabeth Stogner
Ronnie W. Stritzinger
Robert G. Tyler
Richard Williams
Bobby L. Wilson

President Rome introduced two new members and presented certificates to Tina LeMaire and Carla Smith. President Rome asked Ms. Melissa Easley to give the invocation.

President Rome welcomed the attendees. Those in attendance introduced themselves and which court they represent.

President Rome moved to the first order of business, which was the approval of the minutes from the fall meeting held on October 5, 1998. Richard Williams moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. The correction was made that Susan Stenson be amended to read Suzanne Stinson. Bob Tyler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Treasurer's report. Secretary-Treasurer Suzanne Stinson gave the report. Melissa Easley moved and Richard Williams seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted.

President Rome called on Ronald Stritzinger for the CMIS report in the stead of Chris Andrieu. Mr. Stritzinger explained Mr. Andrieu's absence due to making presentations to courts and district attorneys on the final draft of the protective order forms and getting them started on a schedule for the use of the forms. Presently you cannot rely totally on the repository because of a built-in delay when the forms are first signed by the judge. It may be the next business day before it is logged with the Supreme Court. In essence, protective orders may be in existence before they are in the computer. The actual paperwork then will be honored. Everyone was invited to participate in training sessions being offered by the Supreme Court in different regions statewide. Patsy Taylor of the Supreme Court can be contacted for verification of dates and places.

Mr. Stritzinger also reported that CMIS has also in the last four years attempted to get all the district courts on board with their criminal filings and dispositions. To date there are forty (40) district courts that are sending filing information. Of those 40, only 18 are sending regular disposition information. There is one city court sending information on fines and dispositions daily.

Mr. Stritzinger stated that the Supreme Court is in the process of using a federal grant to implement an infrastructure for communications network for the courts statewide. Initially it will be for the district courts based on a grant that was obtained to be able to send sexual predator information to the Supreme Court and then back to the state police and corrections.

Mr. Stritzinger is also working on getting information to the drug courts. The intent is for treatment centers to be

evaluated so that drug courts would be handling drug treatment uniformly statewide.

President Rome moved to the matter under Old Business, NACM. President Rome stated that the membership had last year agreed to send and cover the expenses for the president and the vice-president to attend the national conference. Past-President Parisi attended the conference last year. President Rome is unable to attend the conference this year because of the fiscal operations in her court during that period. Richard Williams moved that the association sponsor the president and the vice-president to attend NACM this summer. President Rome reminded the membership that she would not be able to attend. Richard Williams amended the motion to send two officers, the vice-president and secretary, to NACM. Bob Tyler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

President Rome asked if there were any other matters under Old Business. Richard Williams announced that there were still monies appropriated by the legislature for FINS that had not yet been disbursed. Suzanne Stinson indicated that those monies had been disbursed. Bobby Wilson stated that some of those monies are to be used for computers for the FINS Program.

President Rome moved to the first item under New Business, the hospitality room. Because Mickey Skyring had done the hospitality room at all of the conferences in the past, President Rome agreed for him to do it for this conference, per his request. Cliff Berry moved that Mickey Skyring continue to do the hospitality room; Bob Tyler seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

President Rome shared with the membership that the Louisiana Court Administrators Association is responsible at each spring conference to sponsor a presentation to the judges. Billie Bennett of the Louisiana Judicial College indicated that the LCAA selects a topic and passes the proposed topic before the Judicial College for approval. We were not responsible this year for a topic because the American Bar Association sponsored a full-day program. Cliff Berry and Ronnie Stritzinger discussed what was done in the past in the selection of topics, which included court reporters, court call, and court technology. President Rome asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to come up with a topic for the Judicial College's approval, and making all necessary arrangements for the presentation. The committee members are: Anna Paxton; Bob

Tyler, chairman; Tim Palmatier; Diana Pratt-Wyatt; and Carla Smith.

Dr. Hugh Collins suggested that if we run out of topics, NACM has developed a curriculum for court administrators. President Rome suggested other topics, including how to deal with the news media and disaster recovery. Ronnie Stritzinger stated that it is very important that whatever topic is selected that it be something that would be accepted and attended by the judges. Anna Paxton suggested that we go to our judges to see what their interests are and what they would like to see addressed.

President Rome received a telephone call from Tim Palmatier before the meeting regarding the association's by-laws. Mr. Palmatier suggested to President Rome that a committee be appointed to study our by-laws. Rose Marie DiVincenti is to obtain a copy of the current by-laws and send to Suzanne Stinson to disseminate to the membership. The following members were appointed to the committee to study the by-laws: Timothy Palmatier, chairman; Richard Williams; and Rose Marie DiVincenti. The committee is to make their report at the fall meeting.

President Rome asked if there were any other matters to be brought up under new business. Bob Tyler asked to re-address the matter of continuing education for court administrators. Because nothing has been resolved to date, Mr. Tyler suggested that a new committee be appointed. Rose Marie DiVincenti shared her last recollection of the continuing education topic was that this idea was submitted to the Supreme Court. Dr. Collins indicated that this was then submitted to the Judicial Council, but there has been no response to date, and he suggests we go forth with this endeavor. Bob Tyler moved that a new committee be appointed; Delora Lovejoy seconded the motion. Ronnie Stritzinger indicated that Mickey Skyring attended the Texas Court Administrators conference, and that Mr. Skyring at that time suggested that we adopt a similar requirement and structure. The following members were appointed to this committee: Bob Tyler, chairman; Bobby Wilson; Suzanne Stinson; Anna Paxton; and Donna Carter. Motion carried unanimously.

Having no other business come before the association, Richard Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned; Cliff Berry seconded. Motion carried.