

# Louisiana Association of Secretaries to Chiefs of Police

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*April 26, 2024, Baton Rouge, LA | Spring Conference Business Meeting Minutes*

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## Board Members in Attendance

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President Danielle Mitchel; Vice President Mary Walls; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Kecia Hamilton; Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Harbison, and Sgt. At Arms Tina Landry.

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## Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer

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Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Sgt. At Arms Tina Landry.

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## Host Welcome

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President Mitchel welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for supporting her and all their help during the conference.

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## Introduction of New Members

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The New Member Ceremony was held after conference registration on Wednesday, April 24th. Our new members are Courtney Graves of Covington PD; Michelle McDonald of Pearl River PD; Melisa Guice of West Monroe PD; Latecial Autmon of Roseland PD; Marie Kreutzer of Springfield PD; Patrice Mocsary of Springfield PD; Sandra Gooden of Alexandria PD; Janine Rayburn from Village of Forrest Hill PD; Rita Thomas of Fenton PD; We also welcomed back two members Ashley Borner of Greenwood PD and Aundrea Jones of Arcadia PD.

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## Special Presentations

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President Mitchel presented the Vera Thomasse/Pat Landry Scholarship to this year's recipient, Ty Nerren. Ty is the son of Chief Guy Nerren of Maurice PD.

The non-profit donation was presented to Shea Williams of Coach Shea's Boat Camp.

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## Minutes/Finance Report

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A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from Fall Conference 2023 by Sandy Perrin and motion was seconded by Tina Landry. All were in favor, motion passed.

Finance Reports for both the checking and savings accounts were emailed prior to the conference. President Mitchel asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns with the reports. A motion was made by Laura Kent and a second was made by Lorrie Johnson, to accept the finance reports. All were in favor and the motion passed. In addition, the CD accounts were addressed to have a decision voted upon by the membership whether to continue rolling the CD over with all funds earned or to withdraw the money at any time. The membership voted to continue rolling the CD with the funds that are earned each renewal time and to choose the best rate. The Financial Officer Stephanie Bercegeay and Treasurer Harbison will report back to the Board with each renewal. Next renewal will be June 13, 2024.

The Flower -Retiree fund report was emailed and posted to the password protected area of the website prior to the conference. The report was discussed, and the membership was made aware of the negative balance due to several purchases and the ordering of retirement blankets. The membership started making donations to the fund and a total of \$625 was collected putting the flower/retirement fund at a positive balance of \$177.41

moving forward. The report will be updated to show the deposit and balance and will be posted on the report section of the website.

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## Committee Reports

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- **Ways and Means** – Chairwoman Mary Walls reported that the LA T-shirt sale had a profit of \$678.15. There was a donation from member Nona Broussard of \$300 from a garage sale she personally held. 78 shirts were sold of which 25 members purchased 1 shirt only, 9 members purchased 2 to 5 shirts and only 2 members sold multiple shirts. Some members did not know we were selling to the public, so we will take another order for shirts, and we can ship the shirts for \$5 each or pick them up at the Fall Conference. This was agreed on by all.
- **Membership** – Tina Landry reported that she sent 201 direct emails to the chiefs, but the response was small. We did, however, receive several new members from this effort, and we had several new members present. The new members were listed at the beginning of the minutes.
- **Scholarship** – President Mitchel shared information about the annual scholarship and how to apply for benefit of the new membership.
- **Publicity/Historian Reports** – Chairwoman Sandy Harbison shared with membership that there is a general suggestions/comment form to be filled out on the website in reference to what you would like to see at future conferences or to give feedback on this conference. She asked that members please fill out at your leisure. There are also other forms that membership can take part in by telling us about yourself or the festivals in your town/city.  
Tina Landry also stated that she is working on a piece to be submitted to a police magazine or other law enforcement magazines. The Board will approve the article before it is submitted and published.
- **Legislative** – Chairwoman Tina Landry will advise Secretary Harbison when to send emails with any updates from legislative actions due to the number of things that are being discussed at this time. We encourage everyone to contact their legislators and express concern about the bills that are under discussion.
- **Retirement** – Chairwoman Beverly Stewart reports that there are eight (8) bills in consideration right now. Two are directly related to police and one is state retirement program so it may or may not be directly affecting police. House Bill 42 proposed changes to be eligible for membership in the retirement systems for persons hired after January 20, 2025. It also proposes to make changes to contribution rates for both employees and employers, modify how retirement benefits are calculated; make adjustments to age and service requirements for retirement eligibility and change how benefits are provided to survivors of deceased members.  
House Bill 52 is trying to move any legal actions from East BR Parish to District Court.  
There is legislation proposed to extend the maximum DROP period from 3 years to 5 years.  
There is a bill addressing the rehiring of retirees and re-employment of police officers. We might want to contact our representatives and congressmen.  
[Home Page | MPERS Municipal Police Employees Retirement System \(lampers.org\)](#) this is also posted in our Facebook page.

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## Old Business

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- **Current Secretary Pay** – Last April, LASCPC voted to pay Sandy Harbison a fee of \$800 a month until this conference. The item was tabled for later discussion and see where we are financially to continue paying or not. Sandy did share that she was supposed to receive a total of \$9600 this past year but she did keep track of her hours and looked at everything she would do and some months she collected a lower amount. Total paid to Sandy since last April 2023 was \$6700 instead. The Board is asking to continue paying Sandy Harbison a salary of \$500 per month for another year and then re-address next April according to our financial reports. The Executive Board presented to all members present, and all were in favor.
- **Training at Fall Conference** - The training has been an issue in the past due to the time frame that the conference is held. The Fall Conference is only Thursday afternoon until Friday for the business meeting. The Board needs clarification to be sure that the membership is aware if we do start earlier in the morning for Fall Conference, your Board and some members will have to travel and arrive the day before and then with registration during the lunch hour we will need to provide lunch. A motion was made by Jenelle Graham that the fall conference begins at 11:00AM and then have training from 1:30PM until 2:30PM, then break before dinner. The host can plan some type of entertainment if time permits, with lunch being served as a small meal, sandwiches, or anything we can get donated. Ashley Borner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all were in favor. This will be added to the policy manual. The Fall Conference will consist of 1 hour training and begin at 11AM on Thursday.

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## New Business

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- **CPA** – LASCPC received a letter of disengagement from the CPA office of Hanna Bourgeois. If anyone knows of a CPA, they were asked to please send their name, and contact information to Sandy and she would speak with the CPA to discuss what we need in a CPA to see if they would like to be hired. Nell Pepitone said she knows someone and will follow up with this person then let Sandy know.
- The N-990 card has been filed for now, but we do need to find a new CPA.

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## Floor Open for Discussion from Membership

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- Dress Attire/Shorts – discussion on the floor – a motion was made by Tina Landry for a dress code to be put into policy that no shorts are allowed to be worn during conferences. Jeans are allowed any day except Friday. Friday your solid color LACP (or department if you do not have LASCPC). Polo with skirts, slacks, capris. Motion was seconded by Becky Hayes and all in favor. An update to the policy manual will follow.
- Door Prizes – reminder to all members that door prizes must be a minimum of \$25 spent. Please be thoughtful of what you bring as a door prize.
- The Spring 50-50 raffle tickets are ready to be handed out and will be sold until Chief's Conference where the winner will be drawn. The Chief's Conference is July 15, 2024.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coins were handed out from last Spring Conference.

- Laura Kent from Ruston asked if we could share the festivals on our Facebook page. There is a form for sharing festivals in your town on our website.
- There is also a form to share any ideas you may have for future conferences fun and games or networking ideas.

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## Election of Officers - held on Thursday April 25, 2024

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- **Sgt at Arms** – Ashley Borner, Greenwood PD was nominated by Sandy Harbison for the position of Sgt at Arms and accepted. Melisa Guice, West Monroe, was nominated by Laura Kent and accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations, the two nominated members were asked to step out of the room and the votes were cast by a show of hands and the newly elected Sgt. at Arms was Ashley Borner. The votes were Ashley Borner 23 to Melisa Guice 6.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Tina Landry, Scott PD was nominated for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and accepted. There were no other nominations, and the nomination was accepted, and all were in favor.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Kecia Hamilton, Monroe PD, was nominated for the position of 1st Vice President and accepted. There were no other nominations, and the nomination was accepted, and all were in favor.
- **President** – Mary Walls, Plaquemine PD, was nominated for the position of President and accepted. There were no other nominations, and the nomination was accepted, and all were in favor.

The Swearing in of the officers were officiated by Chief of Brusly Police Department, Jamie Whaley.

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## Appointment of Committees for 2024 – 2025

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President Mary Wall's committees will be:

- **Membership Committee** – Sgt at Arms will serve as Chairperson of this committee. The chairperson will touch base with members who served prior to remain on committee which were Tina Landry, Denise Champagne, Laura Broussard, and Heather Fontenot.
- **Ways and Means Committee** – Vice President will serve as Chairperson of this committee and the chairperson will touch base with members who served prior to remain on committee which were Deborah Till, Sherry Clark, and Judy Kramer.
- **Scholarship Committee** – The policy now reads that the President will be the Chairperson of this committee, and the President will ask for three volunteers of her surrounding secretaries to assist her in finding a recipient that fits the criteria of scholarship. President Walls will make contact as the need arises for help in seeking a recipient in the Plaquemine area.

President Walls then ask for a volunteer host the Fall Conference – Ashley Borner of Greenwood Police Department will host.

Minutes taken and prepared by Sandy Harbison