

Louisiana CURE

Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020

Participating (17): Francis Abbott, Charlie Sullivan, Checo Yancy, Kelly Garrett, Jay Jackson, Peggy Scott, Kristen Antoine-Morse, Kevin Harris, Dan Krutz, Marianne Fisher Giolando, Shametria Gonzales, Avis Henderson, Jacquelyn Germany, Sharon Williams, Linda Fjeldsjo, Betty Carter, Michael Naquin

The meeting opened and CURE Founder, Charlie Sullivan was in attendance and was asked to say a few words to everyone attending. He thanked President Checo Yancy and acknowledged the hard work by the members of the Louisiana CURE Chapter.

Vice President Kelly Garrett followed and asked everyone participating to introduce themselves and then she introduced our guest speaker for the meeting, Francis Abbott, the Executive Director of the Louisiana Pardon and Parole Board.

Mr. Abbott began by talking about the advances the board has made utilizing technology. Many things have been transferred to digital – helping to eliminate boxes and boxes of paper files to be brought to hearings. He also talked about the use of video technology at Pardon & Parole hearings and how it's now easier for more people to participate. He also explained that it is now possible to get a more accurate time of when scheduled hearings will occur during the day.

Because of untimely delays with the COVID-19, the La. District Attorneys agreed to waive the 60-day notices to help get the scheduled hearings back on track.

Mr. Abbott explained that 3 people can be scheduled to speak for each side at a hearing. Letters and comments can be sent in and he said that the board members DO read what comes in – as long as it is received in a timely manner before the scheduled hearing.

Mr. Abbott mentioned that the make-up of the board has seen dramatic changes over the last 10-15 years. Qualifications are more stringent and backgrounds in criminal justice are required. Louisiana and ten other states have an accredited board – ACA certified. He mentioned that the Pardon & Parole Boards meet over 150 times a year.

As for pardons and clemencies, Mr. Abbott said that the Governor must feel as close to being 100% sure before he signs. He has noticed that recently, more pardons and clemencies are being signed. More info about the Pardon and Parole Boards can be read from the La. CURE website.

Other business: Kelly Garrett was elected as Vice President and Linda Fjeldsjo was elected as Treasurer. Each of those elected offices are 2-year terms. Checo reminded everyone to fill out the Census forms.

The meeting ended with a moment of silence and the next ZOOM meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jay Jackson
Secretary