Randolph Sheppard

Quarterly Meeting

June 10th, 2022

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order. Everybody here? All right. Roll call. Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune, Baton Rouge.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmer, Shreveport.

DON ARABIE: Don Arabie, Alexandria.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Frank Gaffney, elected chairman.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Tony McGuire is here.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, he's not‑‑

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He's not yet. Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. It might be good to point out we don't have a quorum at this point. We need four members, and we only have three. Not going to be able to vote on anything.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Can't vote. But we have to have it, so we have to put it in the minutes. Okay. Welcome by Frank Gaffney. Like to welcome everybody. I got one little thing to say. I'd like to thank Michelle. I had a problem I needed to get into the vending program, where our checks come from. People sent our checks and come to the wrong address. Not to Randolph Sheppard. Had the wrong address because whoever that department is had the wrong address. And she took the time and got me all in and everything. And now we got it set up that I believe Michelle would be checking everybody's account to make sure that that department has everybody's correct address. Is that right, Michelle?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. We are sending out and talking with managers to make sure they're okay with the information that I got to send to get usernames and passwords reset.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So what she's talking about is lagov which is where all the checks come from. W‑9s come from. So Chauntey can change your mailing address on the bid letters. But any kind of change like that has to go through the lagov website. Michelle has been instrumental on setting people up on that website. It's not easy to do. But we need people's permission for her to go in there and make sure the address is correct. RSMA's calling. Paul called all these people yesterday.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So once we get everybody approved then what I'll do is I have to send it to lagov to Crystal and she's going to reset everyone's password and give me everybody's username. And so when Chauntey gets the stipend paperwork I'll be able to verify each person. And if it's a different address then I can make changes in their system to where your check goes now to your new address.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If that's the problem we had it's just not the same address.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Correct.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And to change that you have to go into the system and physically change it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'd like to thank Michelle for getting that started for us. All right. Next thing is remarks by Steve.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'll jump on the thanking Michelle bandwagon. If the RSMAs call, we just want to make sure that we have the information. Like Paul said, everybody's been (inaudible). And Sam just sent an email saying please do. The stipend, Chauntey did send out the stipend paperwork. Unfortunately, they didn't have a return envelope. I told all the RSMAs to call and let you know that, the address to mail them back to. But you need to get your own stamp and your own envelope. We can't provide one to you. To get that 2500 bucks you need to mail it back.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Unless you brought it today, you can give it to us.

DON ARABIE: That's what I told Paul. He said give me the address. I said you don't need to, Paul. Hand deliver.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: You can hand deliver.

KEVIN MONK: It will get here faster that way.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Speaking of today, it's the first time we've done an in‑person meeting in, I guess, about two and a half years. You do get your mileage for driving over here. But we have to fill out the proper paperwork. So do that before we leave today cause I need to sign that. And we'll have to give it to Chauntey to process. You stayed overnight, Frank. And I think Emma did too. Did anybody else stay overnight?

EMMA PALMER: I did. Emma.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He said you. He said Emma. This is what, three months past three years.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Two years.

FRANK GAFFNEY: March 13th, 19.

SPEAKER: Oh, wow. Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: No. It was 2020. It was the day before the governor shut everything down with the kids in school.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That wasn't a bad year.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It was for me.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And kind of brings me to where we are as far as Covid. You know, back in those days we didn't know what was going to happen. I look at the department website every day when the numbers come out. It's not looking good. Particularly in my neck of the woods. New Orleans has been doing better than most. But right now it's very high positivity rate. Yesterday there was 1759 cases and four people died. 288 people. 266 in the hospital. But the positivity is what gets me. Right now statewide the positivity rate, you know, you test ten people 9.3 are positive. But they update that every two weeks. So one category says 13 percent positivity. Which it's as high as it's ever been right before it jumped into that last Omicron wave we had. Statewide positivity rate right now is 13.3 percent. On March 7th it was .7. I mean, March 31st. Doesn't take long for it to go up. I don't see a lot of people wearing masks. So it's going to continue to affect business and employees.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: At least the ones who do test positive it's not really bad. They're not really sick as much as they used to be.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, depends on who you talk to. They've had 17,355 Louisianians die since it started. And four people died yesterday. Particularly tough on old folks. This one is. Omicron. Even for vaccinated people, a rough time. Just be mindful of that. It will affect the buildings. Michelle can fill us in. We're going to go over the numbers a little later on. Still have a lot of state employees working from home. Department of Health is only coming in one day a week.

DON ARABIE: Steve, they're also saying that those numbers may not be correct because of the fact a lot of people are getting the home test and it's not being reported.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, actually, I tested myself yesterday before I came up here. And if you go, I think it's covidtest.gov. They'll send you, they sent me eight. I've gotten, I think over time I think I've gotten 16 tests from them. So I test myself from time to time because I don't want to be the guy walking around spreading Covid. Plus I want to make sure I don't have it. But I don't report that either. These are tests that people go to get a PCR test. But also New Orleans has had a national guard one ever since Covid started, but they did away with that. There are testing sites you have to go to. But if they said they tested 100 people. A lot of the people tested themselves at home and didn't report those numbers.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Is that the same thing as the rapid test, the home kit?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. It's called antigen test. Basically you swab yourself. You mix a little chemical. Almost like a birth, pregnancy test. Drop it in. Put a timer on 15 minutes. Come back and tell you whether it's negative or positive. You don't get a lot of false negatives. It's pretty good. But it's not totally accurate. But if you were to get a positive test there, the PCR test. Which is the one the doctor will take and that will be sent off to the lab. A little more detail. But both my daughters have it. When they took the antigen test, you know. Like I waited 15 minutes to see. If you're positive they said both of them, 30 seconds showed they were positive. They are accurate. They're good to have. Good to check yourself from time to time. If you like sticking something up your nose and your eyes water. But it's good to know.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Some information on this, on the NFB meeting. They're requiring a current test.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They are?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. So how do you go about getting that? I've never had to go get one of those.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. I actually listened in beginning in June to the president when he spoke. And you can actually do the rapid test and you have to take pictures. They will accept that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I can't believe that because there's no name or nothing on it.

TONY MCGEE: I think some of them you can fill out something online and take a picture.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: While you're taking it at the same time.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, counting good will people not to show up.

KEVIN MONK: I had a conversation with Pam Allen about that very subject. And I know they will accept like a PCR test or something that was done by your doctor. But she told me it was her understanding there was going to be testing onsite as well.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. But you're going to have to wait. It could be a line.

SPEAKER: Right.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: CVS will do it too. You can go to CVS, Wal‑Greens. Any of your pharmacies.

BARBARA: If you're on Medicaid they're giving out free ones. All you have to do is call the social security office.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Do they give you any kind of timeframe? A negative test within three days.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's seventy‑two hours.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. It doesn't take long. I think when I had to take mine‑‑

FRANK GAFFNEY: Like me I got the day before or whatever. So that's 24 hours right there. So if I can get down there to wait to get it then I got to find a place to get it. Then if I can get it back in time.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. I don't know if they do a 24‑hour turnaround.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, I'm on the Department of Health website right now and they have a list of testing sites you can go to. Wal‑Greens is a testing site. I think you can get tested for free.

KEVIN MONK: But don't you have to report symptoms whenever you do that? If you're having symptoms. Will they just test you to walk in hey, I'm okay. I just need a test.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I was just curious with these rules. I didn't want to get down there and they wouldn't let me in the convention.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Once you prove that you have a negative test, they can give you an orange ban to go on your arm.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We have nothing to do with that event.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I just thought y'all knew.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: If anyone is here is going, they need to know what the protocol is.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I live in New Orleans, and we have a lot of cruise ships. So I was driving, was actually close to the hotel. They have a couple storefronts, that's what they do. They do testing for cruise ship passengers that may need a test. So they have a rapid test, and they also have the PCR test. So I don't know if they take, and they say came into ABC testing center and give you a piece of paper. But they do actually have businesses that do that in New Orleans at this point. But then they're probably going to charge you for that. The state provides free sites. You know, I used to go to the national guard over there. But like I said, they rolled it up at the end of last month. There's a complete list of sites here. I think Wal‑Greens is one.

TONY MCGEE: Mr. Steve, I was just asking my dad, they were on a cruise about a month ago and they had to do the same thing. And he said Wal‑Greens does do that.

TEDDY MCGEE: In fact, my wife scheduled the appointment on the internet.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: How long did it take to get your results back?

TEDDY MCGEE: Maybe a day. It was quick. I'd say a day at the most.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That would be what we call a PCR test which is the more detailed one. People prefer that over the antigen rapid test. I'll check Wal‑Greens. There's a Wal‑Greens on Canal Street. You could drive all the way down here. Well, you want to get tested before.

FRANK GAFFNEY: How long does it take to get the results?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He said it took him maybe 24‑hours, a day.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: On the safe side. You know, back in the early days it would take a week.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would be pushing it close if I get a test on the day before I was going to leave and then drive down.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They usually email you the results. So if you check your email.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That would be fine. Okay. All of mine went at the VA.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They can probably do the same thing.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, now they won't do it unless you're feeling symptoms.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. All right. That's it for me as far as opening statements. On the agenda we have update on location and equipment and managers and stuff. We'll talk about that when we get down there. Right now, thanks everyone for coming. Turn it over to Kevin Monk, blind services executive director.

KEVIN MONK: Good morning, everybody. Finally good to see everybody after a little over two years in‑person. I kind of enjoy coming to meetings and not doing by Zoom. I know Zoom is certainly convenient for a lot of folks, so you don't have to travel. But it's good to be here in‑person. And that being said, since it's been a little over two years, we may be a little bit rusty on site as far as agendas and things that we're running around at the last minute trying to make sure we're getting. And so we'll work out the bugs and we'll have everything right for the next meeting. Hopefully it's right for this one. But if not, we'll certainly fix it for the next in‑person meeting.

That being said, I know there's a lot of talk around the whole equipment supply issue as it relates to the program. Us being able to repair, quote unquote, supplies. We have sent an email to the Rehabilitation Services Administration requesting technical assistance. We've sent it to three people at RSA. We've sent it to Jim Doyle who's our state VR contact. We sent it to Craig McManus who is the fiscal contact for Louisiana. And we sent it to Christine Grassman who is the Randolph Sheppard contact for Louisiana. They have gotten back to us. They hope to have something as soon as next week. Craig and Jim were out in another state this week doing some monitoring. We could have had it sooner. It could be as soon as next week that we hear something from them because they're going to have to put their heads together and help us figure this out as it pertains to equipment and supplies. And the thing is equipment is any tangible property that cost over 5,000‑dollars and has a useable life of one year or more. Everything else is considered to be a supply. Of course there's another piece to the definition of equipment. And that is whatever the state's capitalization threshold is. Well, when you dig into the state rules and the state regs we don't have, it's not as plain to see as that. We consider something an asset when it cost a thousand dollars. But an asset is not necessarily equipment. And so we just need some help, need some clarification and hopefully that's on the way so we can hopefully buy these credit card readers and fix sandwich tables and everything else. I mean, I know that the credit card readers are an issue and possibly become a bigger issue as time ticks on. I know that as locations open up, you're going to have managers that, you know, maybe they haven't used a sandwich table for a year and half or two years. They're going to have problems with things. Just the nature of the beast, so to speak. And we want to be able to do that. And so we reached out to RSA for some guidance. At this point we are having regular meetings with legal. And so we do have some updates on some locations. Steve and I met with John, our attorney, about two weeks ago. So we're having meetings approximately every two weeks. So hopefully we can start making some progress and get some movement on some of these issues we've been working on over the last period of time. That's all I have.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Says introduction of LWC staff.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It went from black to white to white to black.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'll take over. We have Michelle Duncan and Chauntey Carter representing the LWC, OWD, LRS, blind services/Randolph Sheppard staff here in the house today. And then introduction of guests. Tony, introduce yourself.

TONY MCGEE: Tony McGee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Who are you here with?

TONY MCGEE: My dad, Teddy McGee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey, dad. Welcome. Barbara, you here?

BARBARA: Right here.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Thanks for coming out. And this young man behind us.

MATTHEW: Matthew.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Matthew, Frank's grandson. I'm thinking driver of the van as well.

SPEAKER: Good chance.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And this is the guests we have. Of course, we always have Lynsey with us. Pretty good at identifying voices, but, you know, doesn't hurt to give a shoutout who you are when you speak. Go to Frank and look at, you know, when he gets to review it, come back and remember what you said. That's it for the guests.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I listen to the meetings.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I know you do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Review of the agenda. I'm glad you said I read it. Shelly looks at it. I read it. Listen to it. Like we always say, it's word for word. You can't miss a thing. If you want to get it, anyone who wants it, we will gladly send it to you. Just give me a call, or your RSMA, or whoever and request it and we'll get it emailed to you.

STEVE DEBRUHL: In an accessible form.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. With me I get it where I can listen to it. Okay. Approval and corrections of minutes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: For the last meeting in March. Did you read those, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Or listen to them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yep.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Kevin just pointed out we can't vote.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We can't vote. All right. And this will be discussions. Start with old business. Okay. Fort Polk, Barksdale, Belle Chasse, vending locations by RSMA's locations, inventory forgiveness, vacation pay, stipend. All the above.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, might be better if we broke them out a little bit here. Military bases, Fort Polk, Barksdale, Belle Chasse. One thing we had put together a letter asking for a site survey, Kevin.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So we sent it to the legal department. Finally one thing we met with John. So we do have a letter prepared to send to them. We have to send the letter. I'll take that responsibility. But I did send one to Belle Chasse already. Haven't heard back from them. But there was a contact there that I had spoken with before. It's not as cut and dry as anything else. They have their own widow and children’s fund type situation over there. They're not in the third party. This fellow, he wants a blind manager over there. He doesn't believe the program is set up to allow a third-party vendor to go in and put the money in the trust fund. And I agree with that. That's why we're here. Could be an opportunity at Belle Chasse in New Orleans. Probably end up doing the same thing at these other locations. Discuss Randolph Sheppard, an attorney Randolph Sheppard program manager for the naval air station. That was his opinion. So you got to figure that's everyone else’s opinion as well. That is a federal location. That's kind of the guidance we received from RSA that you can't have third party contracts on federal property. You need to have a manager. So that's what we're working on with that. Back to inventory forgiveness. We did make program rules. Gave everything to Melissa. So that's been approved internally by everyone. Kevin, there was some dispute whether we had to send it to RSMA or not for them to take a look at it.

KEVIN MONK: Well, it's going to have to go to RSA. Whenever we finalize our state rule, then they're going to require that to go. So it's going to have to go in the tag manual and ultimately to RSA. So it will be sent in as soon as we get everything finalized.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But I want to know if it's in affect now. Because the tag manual does not have to be promulgated. And it's already in our rules from 2012. On forgiveness you had the choice. We cannot give them reimbursement anymore. But it's right in those rules in 2012 if you've been selected remove from beginning inventory. By no way that y'all can hold it up that it does not have to go to RSA for promulgation. Only the BEP goes for promulgation. And the tag manual goes in to make sure things jive.

KEVIN MONK: Okay. And I will follow up on that and definitely let you know something ASAP.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Soon.

KEVIN MONK: Yes. I will.

STEVE DEBRUHL: One of the items on that inventory forgiveness is how far back can you go. You can't be double dipping. That FRMP, say you lost 7,000‑dollars and got 7,000 back already. So that doesn't apply to that. You can't forgive someone who got money for their inventory they lost. Technically you should pay us back for that inventory.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I believe we started it from when we rewrote. We started it from what, hurricane?

KEVIN MONK: Hurricane Ida, I believe. If I'm not mistaken.

FRANK GAFFNEY: So that should cover that. I mean, I cannot see any reason for a holdup on that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But we are talking about real money. You know, we kind of fiddled around. You know, we're going to forgive $6,000, $7000s. I agree that we should. But we have to make sure we're walking on the right side of the law too when we do that. Because your boy Craig from RSA, he's the one that told us we couldn't do what we've been doing for 30 years on the expenses. But we'll definitely get back to you on that. Vacation pay. We had an election for vacation. RSMAs, some hand delivered. Some mailed them out. Thirty‑six people were qualified for the vacation pay. We got 28 returned ballots. And right now it's a hundred percent to zero that people do want to get vacation pay. So don't expect a big turnaround. So I'm going to go ahead and declare that a victory. As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted. The vacation pay, set it up for the first quarter, right? Is that what we talked about before. We got the stipend right now. And then work on the paperwork. Get it all straight. So when do you think we should shoot to do this? Like the first of maybe December?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Which quarter are we talking? Federal or state? Cause like on the stipend we do it state quarter.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Do it the first of the year. Fiscal year starts in July. So July, September. So do it January, first of January.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: No. Do it like October, November the last quarter. So it would be available if anybody needs money for Christmas.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Pretty much do what we want to do, right?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Federal quarter.

STEVE DEBRUHL: How about a month. Decide when you want to do it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: As soon as possible. Everybody's still hurting. Just like you were saying, there's nobody in the buildings. People need the money.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, as soon as possible is not December. As soon as possible would be‑‑

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. And we have a stipend coming out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would say right after the stipends come out, so they don't get it confused. All the stipend checks are in and then we'll send out the letter for the vacation. If that will work out.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That might not be next year because we already got the stipends go out late.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Do it like after Labor Day. Beginning of September. Something like that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Cause you'd have the stipend going out the first week in July.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That will work.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So do it first day after the Labor Day weekend. Whatever that is. First of September for the first payment. Talk about the trust fund, but you had a dollar amount in mind, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, I put down 500, you know. I also put it in there according to what's available. Of course that works both ways. If you cut it down if we start getting like hospitals, start getting in commission from hospitals then our money would go up and we could increase it to 750. That's why I added that on there where I did. If the trust fund goes down, we can't bust the trust fund. But maybe bring it down to 250 if we had to. I don't look for it. Even if we go up the other way to 750 if we had enough funds every year.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We'll get to it in the trust fund meeting. But what's different this year, you know, that was part of that Craig's report that we shouldn't be paying the retirees' stipends. So we didn't do that last year. We've had shrinkage with our managers, you know. So actually Chauntey and I worked on the list. There's 35 and half managers. Tracey Jackson being one. She won't qualify for like six months’ worth of stipends by time it happens. So we'll be paying right at 88,000‑dollars, I think, for the 2,500‑dollar stipend. In the past that number's been 150,000. Retirees and everyone else. So talking about 500‑dollars, that's really multiplied times 36. Not as big as it was in the past. But maybe after our next meeting, that might be time to look at it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I think if it's there I would like to start with the 750 if we have the money available. But I don't know what we have right now at the time. Really after we see what the stipend money too.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Why don't we do this. We're going to have a September meeting, right. So at the September trust fund meeting we'll decide at that point what we're going to pay and when we're going to pay. Sounds good?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Sounds good. As long as we get things going and everybody will be happy.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. I'm already working with these stipend documents so it will be the same.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And Michelle getting everybody's address straightened out, that should speed that up too.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It should.

EMMA PALMER: This Emma. Steve, now when we're doing that for this vacation, is that the way it's going to be wrote up that in the rules that we'll have that opportunity to go up and down on the price of it?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's what I put in.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I think read funds available.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So set aside money can only be used for X amount of things. Vacation pay is one of them. So like in Alabama during the height of the pandemic they had three set asides. I think they paid out four or five vacation checks to their managers over that time period. So right now we're setting up for once a year. For dollar amount to be determined at that meeting. But if Covid would come back, shut everything down some say you couldn't do a second vacation check during that year. But that would have to be voted on like everything else. But right now everybody agrees to the annual check. So that's a done deal. Vending location by RSMAs. We just got three Coke machines at the Sam Houston Brown state park in Lake Charles. I'm not sure who Mr. Brown was, but it's a campground. And worked with Nungesser's office on that. Had a couple other opportunities with them. One was a plantation. They wanted to set up like a little giftshop in there. Just didn't seem like it was really worth our time for it. Passed on that. The hospital, Kevin, did you have something on the hospital?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. We met with legal, Steve and I did, in regards to the state hospitals. And we kind of updated Frank, and I'll update you guys. One sure way to prove whether something is state owned property or not is to see if the state has insurance on it. And the state, it insures things through the Office of Risk Management. So I contacted the Office of Risk Management and talked to the guy over there. And I got a list of every state location. And trust me, it's thousands of properties out there. And the guy was somewhat familiar with the program. He actually broke it out for me. So I have the universities and I have everything else. And so I looked. And sent it to Steve, Steve looked. I sent it to Chauntey, she looked. And even though it's my belief that those hospitals like UMC in Lafayette and Chabert and all the places are state property, they don't show up on the list of state, you know, as covered by the state insurance. So we're working to try to figure out a way, another way, if there is one, where we can verify state ownership of the property. It clearly states in the newspaper articles, and Frank sent me an article from Shreveport that talked about a quote unquote partnership between the state. And I think it was Ochsner, in that instance, if I'm not mistaken.

FRANK GAFFNEY: To begin with it was a medical company. I forgot what the name was. They took over to begin with and they couldn't make it work. It was the same thing, a partnership. So then they went to Ochsner.

KEVIN MONK: So the biggest thing is we don't want to do any harm to the program and lose locations like Chabert or like...

STEVE DEBRUHL: The University Hospital in New Orleans.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. In New Orleans. We don't want to lose anything. We want to make it better. And so if anybody has any suggestions as to other ways that we can look at, we're working with the attorneys on that and trying to figure out a way to verify that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Isn't that what we pay an attorney for? They should be able to find out.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Actually, we have an attorney. There was quite a time there we didn't really have anyone to talk to.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I know, but, I mean, I can go back five years in the minutes and the same list has been on there for five years. Do to no fault here. But I got the same answer every time. We'll turn it over to the attorneys. And then when I requested a copy of what we pay the attorneys to do, y'all came up with nothing.

KEVIN MONK: Because the attorney wasn't charging anything to us. They are working with us now and‑‑

FRANK GAFFNEY: I agree. Now we got somebody. But like I'm saying, I go back five and further. These same objects have been on the meeting every time. I'm sorry. All this stuff has been building and I'm upset. I want to see some things happen. It shouldn't be that hard for an attorney to find out who owns property.

EMMA PALMER: And at Ochsner in Shreveport the workers know they not state employees.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Nobody's probably state employee. It depends who owns the building. I went to Chabert and told them the same thing. They pay a rent to the state for the building. If they're paying rent that means they don't own it. Now in Lafayette they said they do own it and they're not paying rent to the state. Kathy Wheat’s place, it was an LSU facility, but it was actually owned by the city. But these buildings were owned by the state previously. Have to prove the state still owns it. If the state still owns them, then it's priority. If the state doesn't own the building, they can pretty much do what they want to do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If the state doesn't own it then Ochsner, if Ochsner owns it, they have to be paying property tax.

KEVIN MONK: That may be a good angle to look at.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If the state doesn't have to pay property tax. If somebody else does that, property tax. I do.

EMMA PALMER: And Ochsner is buying up a lot of buildings in Shreveport too.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. They've opened quite a few other deals.

TONY MCGEE: Would a real estate agent, as a commercial real estate agent be able to help with that in anyway? Cause if they can, I might know one that might be able to get some information.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Sure. We'll take as much help as we can get.

TONY MCGEE: I'll make a phone call this afternoon. My friend's father is actually a big real estate agent in Louisiana.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

DON ARABIE: They may not want to tell you, but what about the representatives and senators for those areas. Has anybody tried talking to them in those areas?

KEVIN MONK: We don't have the ability to reach out and do that. If they contact us, we can answer questions and stuff. We can't just go and approach them. That's something that if that's done maybe you guys could.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. They discourage us.

KEVIN MONK: We're not able to do that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What about‑‑

STEVE DEBRUHL: Our goal is to get that off the list, Frank. I understand your frustration.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's frustration. Okay. It's not on here, but what about the national guard?

STEVE DEBRUHL: It is on here.

DON ARABIE: It's on there.

KEVIN MONK: We actually had a discussion about that at our last meeting with John. And Steve is going to write a letter very similar to the one that has been already approved for requesting permission to conduct a site survey on federal property. And but we're going to tailor it to the state properties. And once that's done, we'll be able to reach out to them. So that's the plan. That's what we discussed at our last meeting with John.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We know that's state. And look in your book and see if risk management is insuring that.

KEVIN MONK: If I showed you the list‑‑

FRANK GAFFNEY: Oh, yeah.

KEVIN MONK: The amount of stuff that says army on there is unbelievable. So the state is definitely intertwined with the army if you look at the list.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Any questions on any of that?

DON ARABIE: That Beauregard in Pineville, that is state owned, isn't it?

KEVIN MONK: I think that was on the list, yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We do have some Coke third party coming from a couple national guard places.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Two or three I had on my list. The last list I got.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't have it in front of me. Not a big place, but a national guard recruiting area.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That one up by you, Don, that's a lot of machines in there, isn't it?

DON ARABIE: That's a very big place.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What's the name?

DON ARABIE: Camp Beauregard. Very big place. And I think we discussed this before too. They're building, in Lake Charles, a new national guard deal in Lake Charles.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. All right. I will definitely get on that myself. Make sure I have a better answer for you next time.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Moving onto new business. RSA update, Kevin.

KEVIN MONK: If you have any specific questions about the RSA update, I'll answer them. I think I kind of touched on that in my initial opening remark. As far as that goes. We have sent something. We're waiting on a response from RSA. And hopefully will be one we can start moving forward on preparing supplies and stuff like that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. I got something. I have emails with me in January I contacted Christina and she sent me back what we needed to do, and I supplied it to the state. That was in January. And then I sent her another email in, I forgot what month it was, in regards to the credit card readers. And again, she restated what we needed to do. Now we're getting to it, but slow. And then I have an informal hearing which is supposed to be 45 days by the rules, and it's been 60. And I heard nothing. Even on the rules for the filling out the RS15s, Christina right on the bottom of the page is who you're supposed to call if you have a question. Again...

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let me just say something about that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So RSA is a big, rehab service administration is a huge agency. In that agency they have a Randolph Sheppard section and everybody else, RSA. So two different people from RSA saying two different things. The guy Craig who is the one who wrote it up on the monitor report. He's the one who said you can't do it. He works for RSA. You have Christina over here saying you can use the state interpretation. We don't have a state interpretation. We're asking if we can use the unit price, you know, the thousand dollars now. So she can say yes, go ahead and do it. But if the other guy is saying no, you can't do it, they're the ones that come back and say give us all the money back. So it's not something we came up with. I told Shelly about it. I'd rather be saying yeah, Shelly, I got your credit card readers. It's not something we want to do. It's not something we've done since I've been here. It's only because RSA told us we couldn't do it in writing. Christine sent an email saying just use the state thing. We could do that if it's as simple as Melissa saying okay, we're going to use state equipment at a thousand dollars for Randolph Sheppard. I don't know that she can actually do that. But that's what we're going to RSA‑‑

KEVIN MONK: The thing that makes everything a hundred times more complicated in this issue is remember RSA has told us that every dollar is in the trust fund from state owned property, even that money is to be treated as set aside. Set aside has specific uses. Back before we got that interpretation, I mean, you know, it was our understanding that all that state money we could use it as match. We could do all these other things. We could maybe even do retiree stipends and, you know, all kind of stuff because we had flexibility. Whenever you look at the requirements for set aside, it kind of puts us in the corner.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, I called the auditor. Is that the same person that did that finding in 16?

KEVIN MONK: We had several people from RSA that came down and they issued the report. It was in 2018, I think, is when they came down. And then they issued a report based on that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. And that's the same people that said y'all improperly took 500,000 from our trust fund.

KEVIN MONK: It had to do with legal fees, and it was on that report.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Same report.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. It was that same report. It was all tied together.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. (Inaudible) requested our 500,000 be returned to the trust fund.

KEVIN MONK: I don't think that's exactly what it said. I think it was used as match.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I read it. The feds didn't ask to be refunded, but they said y'all did it improperly. So I'm just putting that in the minutes.

KEVIN MONK: We're still working through all of that, is my understanding.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I just wanted to put that into the minutes. Because, you know, we're saying this person says we can't do this and it's the same person that said you couldn't take the money. One way or the other. If we can't do one way, then get more money in the trust fund to do it other ways. I apologize. I'm just frustrated with everything the way it happens.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I have a question, Kevin. How did that 5,000‑dollars get in? It wasn't in there way back.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The federal definition of equipment. The definition Kevin gave is 5,000‑dollars or useful life of more than one year. Or whatever the state capitalization is. So there is no legal federal definition. That's working with Nicky and Terry, and they went to RSA. Away from Office of Management and Budget. But if you change the federal definition of equipment, that has ramifications throughout the government. That was supposably in the works. But the easier route would be we were able to come up with a different definition. That's why I was trying to hang onto this, it was a state asset. Anything that's a thousand bucks. This computer here, it has a state tag number because it cost more than a thousand dollars. But that's not really equipment. It's a computer. In our case the state law, it kind of defaults to whatever the federal law is unless it's something else. If this is a federal program using federal funds, you know. They always kind of default in the federal definition. That's before we came up with the idea we couldn't use the money to do repairs and stuff. There are windows of opportunity when you do establish a new location. Like Candice just moved into Federal City. So you have six months to provide initial supplies and equipment. So case like that, say with Sunny, we're able to buy new equipment. Maybe recycle some of the old equipment.

KEVIN MONK: Shelly, to further answer your question, right around the same time that RSA issued that audit report to us, it may have been the very, by the end of that year or thereabouts, they issued a new RSA15 report. Which is the federal report that we do to report on Louisiana's Randolph Sheppard program. And as part of that RS15 report they gave us new instructions on how to fill it out. And if you read the instructions on the report it talks about it says enter in line one the amount that's spent on equipment. And then it defines equipment right there in that thing as, you know, it spells it out where it didn't do that in the same way in the previous instructions either. So, I mean, we're really, really painted into the corner.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Shelly, that form you talk about, the rules on the RS15, and the rules, that's the same for every state.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The question is why are we having to do it and the other ones don't.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's the question.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But it is the rule for everybody. Like Florida, what did you say, Steve, 500‑dollars?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Their asset code, I think their level is 500‑dollars. I think Alabama is as well. According to Terry Smith.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Maybe it's a possibility, Kevin, that our lawyers can contact other states that have a lower threshold, which Steve has, and find out what they do.

KEVIN MONK: It's in the state definitions, yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, they had to change their definition somewhere too online.

EMMA PALMER: Exactly.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I mean, information is information. If we can't use it, we can't use it. Just a phone call, or email, or something.

KEVIN MONK: I can ask.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You know, I requested a meeting with the attorneys and Melissa shot it down, said we couldn't do that. And then I said well, what about cause I wanted to go to the meetings. And she shot that down. But then she said they could get a meeting with the attorney and the committee. Never happened. Over a year ago.

KEVIN MONK: That was with our previous attorney. I will ask John about the possibility of having a sit-down.

EMMA PALMER: We just can't sit on this 5,000. That's too much.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. And it's other problems too. Like I was talking to Steve and Kevin. We got the problem of how fair is this, if a manager moves into a brand-new, everything brand-new on the shelf, toaster, microwave, everything is all brand-new and you tell him you're responsible for the supplies. Everything under 5,000‑dollars, okay. Now that's fine. All brand-new stuff. But then another manager comes into that same location ten years later and now the supplies are ten years old. That doesn't jive. Me and Kevin were talking about it, and we might just have to start buying everything brand new when you move into the location. You know, push comes to shove.

KEVIN MONK: And we agree we need to try to figure this out. And we need to try to figure it out soon.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Like you were saying, we know that we've had most of our locations have had no, you know, no business. And the equipment's just sitting there getting old and rotting. It's going to be very far from being new. You just can't put a person in there and think it's going to be fair. I did a little research myself and just off the top my head to rate the poverty limit with our managers if you have one employee you have to have at least 60,000‑dollars in gross sales. And half of our locations don't make 40,000 in gross sales. So, you know, people are working under the poverty limit.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We also have managers who are making a lot of money. So more good to establish a fair minimum return is something y'all voted on. Set aside. There are opportunities like that. But I will lobby to get that threshold down. But I'm looking at the rules, what it says for supplies. Pursuant to 2CFR294 supplies or all tangible property regardless of the expected limited useful life acquisition cost of less than 5,000‑dollars. Or that was established by the state. So the key words are or established by the state. So from a federal prospective these are the rules that feds give us. Above 5,000, supplies less than 5,000. Or established by the state. That's got to be our window of opportunity right there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's definitely in the rules. Our people read it, interpreted it, and the rest of the states have not read it. Or they're just ignoring that part and continuing with what they were doing. But state's not doing anything per say illegal. It's what the rules are. Just pushing to find ways to change the rules.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like I said, there's a workaround. Get a new manager, new location. Kevin and I were on a conference call with RSA, and they said a new location is a new location. One that's never been opened before. So if you have a place that's been opened 20 years, you're right. So we provide the manager initial stock and supplies. Use inventory to sell supplies. Use that terminology to buy new microwave or buy a new toaster for a manager going into a new location. They may come back at some point and say you didn't do that right. The way I interpret it you have to do that with a new location for a new manager.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Any discussion on that?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Beat that one for a long time.

TONY MCGEE: The only thing I could think maybe to change it is present to the state what would be necessary supply or equipment for the locations. Such as your lower cost, like salad bars and stuff like that, and see if they could write it into where that would be acceptable to fix or replace underneath the limit.

FRANK GAFFNEY: See if we could get that thousand dollar into the state law, we can cover everything. Cover all our vending machines, all of our refrigerators, or what I call equipment. You know, salad bars and everything. It would eliminate the problem 80 percent. It would, you know, 100 percent fixed. It would be at least 80 percent fixed.

STEVE DEBRUHL: If not more. But the thing is that's what the state's policy is now. Anything over a thousand bucks you have to have a property tag on it. That to me is the number you want to work on. Below that number, that would be something different. So if it's an asset. And our people that we talked to in the house, it's logical sense, why would you pay 3,000‑dollars for an ice maker to not repair it if it breaks. Not a good use of funds either.

TONY MCGEE: I don't know if we have to get with someone in the state or not to be able to get property tags with that having considered a necessity of business.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like I said, we're working on the direction we get from RSA next week, hopefully, will resolve all of this. We'll keep you posted on what we find out from that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. BEP and tag manual.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's something we're working on for a while. Candice was on the crew and Shelly. We made several updates. Need to go back into the tag. We took a little hiatus, but we need to follow up with that, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Finish up with the BEP.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. We're pretty much done with the BEP.

FRANK GAFFNEY: There's some things we missed.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Make the changes in the tag and submit everything to our attorneys and then send to RSA. We're close to being done with that. Just kind of took our foot off the gas. Get back on that next week. Candice, I don't know how open she'll be nowadays. When she was watching tennis and gardening. Now she's running Federal City.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If it's after 2:00 in the afternoon, she'll be open to it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. However, she's no longer on the board after today, right?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Candice?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: She was.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's the same every year.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got her mixed up. Okay. Update on locations. So Michelle put the bus station out. Well, one thing, Department of Agriculture has been having issues with Carol McCray and not doing machines. They wanted to get rid of the little snack bar we had over there. Michelle and George and a couple of the prison labor guys helped her clean that out. We removed all the equipment in that snack bar. And the plan is to eventually turn that into, put the vending machines in that location. But Carol McCray has not really been servicing the machines. So we decided we all agreed and voted to combine that with the bus station. So Michelle did a tour for the bus station and Byron Antoine did show up for the tour. A day late, but he did show up for the tour. He applied as a satellite manager for that location. So we saw Byron a day before yesterday, I think it was. He's going to take over that location. Michelle is trying to get the key back from Ms. McCray at this point in time. He's going to take over the machines right away because they are not being serviced. Even though she says her kid's doing it. Kid's not doing it. If she can't get the keys by Monday, we'll just have to drill the locks and start over. As far as opening up for service at the bus station, I think a couple weeks away from doing that.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: In the meantime, we have Department of Corrections. Which Herbert had, and then he decided he didn't want to do it anymore as a satellite, so Antoine took over that. So Antoine is interim manager right now at Department of Corrections and a satellite manager for the bus station. He says he has his parent who was a lunch lady at the school board for her entire career running the DOC location. And then he's going to run the bus station. So keep an eye on how things progress. But if something were to happen then as interim manager, we can pretty much move that out, put it out to bid again and see what happens. But that was another location that nobody bid on. Herb did the satellite. But Antoine is stepping up. Been doing his paperwork on time. Pretty good at DOC, Michelle says. Looking clean over there.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. I went there yesterday.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So there is an opportunity we have fewer managers, but we still have these locations. And it's a way for Antoine to increase his income. Doing the work for it. Federal City, Candice took over Federal City Friday before Memorial Day. She's into her second week now. Doing a really good job of that. She's asking for all kind of equipment, which is what she does. We're trying to accommodate her requests, what we can. She didn't drop the ball. She's probably doing as much if not more than Mica at this point in time. Every day is getting better for her.

FRANK GAFFNEY: She's adding other things. She said they're eating up fruit cups and parfaits.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. She's kind of sampling the water. But she's been staying 5,000‑dollars a day on sales. Update on location. Shelly has a thing here, Claiborne and LaSalle numbers.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What about...

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm staying on locations right now. So Claiborne and LaSalle.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: For concession and the cafeteria. Then vending machines.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let me just say what I want to say. So what we've been doing is Calvin in state buildings, over the last four months we've been asking him if he can give us a list of who's in the building that day, so we get an idea of the building population. He's given us four months. Michelle has a spread sheet right now. Michelle, you want to go over this and tell where we are with office of state buildings and the population of the buildings right now.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, from March till now we have on some buildings it goes up and then on some buildings it goes down. LaSalle was at like 94. They're at 661. Iberville was at 341. They're at 580.

STEVE DEBRUHL: This is as of, clocked everybody that came in yesterday. This is yesterday's numbers.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: April 12th is the first one and then June 8th is the second one. Galvez went from 523 to 615. Claiborne's at from 452 to 891. Annex is 133 to 174. Poydras went from 77 to 114. And Shreveport state building is 216 to 248. So everybody is starting to come back. And I know they're looking at us to maybe get the list out, open back up.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. They've been making noises about LaSalle. That was one we had put out in the past and Michael Doucet had been awarded that location. Mike passed away. So he was at Poydras. So right now Brian White serving as interim manager at Poydras and is doing a good job over there. Their population in that building as of yesterday was 114 people. They are still working from home. Claiborne, you got a lot of people. Tell them what you said about the health department.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So they told us DHH is actually telling people the working from home went very well. So they are telling these locations, office of state buildings, if you do not want to have to go back into the office yet, they are allowing a lot of people to still continue to work from home.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's what Tracy said?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: That's all office of state building.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Claiborne's got a couple health department too, Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: As far as Claiborne the two floors for the education department, four and five, that's the slowest floors. Nobody in there.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. That's because they're allowing them to continue to work from home.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And I think they're still doing two-day work or three-day work and they go back and forth.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yep.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Harvey is the same way. Several in child services. They work two days in the office, three days at home one week. And then three days in the office, two days at home. So they're out of the office five days.

EMMA PALMER: And Shreveport looking to move to a different building.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. A couple years from now.

KEVIN MONK: Just thinking aloud here. I'm hearing those numbers from Poydras, and they have a cafeteria over there.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, last month he had 238 that went in. And this month he has 114.

KEVIN MONK: Still, a cafeteria with that many people. I don't know how they making money. Do we need to try to talk to them to approach them and see about doing something different? Micro market or something.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. Cause they want their food and all the other buildings from around come in.

KEVIN MONK: You mean, they letting them in now?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. Brian will tell you right now he don't want you to take that cafeteria away.

KEVIN MONK: Okay. All right.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He has no complaints with using that cafeteria right now. I seen him yesterday as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Michelle, on LaSalle, what do you feel it's going to take when there comes a time to get the equipment in that location?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So when Mike was looking into it, I had already started doing some repair to the equipment. I have one frier that will need to be hard cleaned and serviced. The display unit that we had where you could open and take your sandwiches and stuff, it's not going to be able to, we would have to replace that unit. But everything else in there we've already repaired. Mike had already cleaned and scrubbed out two of the friers. And we've unplugged, you know, the pilot lights aren't lit. They're not plugged in. They're not workable right now. But they're completely empty. The other one it still had grease that was left in it. And so it's probably got a 6‑inch thick gook gum buildup that you have to take off the top layer first and then you can get to the grease.

SPEAKER: Is there stuff in there that hasn't been used for years that belonged to the building?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Pretty much everything belongs to the building.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. The display unit that we have is something that we purchased and it's not workable anymore. The guy was trying to fix it and ended up, I think he ended up tearing it up when he was trying to fix it even more. So she put her salads, they put salads and stuff in that. I don't know if a new manager comes in if they want that, if they would want something different. But it will open up a hole for something to be there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is OSB open to removing something that's no good?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. If I tell them I need to remove something. Yeah. As long as I replace it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Seems like it would be easier to keep clean if something hasn't been used years and years and doesn't work and what not.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: The display unit thing that is not working is ours. The frier that's there it's not working because I cut all the pilot lights off of them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is there a big pizza oven or something that's been there for years?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. But they use that. That one is still used.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's why I'm asking.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. It's the one just like Shelly had. They used it to do toasting.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And keep things warm.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Max and Deb used it as a passthrough just to toast their breads, po’boy buns. I mean, they were doing all kind of stuff over there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So they have 661 people in the building. So there's way more than enough equipment to handle that capacity. That cafeteria does get people coming from different buildings. What are they saying as far as the timeframe? I know they're saying a lot of people are asking.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: A lot of people are asking is what he said.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But that's people in the building. When are you going to open the cafeteria.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Not the OSB people.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Is Piccadilly still coming to deliver?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Major Menus is coming to deliver.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And they deliver in the lobby of the cafeteria?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: On one table, yes. And we can't stop it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I know.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: But Major Menus is now really hitting all of their buildings pretty hard. Because like Iberville no longer has the snack bar. Bienville doesn't have anything. Galvez, they walk over to the micro mart because they don't have anything else. They have a market that you can go to that has different foods in it and around the corner they have a Serops, and a Jambalaya Shop, and a Subway, and Smoothie King. So those are being hit pretty hard. They did just open on the corner of the parking garage a coffee shop as well.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Which garage?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: In the LaSalle parking. LaSalle Iberville parking garage. They had some other place there, but now it's a coffee shop.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Must not be state property.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I don't know. It's in a state parking garage. A YMCA is in it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: LaSalle has its own garage and Galvez has the other garage.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: But see the Galvez garage has the market in it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: A food court.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Fifth Street side is all food court. And the Jambalaya Shop is on the other side.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. And Serops

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. On Main Street.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And they have a little store there. That little store is still there?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. I think the store closed.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. Main and fifth.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. I think that store closed. I don't know that answer, Frank. I don't know if the state people are able to park in those park garages, but there is a YMCA in one of the parking garages.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That was at LaSalle, right?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. In the LaSalle parking. LaSalle Iberville parking.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right. I'm just finding out more information I didn't know. I hear one thing, but then I don't know how it is.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I don't either. I don't know how that is either.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: It changes.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They have badge accesses that you can get to be able to badge in and out. And it's a state badge that badges you in and out of the buildings and the parking garages.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Appreciate it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Back to LaSalle, I guess we can push them off as long as we want to, but do we want to think about putting that out to bid?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Put an interim manager in there. How do we do that? What do we want to do?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hasn't been opened since the pandemic. I would say the equipment they have in there, Michelle has looked at it and it's good to go in most cases. So do you advise that we put it out to bid, see who bids on it. Appoint an interim manager to open back up. Knock off the dust webs and then put it out to bid shortly thereafter.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I might think about doing an interim manager to get figures. So somebody will be committed to it and then they couldn't do anything with it. But it would be open to discussion or whatever y'all think on it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let's discuss it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'd like to get some information before I put it out and somebody commits to taking it as a permanent location and they're stuck with it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Historically it's done very well. Prior to the pandemic, one of our top five locations, you know. And Max has the vending machines in there. But he resigned from the cafeteria, but he still has the vending machines. So this will be a cafeteria only location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If I remember right on the insurance, it was like 350,000 in gross sales.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That was back when he was doing, I think he was reporting both the vending machines.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They were separate.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. They were separate.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They were separate.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Did y'all ever get separate vendors?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: All four.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We did. Not that it's a big deal, but we did do that. So you want to as far as interim manager, do you have any ideas how you want to go about that. Who would be the interim manager?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Are we ready to even think about opening it?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I can.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't want an interim manager to go in there with equipment that didn't work.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The equipment works.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. There's just one frier and one display unit that does work. Which can be, the frier, it needs to be cleaned out. Mike did not clean that. He was having some issues with it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: If you leave grease, that was Mike's deal.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Right. But Mike cleaned the other two. The third one he did not clean because the pilot light was out. But by the time I could get it serviced and do everything, we had the passing.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: How is the ice machine?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They're working.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Both of them.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

EMMA PALMER: Why is Max still keeping the machine?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: It's the same setup as Shelly and Herbert have.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What happened was originally we didn't have a cafeteria. We just had vending. They came to us to do the cafeteria. Shelly took over the cafeteria and then Shelly dropped out of that. Max saw what Shelly did, so he did the same thing. Shelly still has the vending machines, but Herb is doing the snack bar.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The permit was only for vending machines. Max's permit was only vending machines.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And something else, Max and I both did separate forms for the vending and the cafeteria.

SPEAKER: And both of y'all should have been permitted in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's why it is what it is today. That is kind of a food desert right there. I mean, there is no‑‑ they have other places that people are going on the street. There's food trucks out there. So there is a market there. And I would say it's probably a least 150, 180,000‑dollars’ worth of equipment. They got steamers. All kinds of equipment. It's almost I could go and open up and do it.

KEVIN MONK: Last time I was down there they had probably three or four food trucks along North Street a block from the location lined up.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They always do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That was my understanding that food trucks have been there for years.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Years and years. And there's probably more than three now. I think when I went down there the other week, probably six.

SPEAKER: Wow.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And there's access, open access to this location. You don't have to go through security, right?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Correct.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Come in the side door and walk right in there. So you get people from other buildings. If you build it, they will come type situation.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Michelle, tell them about the prices of that food truck at labor.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Oh, yeah. Zara is not happy with the food truck that is sitting outside the labor building right now. He is selling hamburgers and fries for ten bucks. Jambalaya. They had jambalaya, corn and something else the other day for 12 bucks. And then he said one other item that was ten bucks too. Selling can drinks for a dollar. A food truck.

KEVIN MONK: I heard the portions were really big.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. But the only thing is there was two people, when I went to go and talk to him the other day there were two people standing out there placing an order. He takes one order at a time. He makes it. Then he tries to do the next order. I stood out there in the direct sunlight for 20 minutes waiting for the two ladies to get out my way. So that being said, I see the line whenever I went through yesterday, they had probably five people out there waiting.

STEVE DEBRUHL: There's also the cafeteria downstairs in the building. I told Zara to use that as motivation.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Oh, he did sausage on a bun for eight bucks.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So he gives them a better alternative they won't go sit in the sun for a half an hour waiting for a hamburger. Use as motivation. But the guy is legally parked on the road outside the gate. So we can't run him off. Just the same way as downtown. You got six trucks there. People are going to eat where they want to go eat if you give them something good to eat.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: And pay what they want to pay. They will complain about what we are charging.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I wish we could charge that and get away with it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They all think we're state employees so we should be selling this stuff cheaper.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Sometimes they think they are the own employee of whatever snack shop you got.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So LaSalle, before we get off of that. What do you want to do? Let sleeping dogs lie until they come to us and say you have to on back up again?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He already asked me about opening it, remember. I pushed him off for like a month or so. I told him to give me a few months.

STEVE DEBRUHL: He did ask you that in an email, right?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Uh‑huh.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would like an interim.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You want to do an interim manager, open it up on interim manager?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Think heavily about that. I know y'all have the final decision on it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm looking for active participation. That's why we're here.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I appreciate it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: As far as a specific manager, want me to just talk to a few people and see who would be open to doing it?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I'll do that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We only got a few that are qualified to really go in brand new and get things going.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. Cause like I said, that was one of the big locations we had.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Also, when it ever comes open, is Troy's building. Hadn't heard nothing on them pushing for that to be reopened.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. That's the Baton Rouge governmental complex. People, again, people in the building say when you going to open up. But no one officially from the building itself has asked us. But in this case OSB has been kind of needling for the last month and a half probably.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Now that would be one where a person wouldn't have to qualify opening up.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Carol McCray?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Give us an update.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. So she was in Detroit. She's been having, her family members are dropping like bad. Her mother has passed away and she was in Detroit with her mother doing the funeral for her mother. Then three days later her brother just died. And she's lost a daughter as well. And so she had been asking her son. Her son said he had been doing it and he was doing better. Well, she said she hasn't been able to get back here to check on him. I told her no, it's still a bad issue. So we will be meeting with him on Monday to get the keys. He's going to text me a time.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Very good. So hopefully Monday we'll get the keys for that. And Antoine will take over the machines. Michelle and I went to agriculture, they were like can we get someone besides the blind people. That's not the question. The answer was no, you can't. But we're here to help you. But hasn't got any better. Hopefully once Brian gets there.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: And they haven't started working on anything to make it, they want to make just a vending room and put all the vending machines and get, you know, like a chill machine or something in there to put some sandwiches and stuff. But they haven't even started working on that yet either. So we definitely want to get someone in there, so they don't try to boot us out.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Going back up to update on equipment.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, before we go to equipment, you want to give an update on Lighthouse.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Oh, yeah. That's one I missed. So David Jarvis who is a long-time manager had a stroke about 15 years ago. He passed away the day before yesterday. Lighthouse Louisiana in New Orleans. They have two snack machines over there and a Coke and a Pepsi machine. They don't do a whole lot of business. I think he took home 3,000 bucks last year. The lowest producing location we have. So Frank and I were talking about. It's not a location we can put out because there's no way a manager can make what we want them to make. 25,000‑dollars. So we're talking about having another manager assume it. So Mica talked to Sandra Jones who's in New Orleans. She does my building, Harvey. Then she has four machines, actually two machines, Delgado River City. This will be like across the river. The closest one to it. She had a probation and parole location out in New Orleans east that got shutdown after the hurricane. And so she lost a snack and a drink out there that was doing okay. But I like to maybe get Sandra to service the machines until we see if we can do anything with. But it's not a high producing location. So add it to her route or we just do interim, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Just interim basis to begin with. See if it pays off and then merge it. Combine into one. It's one of those deals as it's said, they have a person who's doing it hasn't really been taking good care of it. Get somebody in there that does take care of the service good, you know, business could increase and then it would be worth keeping, you know, for a longer route.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like anything else, before times, before the pandemic there was a time during the Iraq war, they had three crews working in Afghanistan providing a lot of stuff to the military. So they had a big production crew. Kevin, you were over there just a couple days ago.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. As matter of fact, I had a conversation yesterday afternoon with Jeneice. Jeneice is, there's been a lot of changes at Lighthouse. New president. A lot of new faces. Jeneice has been there a while, but she's in a new position. She's now the chief operating officer at Lighthouse. And she, I'm going to be putting Steve in touch with her to go out and hopefully get some numbers, have a discussion about the location there in New Orleans. To decide how to move forward with that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like I said, got a vending facility number. There was a time a little small snack shop over there, but no one can make a living on that location any longer. That's one you hate to lose the location, but rather combine so a manager can make more money than have a location to say it's a location. Probably what's on the horizon for that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The post office in Alexandria.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It was like 5,000‑dollar a year sales.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. Under the equipment I saw the feds released their plans for the charging stations across America. So it calls for having a charging station every fifty miles on the interstate highway, no more than a mile away from the interstate. So we need to try to figure out where we're going with that. I talked to, when I was talking to the attorney for Nungesser's office for state parks, I told him we consider that to be vending as well. If you're going to put them in the rest areas, we need to talk about that. He was a little taken aback. He said put it in the parks. If you're selling it, that's vending. What if we give it away. I guess you can give it away.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What they did in California, of course, in California they have a grant. Tesla's paying the electric bill on it right now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But the 7 billion dollars in the infrastructure bill is nationwide. So every fifty miles along the interstate, that could present a lot of opportunities. If they have a charging station, have a vending machine there. I want to reach out to DOTD again. But the rest areas is DOTD and tourism together.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I think it cost about 100,000-dollars to put it in. But there's grant money for it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: When I was pulling in it says you have to have the eco.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think low fuel. Like a small car. I think that's what that meant. Equipment, bought a few vending machines. Candice is looking for an oven over there in Federal City. So we're shopping for that right now. As far as update on new managers, I was hoping Lynn was going to be here. So during the pandemic Lee, the man he had doing the training for Randolph Sheppard, moved on. So apparently, he did get a grant, that's what Kevin told us, to hire someone. So he's interviewing.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. He's interviewed two, and I think he said he has three more next week. And hopefully have a candidate after that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And Tuesday Kevin and I have a Zoom call. That call we're going to have next week, a Zoom call for that product. What's the name?

KEVIN MONK: The thing Hor Cam.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. So RSMA and all the blind service counselors are going to have a Zoom call and look at this new product. Use that as an opportunity to explain again that we need more managers. Get maybe three managers, get like a class together that we can all send to ABLE at the same time. I have been talking to blind counselors trying to get new managers. But just haven't had a lot of blind people show up. The few people that have done it they've been told about the program, but some could be a right fit, others probably not a right fit for the program. But something we continue to do. But if we hit blind counselors on Thursday or Tuesday.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, Samantha has had three in our area. One lady she scheduled three different meetings with, and she never showed up for any of them. So we definitely kind of, the customer is definitely kind of fell off on that one. We have two other ones that are interested. And we do have two old managers that I've spoke with Kevin about yesterday that may look like maybe want to come back and get into the program. One of them is a Ms. Mary, but she's working at Lighthouse right now. And then the other one is Stephanie. Which used to work for Ms. Thibodaux, Shirley Thibodaux. And she now works for Brian at Poydras. She said she might be interested in trying get back and be a manager instead of employee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: She had a license at one point in time.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. Both of them did.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So as we learned, the license never really expires. Once you have a license, you have a license. Five years approval. According to Terry Smith, once you get a license, unless it's removed, it last you in perpetuity.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did we send them letters out?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't know.

KEVIN MONK: It was long before I was here, they were here. I don't know.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I think someone said Ms. Mary and I think Stephanie both worked out at LSU.

KEVIN MONK: Mary, I remember her. She used to work in concessions at LSU. When I was at LSU she was there. That was the 80s.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I know Stephanie did work at the bus station at one time. And then she has continued to work for managers, but she has not managed herself.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Michelle, one of those other two I know one of them very well.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. Murphy. He does know a lot about vending machines already.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I think Stephanie is in contact with him. So she should be setting up a meeting to meet with him.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: He has an assessment Monday.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Monday.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I know because he doesn't live far from where I live. He doesn't live far from here. The next light.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, are you going to be talking with Lynn to look into the schools?

KEVIN MONK: Yes. We've had a conversation about trying to incorporate that as a part of what they do for that. So yes. That has been done. Very interested in it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Good.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. That was one of the things I was speaking with Kevin about. If you have an old manager that's been out for so long. I didn't know what the rules and regulations were.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, the rules basically are that‑‑ well, it was different once. But it came to the committee. And the committee decide what they needed or that they had to go back to the whole thing. Or what kind of managers they were in the past.

EMMA PALMER: What if they left with a big outstanding balance?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I guess that's what I'll have to try to see if I can find their paperwork.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah. We don't want them back.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We know for sure all of them are going to have to go through paperwork.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Oh, yeah. And I think they're both in my area so they're probably somewhere up in the mezzanine.

FRANK GAFFNEY: My suggestion would be, putting it on you again, that you handle the paperwork train. All be on the same page.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Okay. I will get their full names and see if I can't find some files on them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Probably not. But if you find out who they worked with and who they are somebody else might know.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They were both in Baton Rouge. And I know Stephanie, since I've been here as an RSMA, Stephanie has always worked for Shirley Thibodaux. And now she worked for Mike Dozat. Once we closed down the Iberville location, she went straight to Poydras. So she's worked with Mike the whole time and she works for Brian right now.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We had Boggs. He was a retiree. He came back in for us. But it came in front of the committee. And he was a proven manager. He knew all the stuff, so he didn't have to go back to training.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Okay. I'll definitely see if I can't locate their files.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Stephanie's been in the program. I don't know about Mary.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. Stephanie's still been involved with managers and locations.

STEVE DEBRUHL: She's working today. She's still working right now in the program. Just not as a manager.

FRANK GAFFNEY: She's steadily involved, so it would be a lot less she would have to do. Probably if she's not doing any paperwork, she would definitely have to have the paperwork. Stuff like that. Otherwise, on the job training for a long time.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We do want to try to get some youth and vitality here. Still keep trying to find, if you guys know of anybody that might be interested, let us know. We can talk to them for sure.

BARBARA: May I ask a question?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Sure, Barbara.

BARBARA: When y'all going to open up the Iberville cafeteria?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: We're not.

BARBARA: Why?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Iberville was taken away from us.

BARBARA: Oh.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Cafeteria was completely taken away. We removed all equipment, but one table.

BARBARA: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We can't get it out of there. Table so big it won't fit out the door.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Have to go with a grinding wheel.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: When they do that, I'd have to have the system turned off. But you hate to do it. It's a very, very nice table. I hate to cut it in half.

BARBARA: The Serve Safe information, y'all have the new update on Serve Safe?

STEVE DEBRUHL: What you need to know?

BARBARA: The books and material.

EMMA PALMER: Restaurant Association.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The Baton Rouge Restaurant Association might be able to provide that to you. You coming up to be expired at some point?

BARBARA: Yeah. Seven years in the vending I have to get my Serve Safe. That's why I can't bid on the cafeteria right now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

BARBARA: So I need to get all that information.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Michelle will help you with that.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. I will.

BARBARA: Great. Thank you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: For one you could get the book on tape.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. So much is on the internet now too. Might be able to, I think you can take the test online.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Talking about age, I turned in that pie a while back. Over 75 percent of us were over the 65 mark. Not good.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Super seniors over here. Try to skew that a little bit lower. Not for lack of effort. We are trying and trying to engage the counselors. So again, got a meeting on Tuesday. Try to hit them again. Ideally like to maybe get two or three people together when Lynn gets his new trainer, have a class we can start. And we still have Leon in New Orleans who is the only manager with a license who doesn't have a location. But might be some opportunity coming up. The dominoes could be falling because Candice had the I10 I59 welcome center. So start working on inventory, but basically permitted into Federal City now. So going to be putting out the I10 59 welcome center she currently has. That will go out to bid probably the next four to five weeks. And already have, you know, we had five or six managers take the tour on that one. And I know one manager, Anderson Lee's already expressed interest in being there. He's got the buildings side to side. If he were to leave that, that would open that location. Which is also a very good location. Another manager may put in for that. So Leon might have something. Because he doesn't really want to leave New Orleans area. He lives back in Chalmette. Got a house there. So he has transportation situation. Might be an opportunity to get him off the bench finally. I thought about this Lighthouse for him. Again, that would take him about 45 minutes to drive there. I don't want his first location to be one where he's not making any money. But we do have a manager and hopefully he'll be able to find something to do in New Orleans here in the very near future.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Steve, is Einstein still on the back burner?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. They haven't opened back up. Hasan's doing okay. Starting to get some more catering service back in the main cafeteria on campus. Mica is actually over there today. They haven't been pushing us to open up. School's closed until fall semester next year. So Candice is still servicing the vending machines over there in the building too. So Einstein is still closed right now. That would be an opportunity at some point. We have to figure out when the time comes about that too.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Like they said, they would give us until fall.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. Spring semester still really isn't popping. Usually a good one. Then the summer semester. So the fall starts beginning of September. As we get closer to it, we'll see what their population is. They're still doing classes online as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They weren't giving us till fall. They were saying they don't want to do nothing till fall. And they have to make the decision on what it will be.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Keep Einstein if they can. They like it. I had to explain to them they were the franchisee. The guy who signed the paperwork, he's long gone. We're not the Einstein franchisee, you guys are. What. He had to go find the paperwork. So he said want to keep it Einstein, fine with him. If you want to change it, open to that too. That's kind of a catch 22. It does really, really good, but you have to be trained by Einstein. Pay your commission to them. When the time comes on that discussion's going to be had should we merge it back the way it was before when we first started with Scott. But the only reason it's separated now is because we removed Scott from that location cause Einstein said they were going to close it down. I think we can jump off that bridge when we get to it in August when we start talking about it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You have to have information before you make a decision.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Are we in open discussion?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Not yet. We've been through most of it. Update on new manager, we did that. LaSalle, we had already done that in the past. Credit card readers. Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That has a lot to do whenever they can bring it to a thousand. That's equipment.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, I did order you three for your Coke machines.

KEVIN MONK: Talk about the different credit card readers, though, for a second. Like Niac verses the other ones, USA Technology. Drawing a blank, sorry. Kind of talk about that for a second.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Well, Frank and I both have listened to many Zoom calls and different things. And when you go back and look at them, we compared both of them and I guess it's our opinion because of what we know the background that Niac, we just prefer Niac. But Frank has one now and he can tell us more about it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Kevin, I can tell you this for sure. That USA, Niac does not put a hold on your credit card. No matter what USA says. No hold on at all. David came by and looked at mine. Steve talked to him. David liked the presentation and everything on mine.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I talked to David, and he did say they put a hold on his credit card.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's what he told me.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. He told me they didn't.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Two stories.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Cause I said Frank told me you said it didn't. I don't know if Niac is doing that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I know I used my credit card on it for testing.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, I have to say this. I talked to a gentleman yesterday and I was talking to Steve about this yesterday and today. Some people do get a hold on their credit cards on your debit card and some people do not. Because I go across the street, I use my debit card and I never get a 5‑dollar hold on my card. So I think it's your bank. I don't think it truly is who, you know, they were saying oh, we require it. But I'm not sure of that because I don't ever get a 5‑dollar hold on mine.

FRANK GAFFNEY: There's another thing too. If you have it set up for multi vend it puts a hold on it. If you set up for single vend on USA, it doesn't.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like more than one item?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It figures out what’s the most expensive item in there and does it twice.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I know I had to call Cantaloupe and ask them, Max, Rubicon this guy swiped his card and every time he swiped his card he was charged 5‑dollars and whatever he purchased. And so I had to call Cantaloupe and ask them. And managers can stop it. You can call and say I do not want to have the 5‑dollar hold on there. So I don't know if some people, if they put it on their account and some people they don't. I don't know.

TONY MCGEE: When I talked to them when I first got the credit card readers at the post office, I was told that it is a mandatory hold that has to be done. But you can change it to where it's 25 cents over the highest item. That was the only workaround I could get. They didn't tell me a way to turn it off.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, they allowed Max to turn his off.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I bet he went to single vend.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I don't know if that's what he did. I just gave him the number and called him and said all you have to do is call and give them the approval. You have to call and do the approval. I think he ended up having to sign a piece of paper and sending it back or something. They don't want to be libel if you take it off and then someone goes around swiping on your credit card readers and you got no money. They don't want to be libel for it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You got a statement from Niac on your machine and how is that different from Cantaloupe?

FRANK GAFFNEY: It was a little different. They send you a weekly statement. But I use the daily app. Throughout the day I just tap on it. It will show you today, yesterday, the week. What you did for the week. What you did for the month. What you did for the year.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Cause it's simple to look at on the app. Cause it will give you like it has it separated, credit card, cash. Credit card, cash. Across from each other on the same line. And then it even gets down to the year. It gives you the total cash sales, total credit card sales. When I looked at it, it was a little over a thousand dollars on cash sales and just under a thousand dollars on credit card sales. That's easy to figure fifty percent of my business is credit cards. And it was 4.95 a month. And 5.4.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What did you say, 4.95?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. 4.95 and 5.4 percent.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I know that's a dollar more than Cantaloupe. What about the percentage, is that the same?

FRANK GAFFNEY: She said it wasn't. But I can tell you, I went back and looked at mine and I'm still on 5.9.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Some people are 5.45 at one time too. It wasn't the same.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now on the Niac when you get up there it's bright yellow and it's got a picture on it. And it shows you how to put the credit card in. If you don't put it in right, it will tell you. When you do put it in then it says next selection and talks to you. Says make selection and talks to you. Make the selection and then it says thank you. Everything clears out. If you use cash, it doesn't tell you what to do. But after you make your selection, it will say thank you before you walk away.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Got a picture on it. Like a little video screen?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right. Something like that. Where to put the check. Where to swipe or whatever. I like it. I know David was impressed with it when he went out and looked at it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Impress David, that's something. Get him to go out there and look at it. So yeah. Shelly, you can give us a little testimony next go round.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I've got my others on the way.

STEVE DEBRUHL: One thing the guy Andrew was telling us at Cantaloupe that rate applies if you're on the master account. Most of the people right now are on that master list. So we'll follow back up with them to make sure everybody's on there. Should be at the same rate across the board.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I was the first one on the master list to begin with. Same as Coke. Sam had credit cards before me, but he wasn't on that system. He was all upset when I told him what I was charging, what he was getting charged.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So when we send in the request to turn on those for a manager, we have to tell them they have to go on the LWC master account. And if you don't, they just put it at the higher rate. Cause I had Tracey, she did her paperwork, and she didn't tell them to put her on the master account. Then I had to fight with them to get her a credit.

FRANK GAFFNEY: USA told me different what it was from when I got here. When I got in it, we had service.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They merged with other company Cantaloupe. They say they have the best customer service, but I've yet to see that happen.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Donald, you're here. Let's get some statements.

DON ARABIE: Still don't get my daily.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Donald does not get a daily report.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Why not?

DON ARABIE: I've tried and talked to different ones. Oh, we're going to do it. You have to sign this. And I did all that. Still have not gotten anything.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What do you get?

DON ARABIE: I get a weekly. I got it this morning, on Friday.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So there is a way for you to go into your USA Cantaloupe account.

TONY MCGEE: I think it's under options. I would have to look. But it's on the little bar. The manager options. You can go down and select settings or options. And somewhere in one of them drop down boxes. You can select weekly, daily on your reports. And you can select biweekly and stuff on the deposits as well.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Don is on the master account. So I will look.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Because this has been going on since he's been there.

DON ARABIE: Then at Benton at Toomey they had my account with some other vending account. Finally got that straight. But there was never no money. They never put money in the account. They were telling me I couldn't do anything without it until I had the permission from these people. They have nothing to do with this machine. But they gave me hell for quite a while.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Months and months and months.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Might be as easy setting it up on your account.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I showed him this morning while we were sitting outside the daily report. How easy just go down the line. I just go down and start counting. Cause I have to make it bigger for me to see it. I just go down the line and count cash. It skips the credit card. And I know I have this machine's working. And go down to cash and credit cards. This machine is working. I make sure all five machines are working that I have on my account. And then if I have a question on it, I'll go back and find which one it was. First thing make sure everything's working. Especially if you're only going to the location a couple days a week, you need to know if the equipment's working or not.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I was trying to pull up the master account right now. Michelle is going to check when she gets back. That's the thing about having this master account, we can go on there and do everything that they would do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, Donald sure would appreciate it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I'm going to look at it. Cause I was just in it yesterday doing some transfers.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That worked out okay?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Uh‑huh.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now I'm staying on the account myself cause some of the equipment I got is still good, so I signed up on the account too. Anything I got we'll be able to transfer to somebody else.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So wait a minute. So are your credit card readers, some of them that you're replacing, are still the good ones?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Parts of them are. You know, like you got the motor and then the swiper, okay. This one might be good on this one. This one on that one.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I just know that Shelly would have to change out, the other ones on Shelly's.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I got some of mine we already worked on.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And by August there's going to be a change again. Got to start getting charged for something.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: If you don't change it over.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right. The swiper. If you don't change it there's going to be a fee for the tap.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That starts in August.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Also the tap won't work and then you can turn that off.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, they're saying it would work, but then there's an extra fee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Also like you have Apple Pay and whatever else. That won't work either.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: On the ones that Shelly has right now?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. When that time comes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: 8.95 a month. Special price.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You have special readers. You have advanced ones.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I guess we'll move on to open discussion. Donald. It's open discussion.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What do you want to discuss?

DON ARABIE: Part of my discussion Kevin's not here. Okay. We're on open discussion. Kevin, I had a question. I went through hell with unemployment, and I think you were asking, your response was you didn't think y'all could do anything. And I'm just wondering why one agency couldn't talk to another agency to verify that we were unemployed. Because you're going to have this coming up again. I promise you. You're going to have more coming up. And I'm just wondering if it could have been easier or would be easier if you or someone in the agency could talk to someone in their agency and enlighten them. Cause I'm telling you, it was really rough going through this. And I do want to thank Steve in front of everybody for all the support he gave me. He did. And I appreciate that very much. You know, when you're going through this it was tough. And I'm just wondering while y'all couldn't talk to them.

KEVIN MONK: I will ask the question as far as, you know, how that's handled. At the time, and it's been a while, I don't remember the particulars. I remember having a discussion about it and I can't remember the exact scenario. But I will ask the question about unemployment. Are they sending you paperwork or something?

DON ARABIE: I'm done. I went to my court and everything else. I was waived. But it was hell. I tell you that. We went through hell.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He didn't get support from the agency.

DON ARABIE: They said that I was not eligible for none of it. And they gave each one as stages and I had to prove, you know, had to go through and try to prove to them without paperwork that I wasn't working and this and that. It was Judge (inaudible). It was done by phone, and it was probably an hour and 15 minutes, an hour and a half.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Really.

DON ARABIE: It was a long deal. I'd hate to see anybody‑‑ if anybody else wouldn't have to go through that, I'd be glad for them. Just say that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I do know that Sandra has upcoming, I think next, she's supposed to have her meeting. I think it was you, Sandra, and one other person.

DON ARABIE: He was a lot more understanding before the conversation was over with. He wasn't at first. And I guess that's just the way they are. Very blunt and hard and everything else. But by the time the conversation was over with I think he understood more about the blind program and everything else. And that's why I want to know why y'all couldn't explain that to them which would make it easier.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I will say this for Sandra, Mica and I wrote a letter yesterday because she's got her appointment coming up and she told them she was a blind vendor in the program. Okay. You have to prove that. We provided her a letter saying she's been in the program X amount of time. Gave our phone number there and a copy of her permit.

DON ARABIE: If you talk to her Steve, tell her if it's the same one he's going to tell her he needs certain things. He wants to know what she's making now. I don't remember what all I had to do. And this was on a Thursday morning at 10:00. And we got through about just a little bit before 12. He gave me till 12:00 the next day to have everything he wanted in his office. I had to fax it to him.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Wow.

DON ARABIE: You know, but then he was very prompt. By Wednesday I had got my letters from him, you know, waiving everything I wasn't accountable for. He had made that decision. He was also very quick. I didn't have to wait two or three weeks to find out what's what.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They asked you for a copy of the letters. Did you bring? The letters you got from him, do you have that?

DON ARABIE: I did. I thought I sent it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I want to read it and see what he had to say to you.

DON ARABIE: Yeah. Cause he sent a letter for each one of them. I had three different dates that they were saying I wasn't eligible for, you know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Kind of explain what happened. So we have the federal unemployment that got kicked in. The 600 dollars. I think first it was 300. Then it was 600 the next time around. There was a window where got state only. Then state plus federal. Then state plus federal at a lower rate. That's why you got three different letters. Because there was three different pools of money. But they also cut you off. To me the case could be made‑‑

DON ARABIE: That's one of the points I told him. They never did cut me off as far as that. They never did. And that's what I was telling him. I said if I wasn't eligible for that, why were they still giving me for this next period, you know. He said well, I'd like to know that too. It kind of opened his eyes there. I'm just thinking it would make it easier‑‑ because I'm going to tell you, there will probably be quite a few more.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think it's just been the three that we talked about.

KEVIN MONK: I can ask the question.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Cause they said well, don't send us anymore money, you know. At that point when they said they owed the back. I think they cut Sandra off. I think that's what happened to her.

DON ARABIE: They didn't me. Now when I got the letter was the day that my wife passed away was her services. I got the letters on that day saying I owed all that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: How much? Was it like 19,000‑dollars?

DON ARABIE: I quit then. I didn't file nothing no more. I said hell no. I'm done. I cut it off then. I cut it off myself. They never cut me off.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If you'd tried, they would have cut you off.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Maybe. Maybe not.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But you did it yourself to keep from having to pay more money back. So really it cost you money.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, I do know to file unemployment now you have to go through an act of Congress. And you have to download some, I think it's called cash app or something like that and verify who you are. You have to take pictures of your driver's license front and back. They send you codes and emails. You have a certain amount of time that you have to respond to that. Because I ended up having to help a friend of ours.

DON ARABIE: To keep getting it?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Just to re‑‑ so say pandemic hit again and you're shutdown. They have so many different rules and regulations to verify that it is you.

DON ARABIE: But they didn't cut me off. They just said I had to do that.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. But I'm saying now say since the pandemic's quit and you're not filing for unemployment. To refile for unemployment now you have to go through and verify who you are. So and then you have to take pictures, the front and back of your driver's license and everything just to open your unemployment ap again. Your application.

DON ARABIE: I had to go to motor vehicles in Alexandria. And I got a supervisor there to help and she did all that and she sent it to them. I had to do all that too.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. You do have to go through a whole lot more to file for unemployment now.

DON ARABIE: And thank you to Michelle for signing us up.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: You're welcome. Signed you up to get you in trouble.

DON ARABIE: No. We got through it. Thank God.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That really was a crazy time. You had a hundred times more people filing for unemployment than the week before. I think it was an audit. You got swept up in that. Once you had a chance to explain to them.

DON ARABIE: And what was so bad about this when I got that letter it was in January. And, you know, I filed the appeal then I hadn't heard anything. And this went for almost a year and a half before I heard anything else. All this time I'm thinking it's probably good. Next thing I get is a letter I'm going to be in court on the phone the next week.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Wow.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

BARBARA: Can I ask a question before you move on?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Sure.

BARBARA: I know I'm a guest. I'm learning.

FRANK GAFFNEY: This is open discussion. Everybody.

BARBARA: Speaking of equipment, the equipment that's (inaudible), like if I need something like that, what do I have to do?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: You have to go back to Louisiana Rehabilitation Service to the blind counselor caseload and open up another case and get her to help you with that.

KEVIN MONK: If you're in Baton Rouge you call the number and refer yourself to services or you call Samantha here in Baton Rouge.

BARBARA: All right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What Kevin? Post training. You have to sign up for post training.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: She means JAWS and stuff like that.

KEVIN MONK: You have to apply for post training.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: She'll pull up your old file.

BARBARA: Anybody know the number already?

KEVIN MONK: Yep. 295‑8900.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I'll text it to you, Ms. Barbara.

BARBARA: Appreciate it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: On open discussion. We won't be taking a vote for this because we don't have enough people. But I'm going to call for a voice opinion from the committee people and we're hoping this is the only change after this meeting. It sounds good, but in the meantime, I'll take a voice from the committee on whether you feel that the upper echelon that we know of as Kevin and Melissa are doing a good enough job to keep this program going. Now this was discussed before we got information today. So voice vote. Just opinion cause it's not a vote. Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: My opinion would be the two people that were mentioned and what as long as I've been in the program, no. They just have not met up to the mark that we should be at. Unless something changes drastically because the position we're in, you know, getting equipment, getting things fixed and that sort of thing, it's making it very hard on low-income vendors. So I don't have a whole bunch of confidence right now.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Emma.

EMMA PALMER: No. I feel like as far as anything it takes too long. The managers are going to suffer more with this with getting equipment fixed and all of that. And as far as getting the information back. And the thing with Barksdale. The thing with Fort Polk. All of that. No. It's just taking too long and we're not getting anywhere. We just keep discussing it and discussing it. And it's a roundabout thing. We're not getting anywhere. With the lawyer, without the lawyer. It's still the same.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Donald.

DON ARABIE: I have to agree with Emma. I just think it just goes from meeting to meeting. And I think if it's in the lawyers' hands then, you know, I think they should respond a little bit quicker. And respond as far as some of that goes. And I hope that we see that in the future that things will improve in that sense.

EMMA PALMER: And there's another thing I want to say, Frank. It's just like I know Melissa got a heavy load, but we look at it this just one department and we're looking out for Randolph Sheppard. And that you want addressed now. Not a year from now. Not two years from now. We need our situation addressed now. Just like what Donald was saying about unemployment. I remember that. And I also remember saying okay, we were told that we were eligible for this. Why couldn't the state, we are the workforce, why couldn't they assist us with some kind of document saying yeah, they are eligible to apply for this unemployment. There was no help with it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Open discussion. Anything from the visitors? Being done, we'll move on. Next thing is budget.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Used to be Pinky.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Subcommittees. Open discussion. Now subcommittees. Budget.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: It used to be Pinky. So there's no one there listed now.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We haven't gone into a new budget yet. So we'll move on. Constitution and bylaws. No changes on that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I actually have a copy of the constitution and bylaws. I read it the other day. One thing it says on there about amendments, constitution and bylaws may be amended 2/3rd majority vote of voting members present at a meeting. Chairperson shall provide a copy of amendments to each committee member at least two weeks prior to voting on said amendments. So we talked before about changing the bylaws. That's all we'll have to do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now on this I've been confused forever on that. That's committee constitution bylaws.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But then I've been told there's state constitution and bylaws in this, but I've never gotten a copy of them. So I don't know.

KEVIN MONK: If there is, I don't know about it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's why I asked a long time ago.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Do you have this one? Frank, do you have this one says Louisiana blind vendors.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I got that. Yeah. Because I use that to change when we were having the Fort Polk discussion the state refused to leave our executive committee. I had to change my vote and we did away with ex‑officious. So I read that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I figured.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. We had some people that we wanted to have a discussion about Fort Polk and the state refused to leave cause they said they were on executive committee. So we couldn't have an executive committee meeting. But yeah. We can change stuff if we need to with a vote. If we need to change something, I've already done it. It took a while, they didn't think I could do it, to get an email saying yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It was before my time.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. It was before your time. I'm going back some years.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What you guys do. Y'all go back years and years and years.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Location mergers. We've been discussing some of that. Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We did a few of them like the bus station.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We discussed the Lighthouse today. So kind of see how that plays out. That would be one definitely worth merging.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. And then new location development. Which that will come in if we get some of these other locations that we're trying to get. But at the present time we don't have any. Again, on that new locations, find out what these new rules say we can't do. Cause the feds won't let us spend money on. Can't improve the location, the building.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. You can't add value to the building.

KEVIN MONK: Basically whatever you put in you have to be able to take with you for the most part.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. And then the next one is one I was thinking about too that I've never gotten, I don't know where it is, never gotten it, is policy and procedure. Kevin, what is that?

KEVIN MONK: That's the BEP.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is that policy and procedure? Okay.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Which we're in the middle of working on.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And the tag manual.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. Roadsides. Frank Gaffney. All right. As far as I know everything is open and running. I believe on Benton, Donald.

DON ARABIE: Benton is still real, real slow right now. They have construction on both sides and now they're doing, they're going to do a car ramp, A vehicle ramp and an 18-wheeler ramp out of there. They're going to have two different ramps coming out to get on the interstate. They're building a lane on each side. One east bound, one westbound. Doing both of those. So actually it just, just the last time I was there they had moved the barricade over a little from where it was before. Because the way it was where the lane was the barricade was in the lane if you're coming from Louisiana onto Texas. So it was like you couldn't even get to it. You know, we knew we could go around it and go through it. But as far as now that was moved. It's still construction right there. But the barricade was moved over some. So I don't know if that's going to make a difference. And then the other side coming from Texas that is very messed up. And I talked to Paul, and he said he talked to some guy in the Department of Transportation, and we were, I was kind of shocked to find out that, you know, cause we was asking about the signs, and they don't have signs saying the rest area and everything else. He said what they do, and that's Johnson Brothers that's doing the construction, they actually turn all that property over to the construction people. The period that they're doing the construction. So that property belongs to them then. So they don't care if they have signs or anything else. So he said that's why it's like it is until they get through the construction. And the bad part of it is he told him the construction is probably going to be two years. So I don't know if that means those two lanes there or. Because it looks like it's probably a 5 or 6‑mile stretch that they're doing. Some of them are on each side. Some of them's in the middle, you know. From say Benton to Texas almost.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So let me ask you this. If I'm coming from Texas to get off to go to your place, there's a barricade blocking that?

DON ARABIE: From Texas?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah.

DON ARABIE: No. Not from Texas. They finally, like I said, last time‑‑

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's open.

DON ARABIE: It's open, yes. It was the Louisiana side that had the barricade. Cause you have to go turn around and come back.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, you do.

DON ARABIE: I mean, it was just like it was closed there. We could get to it because we would go around the barricade and make our turnaround.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But your customer is not going to be somebody from Louisiana.

DON ARABIE: No. Now and I don't know if it was more because of Memorial Day, but it was better in the last week. Probably Memorial Day. But still. We have a lot, a lot of losses right now. So I'm trying to not put so much in there, you know. It's going to be a little bit according to what Paul says as well.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let me back up. So when you exit that rest area. Right now there's one in Texas. Building two different like a car exit and a truck exit?

DON ARABIE: No. It's just one exit, but what they're doing when you're going to leave the rest area, they're building from the rest area now they're building two lanes, two approach to the interstate. One for vehicles and one for 18 wheelers. So eventually it will probably be good when they get through with it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Probably like the first time around. Closed for two and half years.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Five.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Probably five by time you got all said and done.

FRANK GAFFNEY: A lot of people don't realize the rest areas are easy and there's a lot of losses. Like my place last week went out there right before Memorial Day, went out there, loaded my machines to the brim. Candies, pastries, everything full to the brim. Before I could leave the electricity was out. So I had to go back into the machines, take all the candy out. Take all the pastry out. Put that in my truck. Go into the storage room. Get all the candy. Get all the pastry. Load it in my truck. Take it home. Turn the air conditioner on in my garage. Put some benches out. Pile up and lay everything out on it. And then when we finally got electricity back on had to load it all back in the truck. Take it all back out to the stand. And now it's even harder to load the machines because everything's just piled in. No order. Of course, I haven't had any air conditioning or heat out there since last year.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What's the status on that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No reply. And this was just remodeled. In 19 I was closed all year when they remodeled again. A whole new air condition. But low bids. But you just have to live with it. Only thing you can do. All right. So the next thing is roadsides are done. Training. I talked to Kevin and we're going to incorporate some of the blind training in with it. I think will help especially with some younger managers in and get some micro market training. Upward mobility, Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Would be the same thing. About the only upward mobility we're getting is probably through the merchant. And they do online stuff. As far as us, I can't remember last time we did upward mobility.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Before the pandemic.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But I do think Blast, you feel like that's getting stuff out of that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Some things you don't but.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. Sometimes it's just a sales pitch.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Somebody has to pay for it too. Some of the stuff they put in there like watching TV, you have to pay for the commercial. So some of the sponsors get put in.

KEVIN MONK: You had done some upward mobility training stuff, had you, Steve? Because Eric had done some presentations.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. We did a few of those.

KEVIN MONK: Y'all did several of those. Three or four, at least. Friday sessions. Friday afternoon sessions.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Thursday.

KEVIN MONK: Thursday. Whatever it was.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let me ask you this about the convention coming to New Orleans. Is there an opportunity there for some training, you think?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't know. I don't know how much time they have.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I know they have like a Randolph Sheppard.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That's Thursday at 12.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I know I'm going. And Shelly's going. And I believe Kevin's going to be there. And Steve, you're supposed to be there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't know exactly how much training is involved.

KEVIN MONK: I think it's just their meeting, if I'm not mistaken.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. It's their meeting. It's not really a training involved. If we planned ahead of time more, we might have been able to set up a training with Terry Smith like we were going to have.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We can still bring Terry back to town. That was the one we canceled right when the pandemic started.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Friday the 13th, right. That was the last one we even had scheduled.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Now I've had lots of it. Because I've been on so many Zoom calls with other states. Their meetings and their training courses. Of course, I pass on anything I find out. Next thing, insurance. All right. As of right now we're okay on insurance.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let's talk about LaSalle.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, last I heard it hadn't been paid.

STEVE DEBRUHL: For the cafeteria part.

SPEAKER: Who's responsible?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, that's a question.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We don't have a manager there. Mike was going to pay. Then Mike passed. So Max is paying for the vending portion. So that could be on whoever gets in that location, I guess that could be part of their opening inventory.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Incorporate it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: He's paying for liability.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: There's no manager there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Basically we've got it in there. But more or less unofficially on standby.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Like we had Toomey, Benton. For a while it was in there, but it was on standby. And push comes to shove if they want more money then I'll just put the money in myself. Cause it won't be that much cause it's unopened.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think Shelly said he wanted to assume that financial responsibility. Didn't you say that earlier.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He just giggles.

FRANK GAFFNEY: For those that don't know, the insurance that we have it's group insurance, but it's not through the state cause the state said they couldn't do it. And RSA only did it one year then they said they couldn't do it. So most of the work was done through David, my RSMA. And then I'm on as the head of the, we had to have a head for the organization to get the group rate. So that's me. So I guess somehow or another I'm responsible.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Somebody can't pay, Frank will pay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Has anybody ever made a claim on the policy?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. We didn't have any claims even before. I think the only thing, I know the only thing we ever had up there was somebody broke a finger on a vending machine somehow, they said. But we never did have to pay on it. I think it was dropped. They said the door closed on their finger. I wasn't too sure about it either.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Shelly, you had a woman trying to get in on that insurance.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That was on OSB side. That wasn't on our side.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. They tried to claim on ours.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I know they did.

KEVIN MONK: I got deposed on that one.

STEVE DEBRUHL: What about the poor lady, how is she doing after she fell off that chair?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Let's not go into that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We don't know if she's still drawing workman's comp or not.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. She's still going through with the case. Cause I was talking to Will about it the other day.

STEVE DEBRUHL: She is still going through with it?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Okay. When the state hired, or OSB, whoever hired those new attorneys they actually came to my house. And the head guy that was in charge we went through the whole thing again and excuse me, but he was really ticked off about the way they handled me as a blind person. Big time. I mean, trying to make me look at a computer screen and see things that I'm there look, I see a picture, but I can't tell you what's in the picture. And he must have asked me the same question five times. The attorney was really upset. But I'm out of it now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Good.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. Moving on. Next thing is district concerns. District one is Candice. She's tied up today. As far as I know she doesn't have anything. She's in the process of getting Federal City going and still working on getting all the equipment working at the rest areas. The next thing is district two which was Pinky. She resigned. So I don't know. Next thing is district three, Herbert and he resigned. And the next thing is Shelly, he resigned.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Not yet.

FRANK GAFFNEY: District four, Shelly.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Basically the majority of people I speak to or calls me or whatever, first thing is when are we going to be able to get the credit cards. That's one of our pet peeves. The other thing I have a few people actually call and don't understand why we didn't get a return envelope. So we had to like tell them okay, use the address on the return envelope you already got your mail in. So hopefully that worked.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hopefully.

SPEAKER: We started getting phone calls day one.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Exactly. Like where's the return envelope. Where do I mail it back.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: That's what I got. Where do I mail this.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's it. Which address do we send it to. All right. Next one is Earl, which is district five. He's got the same questions. Then district six, Donald.

DON ARABIE: I have nothing, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: District seven is Emma.

EMMA PALMER: Nothing except you already aired all yours out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. The next thing on the agenda is insulation of new EC members. First, who was reelected, I would imagine.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Steve has that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I do. Frank was reelected. Shelly was elected. Don Arabie was elected, right?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think that was a runoff. And then Tony McGee is going to be a new manager. Also been elected for the first time. We did have Sunny Crochet who was going to be in district two for Pinky. And he nominated himself. He voted for himself. And won the election. But he told Frank he's not able to come to the meetings.

FRANK GAFFNEY: His wife can't drive. Not right now, anyway. So that hospital's keeping him busy.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Which is good.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So that's an open seat.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We'll have to send that out for vote.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Earl Hebert was also reelected. So right now Frank's the district rep for seven. And Emma, you're out babe, for right now. So the open district‑‑ I'm sorry. Candice was also reelected. So we do have the open district which was formally Pinky's. And then that's the only outstanding one we have. So right now the EC members is comprised of Candice Linville, Shelly LeJeune, Earl Hebert, Don Arabie and Frank Gaffney.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And Tony's district three, right?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Tony's going to be district three. So do we swear the members in now, Frank? Is that what we do?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't know if we've ever had a swearing in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Consider yourself installed. Well, Tony, welcome.

FRANK GAFFNEY: See, Tony, now everybody will call you and complain. All right. Election of new officers. What do we do about that?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Have to vote. We have a chairman. Vice chairman. We have a secretary and a treasurer.

DON ARABIE: Can we do it without quorum, Steve?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I don't know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let me ask you this. Now that Tony's.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. Now he's in. He's sworn in.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So you have three.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So we have four with Tony, right. This is for the officers for the next term, anyway. The term doesn't actually begin till July 1st. I would say we could do the election today and then take effect. Right, Kevin?

KEVIN MONK: I don't know. New territory, y'all. I assume so.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think so.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If they decide we couldn't do it, we'll just do it again.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I assume so.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's what I'm thinking. The only way else you could do it. Cause Tony's here we do have a quorum. You want the first candidate will be for the treasurer. Is there a nomination for that?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Anybody nominated for treasurer?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Stick it on Candice. She's not here to defend herself.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I nominate Candice Linville.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I'll second that.

EMMA PALMER: She not here to accept it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's not in our bylaws. She can turn it down.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: She'll deal with all the money.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Is Candice the only nominee y'all have?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Vote for Candice. All opposed say no. All right. Congratulate Candice on her treasury‑ship. Next, we have the secretary. Pinky was the treasurer last year, just so you know.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I nominate Emma. No. I can't nominate her.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So we have Tony. We have Shelly. We have Earl. We have Don. And we have Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I nominate Tony.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Tony as secretary.

DON ARABIE: Second.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Don't worry about it, Tony. There ain't nothing to it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: A lot of responsibility, Tony.

TONY MCGEE: If I mess something up, I'll sit here and smile.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. So congratulations to Tony, our new secretary. We'll have the training for you later on. Vice chairman.

DON ARABIE: I nominate Shelly.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Nomination for Shelly. All in favor of Shelly say aye.

{Collective aye}

STEVE DEBRUHL: All opposed say no. The ayes have it. And for the chairman. Do we have a nomination for that?

DON ARABIE: I nominate Frank.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I nominate Frank.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All in favor say aye.

{Collective aye}

STEVE DEBRUHL: Opposed say no. Ayes have it. So Frank's the chairman. Which means district seven no longer has a representative. Cause Frank can't serve as a chairmen and as a rep. So we have 30 days that we're supposed to do an election for that. Does anybody want to be nominated to run in your stead? Emma Palmer perhaps.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I nominate Emma Palmer.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But I think according to this we have to do an election, so I'll send those ballots out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And nothing will happen, but if you get no replies on it then it will fall to me for approval from committee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Say that one more time. I apologize.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If there's no response then it falls to me with the approval of the committee.

STEVE DEBRUHL: For Shreveport.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Now what about the open district formally Pinky, formally Sunny?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's the same thing as the no response. It would become the chairman with the agreement of the committee on the choices.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We already had the election. Sunny was the only one. Should we do another election?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. You have to send out another paper. At least a nomination. Or you can send out a letter whoever is eligible and that could be the vote at the same time. Who you would vote for.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Might be easier that way.

FRANK GAFFNEY: One letter. Just a nomination. Nobody nominated it falls to us to choose one.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think two steps. The nomination. Then if nobody gets nominated then we just default.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That might take longer than 30 days.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We got 90.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Should the election be completed, and an area remains unrepresented, the selection will come from the area needing representation. If managers from that area remain unwilling to serve the chairperson must be confirmed by a vote of the committee. Like Frank said, up to him at a point if nobody nominates.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I didn't say vote. I said with the agreement of the committee.

BARBARA: May I ask a question?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yes, Barbara. Actually, you just asked a question.

BARBARA: I was nominated, and I didn't know about it until I got a phone call. I didn't get no paperwork or anything like that. I was in the same area as Mr. Shelly LeJeune. Since he been in it a long time I didn't, you know, I didn't know the procedure. And I didn't have the right answer, you know. On what I should do and who I should talk to. I didn't have the application to fill out or information to send back in. So what is the proper procedure when it come to events like this?

STEVE DEBRUHL: We send out a letter saying the elections are coming up. Would you like to nominate anyone. You were nominated. I don't know if you nominated yourself. Did you nominate yourself or did somebody else nominate you?

BARBARA: Somebody nominated me. I said for what.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Well, somebody's thinking good about you. That's where we get the nomination. If only one person's nominated, then that person wins by default. Tony scared off all his competition. He had no competition. So he was the winner by default. In your case it was you and Shelly. And I sent out the ballet.

BARBARA: I didn't receive that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You did not receive a ballet?

BARBARA: No. And I only knew about it till Mr. Shelly called me himself. So, you know, it's too late in the game now to get into it when you know something the day before the election of something like that, you know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, we did have, I think, six returns. So Shelly did win the vote.

BARBARA: Yes. I don't have an issue with that. He's a good man. He do a good job. But I just like further information and, you know, just to be aware of everything. You know, I have readers on my phone and stuff like that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I apologize. I thought you got it. Cause we did mail both a nomination‑‑

BARBARA: Unless it ended up in the garbage can. But I didn't receive anything.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's kind of an issue for us too. We mail stuff to the same address. Some people they'll get this bid, but won't get that bid. We sent it to the address we have on file. We try to keep those files as updated as possible. But I apologize.

BARBARA: That's okay.

DON ARABIE: I think you're doing the right thing by coming to the meeting and getting involved.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. Appreciate you being here.

EMMA PALMER: And if you want, just call the people in your area to ask them to vote for you too.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Especially when the meetings are in Baton Rouge.

BARBARA: The knowledge and power I'm gaining.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah. Find out who's in your area and you get in contact with them and ask them to vote for you.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Nobody applies for district two, which they haven't, it's going to be up to the chairperson to appoint someone to that position. So you may want to start politicking over there. So you definitely have one fan over there because somebody nominated and voted for you. Does that answer your question?

BARBARA: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. All right. Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Date of next meeting we already decided was going to be Wednesday the tenth.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Not the tenth. Tenth is the Saturday. September 9th.

STEVE DEBRUHL: September 9th, right. Y'all like this place?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: That was the question. Can this be booked automatically?

CHAUNTEY CARTER: I would have to call to book it. I can set it up.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I like this place. Beautiful building.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And this is where the NFB meets, and ABLE meets and LCD meets.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Price is right too. Okay. So 9/9/22 is going to be our next meeting. Tentatively scheduled where we're sitting right now.

DON ARABIE: When is Labor Day, Steve?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: The fifth.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. The Friday after labor day. After my 40th wedding anniversary. Then it says adjournment, Frank, after that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right. A motion to adjourn.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I make a motion to we adjourn.

DON ARABIE: I second.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{Collective aye}

FRANK GAFFNEY: Anybody opposed? Hearing none, motion passed. All right. Steve, do you have an agenda for the trust fund?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got it right here. I forgot to email it to you. Does anybody need to take a break before we get to this?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Need to stretch your legs. Take ten.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right now it's 12:10. Meet back here about 20 after.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got blind vendors trust fund quarterly meeting minutes agenda. So we need to do the call the order, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order trust fund.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yep.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order. Roll call.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly Lejeune, Baton Rouge.

EMMA PALMER: Emma. Well, I'm not on now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, actually, this is still the last meeting of the last regime.

EMMA PALMER: Okay. Emma Palmer, Shreveport.

TONY MCGEE: Tony McGee, Baton Rouge.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Frank Gaffney, chairman.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Where did Don go?

FRANK GAFFNEY: He had to go.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. So we don't have a quorum, again. Anyway. Tony, he wouldn't be able to vote anyway. So on the roll call, we just did that. Review of agenda. Y'all want to approve the minutes from the March 11th meeting, but again.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right. New business.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Trust fund monthly income and disbursements. As we know there's a different sheet from when we used to have. I emailed everyone an Excel spread sheet. Which if you look at the documents it tells you the expense. For the last half on there it says FY22. That's the actual balance as of Friday June 10th. So the balance as of today is 716,998‑dollars is the balance of the trust fund. We haven't had any big, big expenses. We will have that 88,000 coming up for the stipends here over the next couple of months. We bought some pieces of equipment. We don't have any big expenses lined up with the exception of the stipend. But I will say collections have been picking up on third party. Just got a Coke check for University Hospital. It was 6,600‑dollars. That's just for the Coke machines at the university. That's kind of where it was pre‑pandemic levels. And then the snacks on that too were right at six. 12,000‑dollars last month for the University Hospital. So that continues to be our best producing location. Eric had sent me his updated commissions. We've also been getting the actual deposits they make. Some checks come in, they don't actually filter down to Chauntey or us. But what they've been doing in fiscal is send us any check that goes in our account. So that's helped us figure out a lot more accurate what we are. So Eric had sent me the commissions yesterday. And I'll go ahead and forward that to y'all. That spread sheet you're talking about. Any other questions on the balance?

EMMA PALMER: How much you said the balance was again? I stepped out.

STEVE DEBRUHL: 716,998. Which is pretty close. We did get some checks yesterday so it's conceivable it could go up a couple thousand dollars. These numbers came out two days ago. My battery just went out. What's next on the agenda? That's three pages, Frank. You got the collection of expenditures. Year to date from fiscal year July 21. 285,176 is expenditures year to date. And our collections year to date were 217,338. That's a little deficit. Actually, was a little bit better than last year at this time. So 716,998.16 is the balance without any more deposits. Like I said, we did collect a few checks yesterday. Got open discussion, Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did we have anything on Pollock? I imagine it's nothing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got a check. It was so ridiculous. I think it was $29.48 or something.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Them and Oakdale. That was similar. But again, that's Covid's hit them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Federal prison, as far as I know right now, are still not doing visitation.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They started for a while and they're not doing it now. I know the juvenile detention center, they suspended visitation for that as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I know for state prisons and everything throughout the United States went to visitation, but federal prisons have never gone back to visitation yet.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We have one 3rd party location we have to get rid of. It was Shirley McCorkal. It's a federal medical clinic that actually serves people with leprosy. Before the pandemic they had a few people working over there. Michelle, fill us in.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: So they've only got one, maybe two employees that work a full week. And everybody else works two days a week. Or one day a week. So they do not have a full staff at all. And so I told her we would have to pull the vending machines because we're not making, in two weeks she's making less than 11‑dollars. And so we're going to pull it. I talked to Coke. Coke don't want to do the Coke machines either. So we're pulling Coke and vending from them.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Where is this at again?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Off of interline. At LDH.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like a National Association of Health, I think it is. They're not even seeing patients anymore. They're seeing patients doing telemedicine. They used to get six or seven patients they would service, but they're not even getting patients in there. For a health facility.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Shirley McCorkal said she never made any money.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That was when we tried to make a go of it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All you can do is try.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That will build up a good four wide machine back in service. We can use that for another location. With a credit card reader. We got that one over in the state parks. I got a thing from GSA for a location by the airport. Mica is checking it out next week. I think it's a TSA location. Supposed to have 33 employees in there. Still not a whole lot. But eyeball it and see who else is in that area. That might be an opportunity. Again, a federal location. That would our first one.

FRANK GAFFNEY: TSA are ours.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That might be a good time to talk about third party on federal locations. I was talking to Herbert. I know that's something we got to start moving towards cause they mentioned that in our last RSA meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Really right now we're ahead of most because we got somewhat of a plan.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Whole bunch of states haven't even talked about it yet.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Our monthly conference call Kevin was out, but that was a topic that came up. And there was like 33 states on there. And you're right. Very few had an actual plan. How do you determine if it's not a person geographically close. How do you pay them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Like one conference call I was on with California their director thought the only thing that applied to was new locations. That everything else was grandfathered in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Might be wishful thinking on his part.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I mean, even his own committee people tried to explain it to him, and he wouldn't hear nothing of it.

KEVIN MONK: If you read it there ain't no such thing as grandfathered. If you can't do it, the blind vendor can't do it, you have to give it back to the building and they split it with you.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Only if there was an agreement in place. But typically our agreements there's a 30 day out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. But it doesn't say anything about outs. It just says you can run it to the end of the agreement. It doesn't say you have to get out of it. The way I determine it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think you're right. Our agreements are pretty much in perpetuity unless there's some of the older ones, they have a ten-day cancellation by written notice of either party. But most of them are 30-day notice.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Like I said, when I read that it didn't say anything about canceling. It said you could go to the end of the contract. That's why I don't think they pushed anything on it.

KEVIN MONK: Which means we might want to look at Corps of Engineers because whatever contract they have in place with Pepsi or whoever it is, I don't know how long that is. The best of my recollection we're just getting a piece of the action there. The deal is with the corps and the third-party vendor.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They have a cafeteria over there. That's on full service from Refreshment Solutions. Used to be Long Leaf. Long Leaf got bought out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They do Coke and snacks.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Some Pepsi. So drinks and snacks.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I didn't know if we were getting separate checks. That's how I was wondering when he said a contract with Coke.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Again, that's kind of dropped off as well. I mean, a lot of these federal locations are doing a lot more teleworking. At LWC, I don't think we have anybody telecommuting anymore.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Over at LWC, yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, LRS.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I was going to say, the Hale Boggs Federal Courthouse, Mica talked to Leslie who is the building manager. She said about 20 percent occupancy.

FRANK GAFFNEY: On the conference calls I'm getting on GSA is predicting 20 to 25 percent. Now, they can't say it about other occupants. But GSA employees, about 25 percent.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, this building is a 14-story building. There's only like 250 people in there. Of which the vast majority are the coast guard. They have like two or three floors in there. Mostly coast guard. But the people for the court, a lot are working from home. The GSA people are working from home. They come in like one day a week. Look around. See what's going on.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's why the woman in charge at GSA was saying I can tell you for sure about the GSA workers. The occupants of other departments in these buildings, you know. She couldn't say one way or the other what they were going to do.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Mike used to work for the railroader in that same building. He told me they're working from home as well.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Steve, do you know upcoming, I say contracts, going to be expiring?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like I say, our agreements, usually all our agreements we have, other than a private location, is kind of set up to not have an end date on it. Just to have it as long as you're happy, we're happy. Go on in perpetuity. Won't be an end date. As long as the law doesn't change. I had the same conversation with the attorney yesterday for tourism. Well, I don't see an end date. Well, the law doesn't end. Oh, okay. So he said what if he's not happy with the service, with his person. So we do have a cancellation. We say you got ten days to get your machines out of there. But that's for the third party. That's not for us. We don't ever get kicked out. We have the priority to be here. Whether it's Longleaf or Ten M Vending representing us. We're not going to give up our priority. That's why we don't put an end date. So if that's the case, like Frank's saying, I wasn't even thinking that yeah, we really, I think we're covered if we don't make any changes. The ones that are in place right now. But like we had a post office satellite office open up that Radel took over down by the airport. That's turned out to be really good for him. He started with a Coke machine. Got Coke and snack. And starting to be one of those good locations. That was a post office. It was like a freestanding location. So we added to his route. It's helping him make a little more money. He also had the child services in Laplace that got hit by the hurricane. That's been down for two years. Looks like they're finally getting ready to open back up. He's got a snack and a drink in there. But he hasn't been getting any money out of that for almost a year now. Any other questions on the trust fund?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right now looks pretty good.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We haven't had any hits like we had before with the stipends.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Sometimes it was over 150,000.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Something to be said, David Jarvis was on that list too. I just thought about that. I think it's going to be like 86,000. In that ballpark.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's about what I figured.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We want to get more managers, but I like the idea of the managers we got making more money too. Like these locations that are not really locations. Like the Lighthouse. (Inaudible).

FRANK GAFFNEY: What's hard is that you run into is trying to get somebody to take over a location that doesn't make any money and it cost them more money to do it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That was kind of challenging with the bus station too. Put it out three times. Nobody bid on it. Kind of fortunate to have Antoine. I guess he wanted to grow up and have a snack bar at the bus station cause that's all he ever talked about was that bus station. So hopefully he'll get the keys on Monday.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Like I told Herbert, that's an opportunity to reprove himself.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. So far, he's doing it. Although, the legislature, I don't know how he did with the machines over there. There's supposed to be a special session called next week, I think. Because they sued over the congressional maps. So the governor was having a special session to redraw the congressional maps. But then they have to appeal to the fifth circuit in New Orleans, but they put a stay on it. Right now I think the special session is probably on hold for right now.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: If they do, only going to be five days.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Michelle, did Herbert send you that picture over there at the capitol?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Huh‑uh.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He was over there. He went to the post office over there and he went by there and red beans and rice with cornbread, 11.50.

SPEAKER: Wow.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Just red beans and rice?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Pork chop 2‑dollars extra.

EMMA PALMER: What else we have, Frank, on there?

STEVE DEBRUHL: What was the question, Emma?

EMMA PALMER: I was trying to see what we up to?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Michelle, when I was talking to Buck, I don't know what kind of contract we have over there, but he said he was trying to get some prices raised.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And they won't do it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: And he jumps the gun. No. No. I just told him today that he needs to cool his heels. Because they have submitted it to the committee for that to be raised and to send it to the client for approval. So it's in process. And then I have been talking with HR, Jennifer and Morgan and all of them, on his hiring process.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. Is he still having trouble with that?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He didn't mention it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. It just takes so long.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I know Frito-Lay just went up 4‑dollars a case on the chips. I don't know what he's getting on chips. They're now, the cost is 61 cents apiece now.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, it has been submitted. The committee, to the committee. And it is on the board to go to the clients that are there. So it will probably, I'm going to say, it's going to be approved for whatever he submitted.

SPEAKER: They should.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So we have an agreement we have to get approval from them?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. To raise prices. He's wanting to raise his prices. So he just has to submit the pricing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The original agreement.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. So he has to submit his prices and do all that. Then they send it to the committee. The committee signs off on it.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: What's bad about submitting prices, they go up all the time. Left and right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Let me just say this. Lynsey has to leave. We had her through 12. Lynsey, I appreciate you coming out. We need to adjourn the meeting. So Frank, is there anything else we need to talk about?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You want to make a motion to adjourn?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Do I hear a motion we adjourn?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I move we adjourn.

EMMA PALMER: I second.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor. Opposed. Motion passes.