Randolph Sheppard

Quarterly EC Meeting

June 11, 2021

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's 2:00 Frank. Let's get it started.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Herb is getting on now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Well, good afternoon everyone.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Hello. Good afternoon.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Lynsey, is that you talking? It's like somebody's reading something on jaws.

LYNSEY HEBERT: No. That's not me. That's one of the phone numbers.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, good afternoon. Frank, right now, I do believe we have a quorum.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I just talked to Herbert. He's getting on. So look for him.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm looking for him right now. So we have Frank, Candice, Shelly, Earl, Emma.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We have Pinky.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We have Pinky. I thought I said Pinky.

SHELLY LEJUENE: I had sent the information to Herbert and to Don also just in case.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey Lynn.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Herb is getting on.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. I see him right here.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And Don will be getting on by phone.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Okay.

HERBERT READO: Hello.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey Herbert.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Appreciate you joining in. I want to welcome everyone to the elected committee June 11th, 2021, via Zoom. This may possibly be our last virtual EC meeting. But I'm thinking in the future we may want to just keep this as part of the program. If people can Zoom in from other locations so they don't have to actually be in person. So Frank, you want to call to order and let's do the roll call of members.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Roll call. Everybody call to order. Let's get going.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Shelly LeJuene, Baton Rouge.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville, New Orleans.

PINKY HARRIS: Pinky Harris, New Orleans.

EARL HEBERT: Earl Hebert, Lafayette.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmar, Shreveport.

HERBERT READO: Herbert Reado, Baton Rouge.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Welcome by Frank Gaffney, EC chairman. What would you like to say?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'm glad everybody's here. We got a lot of stuff to discuss.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I have opening remarks. I would like to associate my remarks with Mr. Gaffney. Welcome everyone. We do have a lot to discuss. Move on from there. Next on the agenda, remarks by Mr. Kevin Monk, blind services director.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We have to do guests.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's on there, but it's a little bit down the line. Just going off your last agenda.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

KEVIN MONK: Hello everybody. I guess it will be good to see everybody whenever we finally get to see everybody again in person. Kind of tired of the Zoom stuff. It's good, but I think it's going to be better to get back to in person meetings when we're able to do that. Hopefully, next time. I think Melissa said she was going to be late, but I think she just joined in. I just wanted to cover a couple of things. I know there's been an outstanding issue with a couple of full evidentiary hearing requests. We finally have not only one, we have two hearing officers. One of them has been supplied with all of the information they need. The regs, the laws and so on and so forth. Spoke to him this morning and he said he will be ready to accept the case, or a case, probably at the end of next week. He told me he's right in the middle of a trial right now. And we have a second one who I have not yet met. And so I'm going to make sure she gets everything that she needs, the laws the regs and everything. So hopefully we won't ever have this issue ever again with the delay in time for the hearings. I know there's a whole lot on the agenda and so I'm not going to delay it anymore.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Thank you, Kevin. This dovetails nicely to the next segment. Says introduction of LWC, LWD, LRS, Randolph Sheppard staff. I am Steve DeBruhl, Randolph Sheppard program manager. We have Mica Smith, RSMA from New Orleans. Michelle Duncan, RSMA from Baton Rouge. She's with us. And Kevin. And then I think our executive director joined us. Melissa Bayham, are you there?

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yes. Hi, everyone. I'm Melissa Bayham, the director of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and I'm happy to be with y'all this afternoon.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Introduction of guests. If we haven't heard from you yet, let's go ahead and hear from you now. Like Lynn Blanchard, for example.

LYNN BLANCHARD: Hey. How is everybody doing. Good to see all you guys and gals. I'm Lynn Blanchard, Affiliated Blind of Louisiana.

DREW MOROCK: This is Drew Morock. I'm an attorney with (inaudible) and I'm here to observe and to request a copy of the minutes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okie‑doke.

SHIRLEY MCCORKLE: Shirley McCorkle.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey, Shirley.

SPEAKER: Who was the person before Shirley? I didn't catch that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's Mr. Morock. Am I pronouncing it right, sir?

DREW MOROCK: Morock.

STEVE DEBRUHL: He's an attorney. He would like a copy of the meeting after the thing. Usually get those in about three or four days. But I think Lynsey's going on vacation so I might get them sooner. That will be good. Then we have the approval and correction of the March 12th, 2021, meeting minutes. Frank, did you get a chance to review those?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. I read the whole thing, listened to the whole thing. And as far as I know everything is correct. Do I have a motion to approve?

SHELLY LEJUENE: I make a motion we accept the minutes as read.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I second.

HERBERT READO: Herbert, second.

EMMA PALMER: It's Emma. I second.it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{collective aye}.

EARL HEBERT: Hey. Look guys, this is Earl. I'm about to get off of here cause I'm having air condition trouble. Call the air condition man. Talk to y'all later, okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right, Earl. Have a good weekend. Hope it gets fixed.

EARL HEBERT: All right. Thank y'all.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The minutes are approved.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. This leads us to our new business. One thing I put on here is covid 19 updates. I was looking at the health department website yesterday. We have seven deaths and 496 cases. Brings us to 10,638 deaths. Since yesterday updated it and we have less cases, 226 cases, but ten more people died of covid 19. The vaccination rate for the State of Louisiana we're 47th in the United States right by Mississippi with 47 percent of the people being vaccinated. Vermont is number one with 87 percent. So when the governor sends out a lot of these recommendations people are just taking it as it's over. The pandemic is not over. It's still killing people. And it's killing people who are not vaccinated. I'm looking at the LDH website and there are certain areas, particularly down Paul Rabo's way where there's still 12 to 15 percent positivity rate for covid. And I'm thinking they're doing less tests now. People who are getting vaccinated are getting vaccinated. But I had Michelle call the sanitarian, which is LDH, the people who do the inspections for the health department. And the ruling now is you still have to have masks if you're in the food service business. If you're behind the line in the kitchen serving food people still have to wear masks. Even though the governor may have suspended the mask mandate for the building, the building may say you don't have to have a mask to come in here. If you're serving food, you still have to have the mask up.

Now in Herb's case, for example, as an employer Herb you have the right, the total right to request that everyone that works for you be vaccinated. You can have them not be vaccinated. But you're within your rights. Louisiana is an at will employment state. So you don't need a reason not to have anyone work for you. To give them a reason to be terminated. But that's up to you. But if you haven't been vaccinated and you're running a food stand, you need to adhere to all the protocols you had before people can be vaccinated. You need to wear a mask, you need to maintain social distancing. If someone in your stand gets covid 19 you have to notify the health department and you're going to have to isolate yourself. So (inaudible) shut us down we had it happen a couple times when we first started going. This building and another building. People try to open back up and got covid. Now it's down, but it's not over. I just wanted to bring that up.

HERBERT READO: One question on that. So can you ask your employees if they've had the vaccine?

STEVE DEBRUHL: You can. I was reading an article yesterday, the US Equal Opportunity Commission released some technical guidance and assistance. And one of the key updates it says federal EEO laws do not prevent on employer from requiring all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for covid 19 so long as employers comply with reasonable accommodation provisions of the ADA and Title Seven of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or other laws. So people talk about HIPPA. HIPPA doesn't really apply to you asking someone has a vaccine. It applies to that person's medical records and the doctors from which they can release it. Like I say, going back to Louisiana, I know there's legislation that was passed where the governor signed it about you can't ask people for government service. But as an employer, like I said, this is at will employment. You can decide you want to terminate everyone tomorrow for no reason whatsoever, if you don't like their shoes, you're well within your rights to do so.

HERBERT READO: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But it's not against the law for you to ask someone if they have been vaccinated.

CANDICE LINVILLE: So I want to ask one question, please, Steve. So you said everybody's supposed to still be 6 feet apart as of right now?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, say if you're not vaccinated.

CANDICE LINVILLE: No. I'm talking about our customer base.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's hard for you to imply that, but they're supposed to. The only people supposed to be taking their mask off are people that are fully vaccinated. But as we know, you know.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, right. But I mean‑‑

STEVE DEBRUHL: I went to Wal‑Mart today. Less than half the state is vaccinated. Hundred percent of the Wal‑Mart population is mask less. So there's lot of people walking around with no mask on who have done nothing to mitigate the covid vaccine other than, you know, take their masks off.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I get what you're saying.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The people who are vaccinated are kind of carrying the weight of the people who are not vaccinated. That's keeping it down.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, right. But I mean, mask or no mask, is it still 6 feet regardless? Or if you have a mask on. Like should I put X's on my floor, you know, and do that kind of thing or is that not happening?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, it's supposed to happen.

HERBERT READO: We're still doing social distancing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You're doing that Herb?

HERBERT READO: Yeah. We're still doing that.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. They still want the 6 feet in all of our buildings. Rather you wear a mask or not.

CANDICE LINVILLE: That was my question.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Then you have 130,000 people at Indy 500. So it is confusing.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I went out to dinner to a restaurant Wednesday night. And there was no social distancing. The place was packed. I drove up last night, people are out, people are going to restaurants and they're not social distancing.

HERBERT READO: Now when they come in and sit in the dining room, they are not social distancing. They're just sitting around the table.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They removed those restrictions. But again, everything is geared for people who are vaccinated. There's a lot of people that aren't vaccinated in Louisiana and no one, that I can see, is really taking this mitigation effort. Just be careful when you're out there. Have more people coming in.

DON ARABY: Hey, Steve. This is Don. I finally got in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey, Don. I apologize. I just saw you pop up there.

DON ARABY: Okay. I had been waiting for about ten minutes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right, Don. Well, I apologize.

DON ARABY: No. That's good.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, Don, while you're here, tell us what's going on at the Toomey Welcome Center. Sorry to keep you waiting.

DON ARABY: Well, I finally got a storage, Steve. I finally got one this week in Vinton. Closest thing that I could find. And it's a climate controlled. It's small, but I think it will do for now, you know. It's about ten miles away. So it will work. They pretty pricy. My wife that passed away had a storage over here, a 10 by 20 climate controlled, nice place. In Pineville we were paying 100‑dollars a month. And this thing is 10 by 10 and it's, I mean it's climate controlled. But it's a 115‑dollars a month for half the size. But, you know, at least I got it. You know what I'm saying.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, I wonder with all the hurricane damage.

DON ARABY: That's exactly what the problem is. That's what the problem is. Yeah. That's what the problem is. Demand for storages and those that got tore up, you know. So anyway, we got that done and I've been fighting with the card readers. And I'm hoping that they got them going now. It's been a battle. And I need to call him. I tried to call him, but I didn't get an answer. I need to find out today what's what about that. I'm thinking we're getting to the bottom of that as well.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Very good. If you need me, or Paul or Mica to help you, just let us know.

DON ARABY: Thank you so much.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I apologize for keeping you waiting.

DON ARABY: No. That's good, Steve. Hey, I knew I was going to get on cause it kept telling me.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I need to multitask. I apologize. All right. Moving on down the line. Thank you. See you, Don. So FRRP, the money for losses. Just to let you guys know, as you do know, we were approved. It went to RSA. Done an attestation form for RSMAs for the dollar amounts. So either in the process of having them sign them or mail them out to the managers. Mica, you mailed all yours yesterday you said, right.

MICA SMITH: Yeah. I have all mine mailed except for the people who are capped.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. That's one issue we have to work on. SO some people, like Candice for example, her loss is exceeding what she's receiving. So that doesn't really reflect in the attestation form. So we need to add a sentence saying that she's going to receive the maximum amount available because of the funds available. She should be getting hers the next day or two. Those are going out. We're mailing them in a self-addressed stamped envelope. Manager simply signs that, mails it back to us. And there's a form that RSMAs are filling out with a dollar amount. I'm going to approve that. And once I approve that it's going to go to Chauntey. Chauntey is going to put it into the 761 system just like we do our medical stipends. And you'll get paid the way you've been getting paid for the medical stipend. If you have direct deposit, it's going to your account. If you've been getting a check, it will go out that way as well. You will receive a 1099, I'm sure, from the state for the funds.

Talking to, we had a BEP conference call, that topic came up about is it taxable, not taxable. Pretty much unless it says it's not taxable, then it will be. But I would encourage each of you to talk to your financial adviser, CPA and see what, how it affects you and what you should do with it. Hopefully, the money will be going out. The money's here. We did receive the funds. It's just a matter of it getting it in the system and getting it out the door. So hopefully starting next week we will be getting things in the system. Any questions on that? Comments? I take your silence as a no.

Speaking of money, I just noticed the Restaurant Restoration Fund, it did expire, but they were supposed to introduce today on the house another 60 billion‑dollars to replenish the fund. If you didn't apply before but you want to apply now, keep your eye on that. Cause there may be more opportunity for you there as well.

Kind of getting to the location updates. Haven't spoke to all RSMAs. We're close to 100 percent open again with a few exceptions. The criminal courts in New Orleans, they're going to go to full jury trials July 6th. They've been pretty much shutdown for jury trials. And then civil court they're saying is going to follow that same line. Two new locations. The (inaudible) building in Jefferson Parish. They closed down and redesigned it. They actually spent about 35,000‑dollars for equipment themselves. But Anderson got reopened over there. But he's only open Monday through Wednesday for breakfast. That is a federal facility, and they are working remotely to a large extent over there. Which is working also. I did receive an email from Katrina McDonald who sends us updates to what's going on. She just sent us, about 20 minutes ago, an update on the GSA, let me see if I can read it for you. So the remote work policy for federal employees. She said yesterday the Office of Management and Budget and GSA released guidance for federal agencies regarding return-to-work flexibilities. Essentially, the administration directed that while federal employees may return to work in person, employees who are able to do their jobs remotely are to be permitted to do so without any negative implications as far as evaluation, promotion, etc. So if you're a federal employee who's been working from home you have a choice. You can go back to the office or stay at home. I don't know what the percentage is, but unless the wife and kids or husband and kids or whoever and the kids. If you want to get back in the office. But federal facilities, Frank can tell you the last meeting we had with them, they were like at 25 percent occupancy. They're going to definitely be less occupied which means less people going to the vending machines. Need to keep that in mind. She also gave us an update on the infrastructure bill. She's always saying it's going forward, but as we know it never goes forward. But there is commercialization of the rest areas embedded in that bill. So that's something to keep a legislative eye on.

Back to the location updates. Delgado, Mica, won't you fill us in on Delgado.

MICA SMITH: The situation at Delgado is the chancellor has been sending out communications ever since covid started. And she'd been doing a pretty good job of keeping everybody informed about what's happening. The latest email she sent out was about a week and half ago. And it says they're coming back for summer school they're going to have 60 percent of the students be online classes. Now that's for the summer semester. Now the other thing that they said was 100 percent of the employees are going to be coming back by the end of June. So the employees are scheduled to get back in their offices 100 percent by the end of this month. And she didn't say for certain what was going to happen with the fall semester. But she did sound like she was happy with it and that she was happy with the way it was going, and she mentioned that things were returning to normal, you know. So I don't think she just wants to come out and say yeah, we're going to have the same amount of students that we did in 2019 fall semester because she probably just doesn't know. But all signs are pointing towards the fall being as close to normal as possible.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Very good. And Baton Rouge, Michelle, the Iberville building has been closed. (Inaudible) the configuration of that location. Hasan's been doing the vending machines. But they've given him permission to open up on or after the 21st of this month. The same for public safety. The corrections building. Those are two last remaining snack bars we don't have open that will be coming open.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is that Troy’s or whose?

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's Janice.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Janice. Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And then Hasan.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is Troy open?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Iberia Parish Courthouse is Charlie Williams. It's kind of a snack bar underneath the stairwell type situation. Troy's advanced in age. His doctor suggested that he not be exposed to the public until after Labor Day for whatsoever reason. Paul's take to the people at Iberville. They're fine with that. They like him, he's like a member of their family. But he has been doing the vending machines. He's not open full time and probably won't be until Labor Day. We may revisit that. But the parish courthouse is fine with the situation as it is.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What about Bobby Powell. Did he get in yet?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I apologize. What was that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did Bobby Powell get in yet?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yes. He did.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Steve, I called over there yesterday or day before and they said no.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Michelle, you want to weigh in here.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He does have access to get in. He has been fully vaccinated and once he got fully vaccinated, he is capable of going into and servicing vending machines and working in the snack bar. Now if he isn't there or hasn't been going that's under his own discretion. It's not from the Louisiana war vets. He has been made aware that he can go full time back over there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Which is good news cause he was shut out there for quite some time.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That and the hospital itself. That's back open. (inaudible)

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, the East Mental Health Hospital wasn't ever really fully shut down. He was still able to service like one vending machine and was still working in the snack bar itself. But he had a lot of his other vending machines he wasn't able to get access to.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Got you. And you said the Department of Agriculture, she is open serving breakfast now, right?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Correct. Correct.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Great. All right. Michelle also had a conversation with Curtis at Baton Rouge Coke today. The deal is, you know, coke gets us these vending machines, but you're supposed to order product, all your product. But I think having people ordering some of the product as a way of justifying them putting the vending machine there. But Michelle, touch base on what you told me just a second ago.

>> >>: Curtis called me and advised me that several of the managers have coke vending machines or coke refrigerators and are not buying from him. He's actually to the point of, which I have to have a call into Janice, I'm waiting for her to call me back. But they're making him put in paperwork right now to go ahead and start removing her coke machines because she is not buying from them. And there's a couple of other managers that are not. So he said that they have new upper heads and if you do not buy at least once every month to two months then they are going to pull your equipment.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Which the last thing we want to do is start trying to buy a bunch of drink machines. That's the deal. Everybody knows the deal. They should adhere to it. Get a coke order. Like I say.

PINKY HARRIS: Hey guys. This is Pinky. Just a side note, coke has changed their delivery schedule capability. Their drivers are now delivering on commission. So if you're a small account they really don't want to deliver to you. I don't know if the people that the managers specifically that they're talking about are in that boat, but just please be advised the delivery system is really messed up.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Anybody else, that's here in New Orleans. Is anyone else experiencing that type?

PINKY HARRIS: It's my understanding that it was statewide. Like the salespeople are no longer in those positions. So everyone like calls their order into the servicing center. And that's all well and good except that the delivery drivers are delivering on commission.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They're still calling orders in at Shreveport.

PINKY HARRIS: Well, I just had to start calling orders in last week. But that's fine. Except I'm just saying, the delivery capabilities are, if you're a small account, it's really getting difficult.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Pinky, I would think you do good business. Do they consider you a small account?

PINKY HARRIS: Oh, yeah. I'm a tiny account. Yes. I'm only ordering like 12 cases a week.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But you have a big heart and I appreciate that about you.

PINKY HARRIS: I sell a lot more coffee than coke these days.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Maybe that's part of the problem.

PINKY HARRIS: So yeah. I'm a small account. Just saying though. I mean, you know, like if they stop delivering to me, I'm just going to go to Mark's Meats and get it. But for now they're still begrudgingly delivering stuff. I don't know if Janice is in that boat maybe.

DON ARABY: Steve, mine comes out of New Orleans and I haven't seen any changes. They're still calling me for my order.

PINKY HARRIS: Wow, really. They told me that they had eliminated all the salespeople. That's what they told me.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: We still call salespeople here.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Yeah. My coke man called me just not too long ago. So he's still there.

PINKY HARRIS: I had a new guy call me and tell me my salespeople had been eliminated and that I needed to call the servicing center. That they had eliminated all the sales positions. I'm like, okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's cause your tinny wienie.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Right. Exactly.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Call Don's guy. Tell him Don recommended you.

PINKY HARRIS: Well, what I'm getting at really is that, you know, I don't know if Janice and them are in the position where they're having difficulties getting deliveries from coke and that's why they're not buying from them is what I was getting at.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. Janice never buys from them. I always have to call her and remind her.

PINKY HARRIS: Okay. Yeah. I was just throwing it out there cause it definitely has changed so.

DON ARABY: Steve, I will say this, the managers should be buying from coke because (inaudible) I haven't had problems with the machines. If we have to start fixing or purchasing it's going to make a big, you think you may be saving a little bit by going to the store or whatever, but in the long run if you have to start paying that you won't be saving. It will be costing you a lot.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. Exactly.

DON ARABY: I think the managers should buy from coke. And I'm not going to say everybody will buy 100 percent. But, you know, I mean. Maybe they just need to do better.

STEVE DEBRUHL: If you're out of something, go buy a few things at Sam’s, whatever. Also they deliver. You don't have to get in the car, get somebody to drive you to Sam’s and load your truck up, get somebody to drive you back. This guy does that for you.

DON ARABY: Exactly. Exactly.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Steve, this is Shelly. I got another note. Vistar, a lot of us use Vistar.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Anything, you have to have at least a 500‑dollar order or they will not deliver. If it's under 750 they'll charge you 50 dollars. You have to go over 750 to get free delivery. That just started also.

DON ARABY: Got dog.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yeah, I know. Making it a lot harder.

FRANK GAFFNEY: With the price increase, it's not too hard to do.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Not anymore. You're right about that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, Frank don't you and Emma and Willie kind of go in on your Vistar order to defray that costs.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. At the present time. It has been at different times all four of the locations we get together. Right now at the present it's me and Emma, we order together. But as of right now they haven't raised ours back up to 750 yet.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Still at 500?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. But between the two of us we always go over 1,000 anyway.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, Emma does, and she tags you along.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Emma does.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Emma's the big baller up north. Everybody knows what's going on up there. Back to the locations. Chabert Medical Center as we know went out to bid. So far, the bid in an hour and half will be the deadline today at 4:00. The only person that took the tour and applied for the location is Sunny Crochet. We had a meeting this time last week to discuss the opportunity of Sunny to get him back in the program. He has paid his money. Paid with a certified check. I sent that to Chauntey today in an envelope. He has a serve safe certificate. The EC voted unanimously to let him bid on the location. Not to give him the location but bid on the location. With the condition that he be on a one-year probation. I talked to him, and he was happy with that situation. I told him we just have to wait and see what happens today. But I'm thinking only two people that went with Antoine and then Sunny. But Antoine did not apply for the location. I anticipate Monday I'll be calling Sunny and telling him it's his location. And Paul has been working with him. So we have five pieces of new equipment down there. New steam table, double refrigerator, double door freezer, a sandwich table and a new freezer. The auto fry. Those five items have been pushed back at the warehouse. They're all at the end of the life. Justifies replacing them, but they are still functioning. That is available to be used at another location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, John called me the other day remind me that whoever gets it that apparently when Robert Chaffer was there, he ran into the building and John said the door, which door I don't know, but some of the doors need repairing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Really.

CANDICE LINVILLE: How does he know?

DON ARABY: And that is true. That is true. The doors do need repairing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: When you say ran into it. I know he wasn't driving or was it a golf cart.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He ran into it with that thing he was using delivering cokes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. Had like a jack up pallet wagon thing or something. Maybe that's what it was.

DON ARABY: Well, I don't know. But he had something pretty powerful cause the front door is bent pretty bad.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. That's what I was told.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The front door where the customers come in? We got two doors. One to the right?

DON ARABY: The one to the right. That's right. And the book door is very, very hard to close. Very hard.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I'll make a note of that right now.

DON ARABY: I can't tell you about the one to the left cause I never opened it. It still opens and closes, but it's bent, you know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I'll get Paul to get with facilities to see what we can do about that. All right. The Baton Rouge Post Office is another location that went out to bid. Chauntey sent that bid out this week. I think it was Wednesday.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yes. Steve, I already got mine. They are going out.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Great. So what I also did, the tour for that location is going to be on the 23rd of this month. Michelle is going to do that for us. But I also sent, Chauntey's mailing them out all to all the managers. But I also sent it to all the RSMAs via email telling them let their managers know it's coming out. Cause we have had problems getting the mail delivered in a timely fashion. If you know of anyone who would be interested in the post office, let them know it's up and the bid's coming out. If they want to schedule a tour on the 23rd with Michelle Duncan, they can do so at this time.

On the hills of that, I'm working on LaSalle Cafeteria bid. Which I think is a great opportunity for somebody. The back story is we didn't used to have the location. Max had the vending. When we took over Max did the cafeteria for the last three years. But he's resigned cause we never consolidated it. Even though I told him he could consolidate it in his bank account each month when the money came in. We didn't technically consolidate it under the permit. So he's resigned the cafeteria portion of that location but is maintaining the vending as it was prior to us taking over the cafeteria. In 2019 the cafeteria did about 440,000‑dollars in gross sales. So it's a very high-profile location. It's been closed since March of last year. They really haven't been pushing us to get it back open. Michelle may want to tell you different, heard something different. But we want to put the post office out. And then the following week put the LaSalle out. The deadline for the post office is going to be the 30th of June and the tour for LaSalle is going to be the 30th of July. Then on the hills of that, we're looking at doing Delgado Cafeteria, City Park Cafeteria. Like Mica says, people coming back to work over there, but the goal is to try to get somebody in place there before August, before school starts. I think the first class is the 17th of August. Herb, were you saying something?

HERBERT READO: Yeah. I got a question before you go to Delgado on the LaSalle and the Claiborne. Are we going to fix that gap in the future or we just going to leave that like that? To have that separated from the cafeteria to the vending machines.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, I'm actually of two schools of thought myself. You and Shelly cohabitate well. If you had a different manager in there who wanted to undercut what you are doing upfront, I could see it being a problem.

CANDICE LINVILLE: John. Would you be referring to John?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I didn't say that. (inaudible). But I don't know how you would do it at this point in time.

HERBERT READO: No. I'm saying in the event that maybe Shelly retires I mean will the machines goes back to the cafeteria or how would we really do that? Or would that be a separate going out.

KEVIN MONK: I think that's where we need a little active participation and some recommendation from the committee as far as looking at the whole picture.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Are we getting another VF number from Steven?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, it's a different location right now. No. We don't have a number. But he's reporting differently. Thing about both of the gentleman, they were reporting the vending machine and the cafeteria separately the entire time. So we were able to delineate which money came from which location. We put it out with confidence. But some people like doing nothing but vending, other people like to cook. You know, so we got some guys that focus too much on the kitchen and not enough on the vending machine and vice versa. It also gives us a different location. So instead of Claiborne being one location like Shelly had, now it's two locations. So we have two managers going to work. That's kind of what we want to try to do as long as both of them are able to pursue their business and make a good living out of it. We don't want to chop up something small. But if it's something big enough. But like I said, we did it with Shelly so according to Max got to let him do it.

HERBERT READO: Well, I have no problem with it. Just was looking in the future, you know, whether or not we continue to divide each location up because of whether or not they had the permit. Normally everybody gets the same location.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

HERBERT READO: So I'm just trying to make sure if we changing it then, you know, everybody going to be trying to get the vending machines or somebody just want cafeteria, but it's still direct competition to some degree.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. Well, like I said, active participation. I'll be happy to hear from you guys about that. You know, Delgado started out being one location and then Kevin, Scott was going down in flames over there at Einstein. We decided to spin that off and that's when Candice saved us. But at one point that was a single location. Do we go back and put it all to Candice. I don't know at this point. We also have Radell who's servicing Delgado Sidney Collier. And then also he's got the vending machines at Delgado and Jefferson Parish. This one location has provided income to three different managers. So depends on how you want to look at it.

HERBERT READO: But see when you think about that, that is a different location, not in the same location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: How many managers did we have at the post office in New Orleans?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm sorry, Frank. Say that again.

FRANK GAFFNEY: How many managers did we have in the old days at the post office in New Orleans.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Three or four that were working there. That's when they had 3,000 people in the building. Jimmy had all the vending machines and they had two snack bars, a coffee shop in there. Didn't Charity Hospital have like five managers working that location too back in the day?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Terry Carmendale, yeah.

DON ARABY: I think it was four at one time. I think Buck was over it and they had three assistants, I think.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah. This Emma. Yeah, but at that time you got to look at the type of money they were making too.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's what we're talking about, there was more people.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah. That's what I'm saying. The type of money they were making as opposed to the kind of money that Reado is making. Maybe is it any way we can make a motion that in the event that one of the managers retire we're combining location or put it out.

SHELLY LEJUENE: No.

EMMA PALMER: You can't do that with their discrepancy?

SHELLY LEJUENE: Just leave it alone the way it is now.

HERBERT READO: I'm just saying in the future. Say Shelly did retire and then we would be back at this table then. Just food for thought as to what could happen in the future. Do we want to continue this. Don't get me wrong, me and Shelly don't have no problems working together or selling the same thing. (inaudible) I'm just trying to see how we do this in the future.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I see that. You also mentioned Shelly retiring three times, Herb. What's up with that.

CANDICE LINVILLE: If Shelly ends up missing.

SHELLY LEJUENE: All right now.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I'm just saying. Check Herb's trunk.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Herb and I get along real good.

HERBERT READO: We do. I have no problem with that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But you also have to plan for the next guy. Shelly, Herb told me you were retiring. So like I say, when you do retire. So yeah, you want people to cohabitate and work well together. But if y'all want to set a policy where in the future it does happen that we consolidate that. I think that's something that needs to come from you guys, to be honest with you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would vote to leave it separate unless it came to the point, we were short a manager.

DON ARABY: I'm going to say I think at that point you could get the committee to vote on it, each location. I mean, that's what I'm thinking. Cause we don't know what locations it would be, or how big they would be, or how small they would be.

CANDICE LINVILLE: A per case thing.

DON ARABY: Right. That's what I think.

HERBERT READO: I can tell you this from past experience, when they had the cafeteria the only time the vending machine became the real issue is when the vending, when the cafeteria suffer a loss. And kind of the vending machine was like a little extra compensation for the cafeteria. I mean, you know, but we don't really want to go in a good location, say like Federal City and do the kitchen and let somebody else do the vending machine.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got you.

HERBERT READO: I don't know if we want to get into that. We need to avoid this as much as possible, I believe.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, these are really kind of two unique situations. I mean, this is the only two that really applies to that. You know, like I said, y'all had the vending long before and that's when Division of Administration had somebody else operating the location and they quit, and we fixed up all the equipment.

EMMA PALMER: But the thing of it is Steve, I think if we had went on and addressed permitting Shelly and Max in those locations that it would be different too.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Got you. Well, this happened under, not passing the buck to Janel, but that's how far back this happened.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah. That's what I'm saying. At some point they should have visited permitting

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's kind of hard to do it now if you haven't been doing it for the last few years.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We were all in Vegas.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But say this, I mean, right now I don't see not accepting Max's offer to still continue to do the vending machines. But if we say, you know, another manager in there. So any of those four managers, Herb, Shelly, Max and whoever the new manager at LaSalle is, when that person leaves, we can have a meeting of the EC and decide at that point in time do we want to put it out or consolidate. Could we do it like that?

EMMA PALMER: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We can look at the buildings at that time to see whether it would justify two people or not. You know, like right now with like GSA with all the workers not going there and your business be way down, you know, we don't know what's going to happen still yet with the state buildings whether that could come about.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, the state's, they're pushing people to go back to work in the buildings. I think Melissa can speak to that if you want to. We don't have a lot of remote activity going in our building.

MELISSA BAYHAM: No. And Steve, I think you mentioned this earlier, I know a lot of the state offices downtown will be back by the beginning of August.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I just muted Emma. Sorry, Melissa. What were you saying.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I was just saying you're right. Especially at the Workforce Commission most of us are back. And then from what I understand, and I know some other people who work in other state buildings, I think the beginning of August they're really looking most of these buildings will be back at pretty much full capacity.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Speaking of which, the next one is the Shreveport state office building. Which Craig resigned from that and took over Don's other location, Central Hospital. But he's currently servicing the vending machines as a satellite. Now we can put that out to bid but, you know, David said they're getting more and more people in the parking lot. That might be a challenge getting someone to operate that location. But we were going to put that one out to bid as well. If we expand these locations with Mr. Gody retiring, we probably should start looking to get some more managers in the training situation.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Agreed.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So we need to be on the lookout. Kevin and I are going to talk to our blind counselors about that. If you guys have anybody to recommend that might be good for the program. Which leads me to the last thing on new business was this RSA technical guidance we got on third parties. Kevin, you want me to talk about that, you want to handle it? I'll just go ahead and go.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. Go ahead.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Yeah. So I'm not sure what the genesis of this is, but I think what it is Maryland applied to put third party vending machines on a navy base and then they were turned down by the navy. And they're saying that the program said blind managers. If they're going to be third party, then they can do the third party. They don't need to do us. So in a nutshell what it says, I'll just highlight it, it says if the SOA is not able to provide a blind vendor to operate vending machines on federal property the federal agency may decline to provide a permit to the SLA. The federal agency may then choose to contract with a third-party vendor to operate the machines and is obligated to provide the vending machine income to the SLA. It is inconsistent with the Randolph Sheppard Act for the SLA to contract directly with third party vendors to operate vending machines on federal property as explained in this manual. So in essence, say we have an example with the Hale Boggs Federal Courthouse. Terry used to have it. He didn't want to do it anymore. Wasn't doing that much business. So we put that as third party and the money's been going in the trust fund. According to this is that we shouldn't do that. That it's up to the GSA to go out and find someone to service the vending machine, do the deal as far as commission goes and we get the commission. And GSA's supposed to be chasing the guy for expired products. As far as the income though, it says vending machine income is defined in section 107 EA blah, blah, blah as receipts. So receipts for vending machine operation of federal property. After deducting the cost of goods sold including the service and maintenance costs according to customary business practices or commercial (inaudible) and commissions paid we get 50 percent of all vending machine income from third party. So instead of getting 100 percent of the commission, we get 50 percent of the commission. So we have about three facilities I think this affects us on a pretty big basis. So, I can send this to everyone. Y'all can take a look at it.

CANDICE LINVILLE: What three facilities is that you're talking about?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hale Boggs Federal Courthouse. Which is also associated with the Customs House which we have vending machines. And then there are the Army Corps of Engineers. (inaudible). And then NASA is another one we had third party machines out there. That kind of falls under a different situation. According to this the manager who's in direct competition should receive the income, not the SLA. Suppose to be the SLA and then the SLAs supposed to turn around and send the money back out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Steve, and what you read to begin with, did I hear right that it says they may decline.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That doesn't say they will.

STEVE DEBRUHL: No. They may choose the contract. Right. Exactly. The GSA guy, I'm not going to worry about the vending machines. He's not in the vending machine business like we're in vending machine business.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's just something extra.

HERBERT READO: (inaudible) included in that on third party.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Say that one more time, Herb.

HERBERT READO: The (inaudible) on Florida Street.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's not federal.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. Federal courthouse.

HERBERT READO: That is federal.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Oh, the federal courthouse.

HERBERT READO: Across from the post office.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. I was thinking about the hospital. Sorry about that.

HERBERT READO: Okay. Across from the post office on Florida.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yes, Herb. So that is right now, that is on third party. I think at one point in the past it might have been associated with the post office and then‑‑.

HERBERT READO: No. It never did. We tried.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't know. That's why I said I thought.

HERBERT READO: We tried when Patrick had it. We tried to combine it then.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But this is something I think we need to take a look at doing in the future. The way I read this. I had Mica, you know, when we do the RSA15 each year there is a category for income from federal machines on federal property. So in 2019 we received 91,443‑dollars in vending machine income for the vending machines on third party vending machines on federal property. Last year because of the pandemic that was down, but it was still 71,546. So that was our commission. So 71,000 to get 25 percent of that. So that's probably 200,000‑dollars of business was done on federal property. Kind of what I'm thinking if we're getting 25 percent of that number. But I told Kevin this could be a game changer.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I mean we definitely have to look at it and figure out what we need to do in light of this. This just came out Wednesday. So we'll definitely share it with y'all and y'all can look at it and see what you think.

STEVE DEBRUHL: In fact, I'll email everyone after the meeting today. But like we got some locations that coke's covering. Like the post office used to be SOWELA. Whoever had SOWELA had the post office in Lake Charles. We've had nobody in Lake Charles to do that so that went out on third party. But like Don could probably take care of that. Frank talked to Don about doing that. We might have to look at some of these locations. You know, some of these places you probably don't really want to deal with. We can look at the sales for each one of these locations, you know, these little post offices up and down the road that coke's been servicing on third party. Maybe looking at putting those on another manager if that's what we need to do. But I (inaudible) Melissa sent this to Tabaris, and to the attorneys and everyone else to take a look at it. But I want you guys to look at it as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I still don't think we need to be doing anything yet. Look at, but no movements. Because right in there it said they may. To me the way I read that is if they decide that they don't want to, that they need to change it they'll tell us that we can't do it. Otherwise, we already have a contract and they're saying right in there says may decide to do it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: This is what it says. It says other than statutory and regulatory requirements, including this document when they refer to a law, the contents of this guidance do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law and policies. So in essence technical assistance saying that's how they interrupt the law. Unless you look at it and come up with a different legal interpretation. But that's why we sent it to our attorneys. This came out late Wednesday afternoon. I read it right before I went home. I was going to try and look at some of these laws they have in here. But it says use of third-party vendors on federal property. If there is no blind vendor operating the facility on federal property 50 percent of all vending machine income from the third party accrues to the SLA as provided in section 107. Also allows them to deduct reasonable maintenance, cost of goods sold. So we're going to get less money from all these guys. Considering that's a big way we've been financing the trust fund. That's 25 percent of our income. Cause last year we had 71,000 from federal and 248,000 from nonfederal on the vending machine. About the same, 91 and 300 the year before. That's about 25 percent of the third-party money is coming from federal locations. Like I said, the big one on that is the Corp of Engineers. Which would be a great site for a manager to have. If we decide to make that into a manager location. If we're forced to, or if we decide to, or it becomes a manager's location as opposed to a third-party location then it's going to be a sizable ding on the trust fund.

PINKY HARRIS: Hey, Steve.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yep.

PINKY HARRIS: I'm friends with the people that used to have the Corp of Engineers and they weren't making any money. They wanted to try to partner with me to get the vending so they would make some money. But the cafeteria, it barely breaks even, if that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They actually contacted us recently about taking that over. Your people.

PINKY HARRIS: Is it still Pedon?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, that's what you told me. That they offered it to Pedon, and they said no, we're out of here.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. They're trying to get out of it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think they are out of it.

PINKY HARRIS: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Their contract expired, I think, last month, or this month or whatever else.

PINKY HARRIS: Okay. Yeah. Just saying though, I mean I always thought it would be a killer location too until I started talking to them and they told me the population in the building is way down and it doesn't really do as much it used to. Just throwing that out there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Also on that location there were a lot of stipulations. You had to have two cashiers.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Yep. It was bad. It was kind of like DOTD.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It was DOTD to the nth degree.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Exactly.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I guess when you get engineers involved that's kind of what happens it sounds like.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That was it as far as new business goes. Frank, you have anything to bring up at this point?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, yeah. Vacation pay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I sent a letter into Kevin.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. We were talking about that. I was actually thinking what you had written and kind of tweaking it and send it to the attorney. So what Frank's talking about is setting up the formula or the procedure to establish a vacation payment once a year or once you set it up, I guess you can do it as much as you want to. I know during the pandemic in Alabama they sent out three different vacation payments.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But right now the only mechanism we have to do that is through the medical stipend which was voted on. So we were looking at the same procedure as we do the EC elections. Maybe do a cover letter and have Chauntey include it in the ballot. They'd sign it. Cast their vote, I guess, by the last four digits of their social security number. Cause them asking them, you know, you had mentioned a specific dollar amount like 1,500‑dollars, Frank. I think it might be best to say would you be interested, would you agree with the EC to establish a fund, establish a mechanism to distribute a vacation pay once or twice a year.

FRANK GAFFNEY: To be determined annually.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's why I put that in there. That we look upon pending on the funds available.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. But you had 1,500‑dollars in there. But I think we maybe leave dollar amount off and just say establish vacation period.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. That part we can leave off cause it doesn't really matter cause the committee vote on that. on how much. Once we got the vote that yes, we want it and everybody approves it, then we can determine the amount annually.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Try to get this out, Kevin, next week you think, week after?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I need to once we get the letter tweaked have some further discussion with Melissa and then obviously forward it to the attorneys and make sure that we're doing it the right way. And I think we are. And then probably wind up having to send it to RSA as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: My understanding is we don't, but whatever y'all decide.

KEVIN MONK: Okay. We'd have to definitely get some advice, some guidance on that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I asked other states and they just had the vote and then it's determined through the vote and that's it. Doesn't have to go through RSA.

KEVIN MONK: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Whatever y'all find out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Give Jessie a call and ask him.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

MELISSA BAYHAM: This is Melissa. Just to add on that. Sometimes we run things by RSA not that they're necessarily required, but just because, you know, because of as part of your risk assessment sometimes you go ahead and do that just to make sure that you're fulfilling all their different requirements. Cause I have some gray things in the federal regulations. Like anytime you're establishing something like this they're going to tell you to make sure it meets what we call RAAN which is reasonable, allowable, applicable and necessary. So something might be very much allowable, but then is the amount reasonable. So there's a lot to consider. So sometimes we do run things by RSA prior to just to be safe. Because if you do have disallowed costs in the vocational rehabilitation program, they do have to be paid back with state general funds generally. So we like to be careful about that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, with what you just said does that mean we need to put the 1,500‑dollars back in the letter?

MELISSA BAYHAM: I'm not sure.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You just talked about the amount being reasonable.

MELISSA BAYHAM: Yeah. I mean, it just depends on how it's framed. I'm not exactly sure what y'all are proposing at this point to state in the letter. But anytime you pay any type of amount, and the agency has to determine that it's a reasonable cost because of 2CFR200 which is some of the federal regulations that govern our program.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Why don't we set the end of the month to try get this letter out by the end of the month. All the answers to the questions. How does that sound?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's fine.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I will be gone the first of the next month. All right. Any other new business that anyone wants to discuss at this point? Moving on to old business, which is kind of under new business for today. Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. All of our requests on locations.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. Which includes Fort Polk, Belle Chasse. I will say belle Chasse, I have been having communications with the fellow John Trainer who is the Randolph Sheppard program manager for the navy. He's the attorney. I think he's the one with this third-party thing. But he told me he was....

FRANK GAFFNEY: You froze, Steve.

STEVE DEBRUHL: John Trainer who was the Randolph Sheppard manager for the navy. Says my internet is unstable. He said he's open to carve out a location for a blind manager down in Belle Chasse. That they do have the PX down there and also have the employee fund, whatever, operates MMRW they call it. I guess they have a right to be on there as well. He's not interested in doing a third party, but he said he would be interested in finding a location for a blind manager. So I am pursuing that one as well.

KEVIN MONK: And Steve also wrote a letter, a draft letter at this point, I have it. And tweaking it a little bit. We're going to remind people of the Randolph Sheppard and the priority and request the right to do a site survey. And that could be used, for example, at Fort Polk, or Barksdale or wherever we would choose to use that. And so I have that and once I get done with it, we're going to send it through the attorneys to look at so we can then look and send it to the various locations that we need to.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. What about the hospital in Lafayette?

KEVIN MONK: I had a conversation with the attorney on yesterday. She told me that she will have an update on that as soon as next week. She's involved with the legislative session and, of course, that's over with now. And so she anticipates having more information next week on that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay. And the hospital in Shreveport and Monroe?

KEVIN MONK: That's going to kind of go along with the letter reminding them we're going to do, it's going to be two separate letters. One kind of geared towards state, one kind of geared towards the federal locations. And once we get an opinion about whether or how the priority applies to those locations.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They're private. Same property and private.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, it's either state property or it's not state property. If it's a private location‑‑.

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's state property with privately run.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. That's the deal. If it's state property then our opinion is, you know, it applies.

FRANK GAFFNEY: (inaudible) Kevin's.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, no. Because in the past it was under LSU Shreveport and the hospital in Shreveport was exempt from the location. Now given that they've turned around and made it a private location and along with the location in Monroe, apparently both are private now. That may shed a different light on things. It may not have the same control or governing body. But I'm sure their answer to us is going to be the same as the one in Lafayette when we ask the initial question. So a lot of, probably a lot of what how to proceed from there is going to hinge on the answer in Lafayette, I'm assuming.

STEVE DEBRUHL: For the state location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And then next is National Guard.

KEVIN MONK: That's going to be the same with the state letter that's going out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Okay.

KEVIN MONK: So as soon as I get my letters, federal and the state letter done, we can send those out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And then Steve's already working with the lawyer from parks and services.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. I had Eric. He kind of sent me some leads by mistake. He sent me all the attendance for all the state parks, and we compared that to our coke receipts. There were several parks that we're not receiving any money from. They don't like to put snack machines in state parks because they think people throw trash, but they'll put coke machines. But there's several parks we're not getting money from coke. I don't know if that means they don't have machines there, or we're just not getting the money. Those are leads Eric and I are pursuing.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I just wanted everybody to know that.

KEVIN MONK: And unfortunately, we weren't, and Steve you may want to update the committee, we weren't able to help him on one specific location that he was asking for because the numbers just weren't there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. So Poverty Point, which is a world historical site north of Monroe. The American Indians I guess 3,000 years ago built these mounds and stuff out there. So interstate 20 wasn't around back in those days 3,000 years ago. It's not really in a good location. They did have a coke machine, had a machine out there and we were getting money from it. But it was miniscule. They pulled out. So he called us and wanted to see if we could get a coke machine. I called coke back, she said she wasn't interested. I called Louisiana Toms. And he remembered when coke pulled out the first time. They asked him do y'all want to take over this. They didn't want to take it over. So I had to just basically tell them we can't help you out in this particular case. I'm glad we got his contact information and we'll be talking more in the future. But it's not much going on out there as far as people go. Paul Rabo told me he went there a couple times. Which kind of explains it. It's a big archaeology dig, and they have a giftshop there. They only have 12,000 people a year go to the place. It's not a lot of people compared to Fontainebleau which has 500,000.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And then the next thing would be where do we stand on state properties that we're not getting money from, and we don't know if they have machines in them or not.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm sorry. My phone is ringing. What did you say, Frank? I was distracted.

FRANK GAFFNEY: As Kevin called it, low hanging fruit. The property in each RSMAs' area.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think Ashley said that. Don't hang that on Kevin.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He said it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Well, he got it from me then.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Both of you said it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Like I said, we're trying to get a strategy where we reach out to people and document our efforts. Also Kevin and I were talking about we have to do every year RSMAs have a PES, personal evaluation system. That's coming up in July for the next fiscal year. So we're talking about adding an element to RSMAs to pursue third party leads as part of their job description. We're in discussions about that as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I believe it's already in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We are going to make a conscience effort to try to generate more third-party activity. But this does change the game the way this federal thing is. I mean, you know, if we're not going to have, we need to get the income from somewhere. We don't get any money from the legislature. If we're going to lose the federal money that we're getting we definitely need to get some more income.

KEVIN MONK: If we don't have it from federal it's either get it from state and then hopefully some of these locations can be good enough to where God forbid, but if you had to go set aside then, you know, it wouldn't be devastating to the program.

STEVE DEBRUHL: As far as doing repairs and fixes and stuff, you know, being closed like we are we haven't really been called upon to do that many repairs. But when we do, we're trying to work with our host or work with our vendors to see if we can get something for nothing. But Mica and Eric, they're very handy. They make a lot of repairs that we're not charging the manager for. And Mica and Eric are going to the warehouse on Monday along with Michelle and George. Going to run through the vending machines we got up there and try to pick out the best and the parts. The best ones that work and the ones that don't we're going to get parts and pieces for replacement parts. And then surplus what's left of it. The situation it was a new location, you can buy equipment for that location or supplies. So we're using this. We do have new locations popping up. We used it for Chabert. And Michelle and I are looking at getting a couple single doors for the post office. That will be new for the new manager when they get there. Along with perhaps a refrigerated machine to go in there as well. We're well within our rights to do that as a new location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did you get that list for the equipment in Vinton?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I did. I did. I sent it out. About 35,000‑dollars’ worth of equipment. And Candice we got like two double door freezers, double door refrigerator, oven, convection oven, two auto fries. About 35,000‑dollars’ worth of equipment up there. So David is working with George probably next week might be a two-person operation. David doesn't want to be one of those persons, I guess.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I didn't say that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I didn't say that either. Lynsey, you can strike that from the record. So we'll try to coordinate that and bring it all back to the warehouse and cut it up. Like I know Mike's looking for an auto frier in Federal City. So a double oven frier and a single oven frier. Candice can have all the freezers and refrigerators.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Just the freezers and maybe the ice machine if it's comparable to the one that Einstein requires.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't know what kind it is. It's not very old.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah.

CANDICE LINVILLE: You have to have the cube. It's got to be, you know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Frank, you've been to that location. Much of that equipment is relatively young.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Yes. Well maintained.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. That's good. So reallocate that to different locations. Save a little money on the trust fund at the same time. Just be easier.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Going to have George on the road next week doing all that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Do we have a truck running or we have to rent it?

STEVE DEBRUHL: We're still renting a truck. Mica can tell you. It cost, for him to rent a truck, come down here, run around about 450 dollars, Mica? Is that about what it is? Say go to Baton Rouge and New Orleans, what does that cost?

MICA SMITH: All right. Can you hear me?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I can hear you now.

MICA SMITH: Okay. It depends on how many days he keeps it, of course. And then they prorate it like if he turns it in half a day early, I think they prorate it. So, you know, I've gotten bills, I pay the bills when he rents the truck and I've gotten bills anywhere from 400 something dollars to like 800 something dollars. So you're probably looking about the average truck rental is probably about 500‑dollars, 600‑dollars.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And that's probably once a month, twice a month at this point. It could be picking up. So we had talked about the truck we have now is 2004. Mica priced like a comparable placement would be how many, Mica?

MICA SMITH: I don't have it right in front of me, but I want to say it was in the 60,000‑dollar range.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Probably more now.

MICA SMITH: For a new truck.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The liftgate.

MICA SMITH: Yeah. You have to put the liftgate on. So we sent that over to fiscal and I don't know what happens. That's what they asked for. They asked us for a quote, so I got a quote. And I don't know what they do with it now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: They haven't done anything with it yet.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Is it cheaper just to rent one cause they have to pay to maintain them?

STEVE DEBRUHL: This past year I think it is. I mean the last we spent literally 12,000‑dollars last year probably on repairs. Seems like it will work for one trip, then something else. The last time it was going to be another 3,000 bucks to repair something. I don't think we spent 3,000‑dollars on the last year on rentals. But it is nice to have your own truck there.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Yeah. Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And Kevin, you use federal funds to pay for that? (inaudible) had to pay like 20 percent, is that the way to be?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. You could do that, but you would have to get prior approval from RSA on that for a purchase is my understanding.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't know where this falls in but been on my chatline. I can tell you some of the states are getting money from, the programs are getting money from the state that is being sent from Coburn and using it to buy vending machines. One state got 1.75 million.

STEVE DEBRUHL: From that state's legislature?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. Uh‑huh.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, they just passed the budget, I don't think they had anything for us in there.

KEVIN MONK: I doubt it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think we're on our own. That's kind of the feeling I get. That's why this third party on federal property is a little unnerving to me. We can advocate. We can inform, but we can't advocate. I'd say reach out to your representative. But like I said, the budget's done, the session's out. I would say keep talking to your people. All right. That's it for the old. We have open discussion which we've kind of been doing. Want to hit the subcommittees?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Whoa. Whoa. I have something for open discussion.

KEVIN MONK: I need to step away just for one second. I'll be right back.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Does anyone else need to step away for one second? All right. We'll keep going. Go ahead Candice.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I want to wait for Kevin.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Keep that thought. Let's do this. So subcommittees. Budget. Pinky Harris. Pinky, you got anything you want to add for budget subcommittee. Pinky, you still there?

SPEAKER: She's probably muted.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm not seeing her. All right. There she is.

HERBERT READO: Here I am. Y'all called me?

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Steve didn't see him. I'm in.

HERBERT READO: Y'all be good here. All right. Somebody was asking me something. I had my phone muted.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, she's doing subcommittees. So Pinky. Do you have new updates on the budget for the subcommittee, Ms. Harris? Pinky, are you there? You're still muted.

FRANK GAFFNEY: As chairman there's nothing new on budget that I know of.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. I'm here.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I was just asking about the budget.

PINKY HARRIS: Sorry.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Anything new on the budget subcommittee we should talk about?

PINKY HARRIS: There's a lot of things we should talk about but.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We are going to have blind vendors trust fund meeting after this too.

PINKY HARRIS: Right.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You want to defer that to the BVT, we'll do that?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Let's do that. Sure.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Table that for now. Constitution and bylaws, Emma Palmer. Emma, I think you're probably muted if you can hear me. Emma, can you hear me?

MICA SMITH: You muted her earlier.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I know. I asked her to unmute herself but. Ask her again. All right. Earl Hebert, you still with us?

FRANK GAFFNEY: He left.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He had to go with the air conditioning.

STEVE DEBRUHL: About inventory, which we kind of talking about already. Shelly, we got location and mergers.

HERBERT READO: Oh, yeah. I like that one. Shelly.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Shelly, you have to unmute. Shelly unmute yourself.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Nothing on that now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well, why we're talking about it I do want to bring something up about Antoine. He has his Earl K. Long location that he had before. Which really has gotten down to what, Mica, like six vending machines I think he has. And then he also has Capitol Annex Capitol which is one location. So right now it's actually two locations. I think we should merge both of those locations. I don't think either one can really stand on its own, you know. But I'm open to hear what you guys think about that.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Okay. He has the annex and what else?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Capitol Annex, which also includes a couple machines at the capitol.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So that's already one location. But also the Earl K. Long, which was the hospital, the big location. Hospital closed, but still six or seven machines that are still around that are not in the hospital itself, they were kind of satellites. So he still has that, but that's under his VF. Mica, how is he reporting his income?

MICA SMITH: He reports everything together.

EMMA PALMER: This Emma. I'm back in.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right, Emma. I'll come back to you in a second.

MICA SMITH: When I first took over as his RSMA he was reporting separately. And then at the beginning of 2020 he asked if he could report together. So we let him start reporting everything together. So that route that Steve's talking about it's all on Airline Highway. And it's like three separate locations, I believe. They're all pretty small locations. They don't do much.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Doesn't he has a women's clinic?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. It's two locations. And yes, they are. One is on Wooddale, and one is off of Airline Highway. And then he has the capitol annex and the state capitol.

HERBERT READO: Well, do we have any machines at the Foster Drive at that satellite hospital?

STEVE DEBRUHL: What is that Herb?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. That got taken away a long time ago.

HERBERT READO: Okay. They used to call it Standacola.

SPEAKER: Yeah. Standacola, correct.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: It's private now.

HERBERT READO: Oh, it's private. Okay.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So the thing is, I mean, I'm just thinking about say if he were to get a new location, he's going to have to resign from both of these locations. Does he have two permits? I think he really just has a permit.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: No. He does have two separate.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Two permits.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: He has Earl K. Long permit which covers the DCFS. And then the other one is still considered Earl K. Long, but it's an LSU hospital. And then he has the one for the capitol annex which covers capitol annex and state capitol.

HERBERT READO: So what you're going to combine all of them, don't want to combine all of them to one unit?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Say if he puts in and gets LaSalle or another location, post office. Is he resigning from one location?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: And nether one of them can stand on their own.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Capitol annex used to when it had the snack bar, but that got demolished. So it's no longer anything but vending machines there.

KEVIN MONK: And they're still working on that, right, Michelle. Or supposed to be working on it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Supposed to be, yes. He has advised that it was supposed to become like a security lounge room. And I asked Calvin for some updates, but he has not let me know that yet. He did let me know that he just has to check into that. That he had not heard that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's not like Calvin's in any kind of hurry to do anything.

HERBERT READO: So if we combine his location how many, what would be the total number of machines he would have?

MICA SMITH: Like 14.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah.

HERBERT READO: Fourteen, yeah.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah.

HERBERT READO: I see no problem with that. Go ahead and merge that into one location. And then other than that, he's going to bid on one location and forget about it. He'll probably be running another.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So do we need to make a motion for that? And do we need to solicit Antoine's feedback on that?

HERBERT READO: I say we make a motion. I will make a motion that we combine Antoine location into one location.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Is that open for discussion.

SHELLY LEJUENE: The only thing I want to say is let's make sure that it's that amount of machines, 14. Cause we need to check into that.

HERBERT READO: And then present it to him. Right now he's usually the only one. So it's really one location. It's not too much different he has to do.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. This would be to officially make it combined.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. I don't think he would have a problem with it.

HERBERT READO: No. I don't think he would have a problem with that one.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Any other discussion?

HERBERT READO: Cause I thought that was combined already anyway.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. We never voted to combine them.

HERBERT READO: Okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Because, matter of fact, when this came up, we never could get information on what he had.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Right. Exactly.

FRANK GAFFNEY: So it never got.

HERBERT READO: Yeah.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Take vote. All in favor.

{collective aye}.

Any nays? Being no nays, motion passed.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm going to start working, we're going to inform Antoine of this. If he were to have an objection to it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Then we could revoke it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Cause right now, like I said, he's got two VF numbers. What we can do is, these VF numbers the way Nathan used to have them, a vending facility number. But the new system we can't do that. We have to get the property control people to do that. But if Antoine has two VF numbers, we can combine these locations under one VF number we might be able to recycle that number. Assign that to LaSalle or to Herb. So I will put that together and then. Anything else under location merger, Shelly?

SHELLY LEJUENE: No. Not that I know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Emma, I was asking about the constitution and bylaws for you when you were on mute. She's back on mute.

EMMA PALMER: Oh, I don't have anything.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right, babe. Thanks for your feedback. Herbert, new facility development. Anything on that?

HERBERT READO: No.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. What we've been talking about.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Wait. I've got one that's a prospective.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. What you got?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, you know about it. Safe Haven in Mandeville at the old Southeast Hospital. So where do we stand on when we contact them to see about what the possibilities are there?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Go back to Kevin and that letter. Once we get that letter, we will send it out. Cause I know the state, the article I read the state paid 50 percent of the costs.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right. So is Safe Haven on the list though for once that letter gets done for the state.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I just put it on there.

KEVIN MONK: So you said the state paid 50 percent of the costs?

STEVE DEBRUHL: They had a state hospital there and then they sold that property to the parish. But then the state has a new facility, like a rehab facility over there. And John Bel was over there doing the groundbreaking. The auricle says the state was paying 50 percent. I think the parish was paying 50 percent.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Originally, we had 20,000 acres. So when it privatized, actually even before it privatized, some property was sold off in the back to the tune of like seven or 8 million‑dollars. And then some property off to the left where the church and the maintenance buildings were. That was sold to the parish for Pelican Park to extend. So I'm not sure, you know, how it's cut up now. But the auricle read that 50 percent of state money was funding this whole deal. And it was going to do, I think it said 140 just meetings a year with parish officials that you're talking catering just for that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. I got that written down. We're going to figure out who to send a letter to and then we'll send a letter. Earl is off on policy and procedures, but I think we're okay with that. Roads sides. Frank, you got anything you want to add on the roadside situation?

FRANK GAFFNEY: We talked earlier, again they have it on their minds about privatizing. With my chatlines they say that's very, very remote. The only thing really coming up is charging stations. Electrical charging stations. As far as ours go, all of ours, now all of ours are up and running except mine. But that's a temporary deal.

STEVE DEBRUHL: To me that's the biggest challenge of electric vehicles is how long it takes to charge them. Like I don't have a garage. I have to park on the street in front of my house. I have to drag an extension cord and somebody's dog chew on it. It's not feasible for me.

KEVIN MONK: Then, you know, if they do electric charging stations at the roadside rest areas to me it's just a slippery slope. It's only a matter of time before the guy sitting there getting his car charged is going to say I want to have a steak dinner here or I would like to, you know, do whatever. Pick it. And then somebody else going to say well, maybe they need to do gas pumps out here. It would be slippery slope, in my opinion.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. But the chatline I'm on is opposing it because of that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I see somebody in the waiting room that says epiphany. I think that's actually Antoine. I'll let him in. Epiphany is what's listed here. Who just joined the meeting? Hello. Someone just joined the meeting with the name epiphany. Who is this?

LYNN BLANCHARD: They're muted. Let them know they're muted.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You are muted. Epiphany, please identify.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Just go ahead and put them out.

ANTOINE: Hello. Can you hear me? This is on Antoine.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Hey Antoine. I wasn't sure. I thought that might have been you from the last time.

ANTOINE: Yes. I know I'm joining late. Did I miss much?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Actually, you did. We talked about one (inaudible). One thing we talked about recently was your location. We talked about new facility, combining locations. And I know you had the Earl K. Long location that you were reporting that separately. But you also have the capitol annex location. Which the last year Mica told us you've been reporting them together.

ANTOINE: Okay.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So a motion was made to consolidate the locations under one VF number for you. It was voted on by the board and they agreed to do that. Do you have any issue with that, combining those two locations?

ANTOINE: No. The only issue I have is that we didn't include the bus station with that. I would have liked all of that to be one.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. That could be a vote for another time.

ANTOINE: Okay. I figure while we were talking about it, maybe we can just bring it up for a motion and get it all done at the same time.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Wait. Antoine, how many machines do you have total right now.

ANTOINE: Six.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Six?

STEVE DEBRUHL: At Earl K. Long?

ANTOINE: Right.

SHELLY LEJUENE: No. All of them. All the locations they merged. How many machines did that give you accountable for?

ANTOINE: Okay. Six. No. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It's not six. It's eight. Eight vending machines. But what's important to note is that two of those locations only have eight people in the building.

FRANK GAFFNEY: How much machines, machines total?

ANTOINE: Eight.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Michelle and Mica, could y'all go over this again please.

MICA SMITH: Yeah. This is Mica. So Antoine, what they're asking is how many machines do you have between the capitol, the capitol annex and all your Earl K. Long route, the Airline route. Like all the machines you service now.

ANTOINE: Okay. There are machines waiting to be taken away because they're not being used. Machines in use counting snacks and drinks, eight.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: What machines are you trying to get taken away?

ANTOINE: I had three machines at LSU administrative office, and we only needed two on the snack machines. So in place I have two machines at LSU clinic. At the Wooddale I have two machines. So that's a total of four. At the capitol I have three. So that's seven. Okay. I'm sorry. The number is actually 11. I have 11 machines total.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Capitol annex, what we got over there?

ANTOINE: At capitol annex we have five machines.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I apologize. How much you said, five?

ANTOINE: Five.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So that would be 12 total.

ANTOINE: Okay, 12. My math. But all of the machines are not in use because that's not enough people and rather than lose money I'm not using them.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Makes sense to me. All right. Even 12 machines put them all together that still doesn't probably make a good viable stand in some cases, you know. So as far as merging these two locations and maybe talking about another merger at a later date. Before we did that, we're going to merge these two. So you don't have any objection if we merge these two Antoine?

ANTOINE: No. I don't.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Mica and I are going to work on that with you. We'll talk about the bus station. Michelle, tell us what the bus station lady told you.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, Ms. Vanessa actually went out on covid leave at the end of last year. And then she came back, and she said she was trying to play catch up because her schedule got so far behind. So now she is working on trying to get all the countertops replaced and the windows, the new sliding glass windows for the serving area. And then once that is completed then we have a couple of things we have to do with plumbing, which is actually on their end. And then they will allow me in there to complete what I have to on getting just everything lined out, plugged in and ready to go.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Does it look like when they pass by there, they're actually doing anything over there or she just keeps telling you the same thing.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: She kind of keeps telling us the same thing.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Michelle, who is servicing the machines, the drink machines at the bus station now?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: There's only one coke machine and that's Ricky Pettis. There's nothing else there.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Okay. Thank you.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: You're welcome.

ANTOINE: Let me ask about that. Because I know I heard because I am in contact with the people at the bus station. They speak to me when I go there cause I utilize the bus quite often and I noticed the machines really don't get filled. And they told me it's because Ricky had been sick and having problems and unable to fill the machines. And they stay empty a lot. So I'm just wondering why can't I just assume that. Keep the service there since right now we're not providing anything. At least give them good service on that end.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Honestly, I think that's the first time I heard that that he wasn't taking care of the machines. I thought he was.

SHELLY LEJUENE: And Ricky just got products Wednesday. I know that.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes. He did get sick, and he did have someone filling his machines while he was out. It's only been one coke machine.

ANTOINE: Like I said, I go there pretty often and so. And this is not to throw Ricky under the bus. This is just simply talking about service ability of the vending machines. And I know for a fact that the machines have been empty and out of product because I'm there all the time.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Glad you're letting us know now. But when that comes around let Michelle know that, let me know that. Honestly, that's the first I'm hearing this. I thought he was taking care of it.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Me too. I do know he was sick, but I did ask him if he was having someone service the coke machine and he did tell me they were taking care of it.

STEVE DEBRUHL: One can coke machine behind that heavy, heavy wire cage there too.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Michelle, that same lady you're talking to, just ask her what she knows.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I will definitely send her a message.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Because if it's not being done, we'll make a move on that.

KEVIN MONK: And it may not hurt to just do a few drive byes to check on it as well since it's just right down the street, especially.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

KEVIN MONK: Because we definitely want to be offering good service.

ANTOINE: Give me one second.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm going to go ahead and mute you Antoine. You can unmute yourself when you're ready to talk. All right. We have training, Herbert. You still with me Herbert? Unmute yourself.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You got Lynn.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We do have Lynn. Let me just say this about our third Thursday training. We're getting ready for our third Thursday. Eric is going to do a presentation about the square system. I wanted Pinky involved, but she's going to be vacating the premises. But I did check out the Pinky app and downloaded it on my phone. I bought a hypothetical coke, Frappuccino.

PINKY HARRIS: You stalked me?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I did stalk you.

PINKY HARRIS: Nice.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Congratulations.

PINKY HARRIS: That's fantastic. If I wasn't in the airport, I would totally participate.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'll sing your praises.

PINKY HARRIS: We're still working out some bugs though. We're still perfecting the pickup times and everything. But we have had several successful transactions. Our goal is to even out the morning service. But yeah, it's working out okay.

FRANK GAFFNEY: In case anybody doesn't know, Pinky is going through coffee training in San Antonio.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Coffee, the regional coffee fest in San Antonio. I'm actually going to implement Lotus energy drinks so I'm going to meet the owners and go through their workshops and stuff. Actually, my marketing, the lady that did all the marketing for me through Turonie her and Lotus are partnering for workshops there. That's the real reason for going.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay.

PINKY HARRIS: So it should be interesting. I swear I am actually going for professional reasons.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I can't think of no other.

PINKY HARRIS: I keep hearing it's pretty cool, actually. So I'm kind of excited.

STEVE DEBRUHL: It's not bad. Kevin and I went out there. They had us out in the woods somewhere. Fifty miles away.

PINKY HARRIS: We're right on the River Walk so should be okay.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. They had us there and it was kind of cold and the fire alarm went off at 3:30 in the morning.

PINKY HARRIS: I hope that doesn't happen to me. Let's hope that doesn't happen. But it should be interesting.

STEVE DEBRUHL: A hotel full of blind vendors trying to evacuate.

PINKY HARRIS: Oh, lord.

KEVIN MONK: Apparently it was a legit fire.

PINKY HARRIS: They have a lot of interesting workshops. We're going to all three that Lotus is putting on. And also going to a milk science workshop.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Well, pay attention. Study hard.

PINKY HARRIS: Yes, sir.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So next Thursday we're going to do another upward mobility training for that. Like I said, these aren't mandatory. We're just trying to give somebody something to talk about on Thursday.

PINKY HARRIS: I will probably actually stalk you guys in the airport. I'll just be muted.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That will work. That's what's coming up next Thursday. Frank, insurance. Any news on insurance or everybody's paid up?

FRANK GAFFNEY: It's coming again. I believe, don't hold me to this, I believe we'll be seeing maybe some more discounts getting kickback from what we didn't use.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let's don't say kickbacks. Let's just say commission.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Commission refund. Applied to your bill.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Refund based on your previous. Kickback doesn't sound right. All right. Very good. District concerns. Candice, any concerns other than what we talked about?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Nope.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm sure everybody's looking for the money. Pinky, anything for your folks you want to bring up? Herbert, any concerns from your constituents? Shelly, you're on mute. What you got? Anything?

SHELLY LEJUENE: Not really. I think everybody's trying to get safe back to work and open to more customers. That's about it, really.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Don, you still with us?

DON ARABY: Yes. I am. Not that I know of Steve.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Kind of quiet over there, man. I like that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Emma, you're muted. But do you have any concerns up that way, Emma, from your folks? Silence is deafening.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No problems that I know of.

EMMA PALMER: I'm on here. I don't have any problems.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. How is your snack bar, Emma?

EMMA PALMER: They still closed. They haven't did nothing with that plumbing.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. So until they do something with the plumbing.

EMMA PALMER: I'm still checking it. No one has talked with me about it. I've been seeing them. So I guess they haven't decided to do anything with it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Emma, are they protesting the price of candy?

EMMA PALMER: Oh, yes. They're very, very upset about that.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Explain what you're talking about.

EMMA PALMER: Because I went from 1.25 to 1.40 on the candy and they so upset about that. I told them man, I have not raised prices in six years.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Right. But yet your prices have been raised multiple times in that same period.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

EMMA PALMER: And everything is up now. Every price on everything we're getting is going up.

STEVE DEBRUHL: The pandemic.

KEVIN MONK: I was reading an article last night basically said the inflation between last year roughly at this time and this year is up 5 percent. So all your costs are up minimum right now 5 percent between this time last year.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Speaking of candy, that's only if you can get it.

EMMA PALMER: That's like everything. Hell, you try to go the lumberyard and buy anything at Home Depot or one of them.

PINKY HARRIS: I was about to say if you can get it.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Candy. There's a lot of candy‑‑

PINKY HARRIS: Apparently (inaudible) can't even make their sauces because they can't get plastic for the bottles. I'm like wait, what.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: We don't even have vehicles around here. If you drive by a dealership there's like no vehicles in their parking lots anymore.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Kevin and I was talking about, but 28 percent was the price of used cars up this time last year. Nobody has inventory. The market, supply and demand. You got demand with no supply cost is going to go up.

PINKY HARRIS: Thank God for Amazon. That's all I'm saying. I'm ordering stuff from there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The word I got is candy, almost all candy are going to go up between six and 12 percent.

STEVE DEBRUHL: One thing Refreshment Solutions does, which I think's pretty good, try to do it ourselves, they do like a little survey every month of Circle K, Exxon, these convenient stores. What's the price of a can of coke, 20‑ounce bottle, candy bar, snickers. I guarantee you even at 1.40 you're probably lower than everybody else around.

PINKY HARRIS: I am. Coke's gone up twice in the last few months.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The only trouble is Refreshment Solutions is they don't have to listen to the customers.

PINKY HARRIS: Amen.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Does anybody know what our rebate from coke is yet?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No.

SHELLY LEJUENE: I don't think it's completed yet.

PINKY HARRIS: Let's just say this, I can buy coke cheaper from Mark's Meet than coke itself. Not that I would, but I could.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Like Steve said, we get the delivery.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Well if you're selling that behind the counter you certainly can do that.

PINKY HARRIS: I was just doing it before coke, when I first opened coke wasn't even around. I couldn't even get in touch with them. It took me six months to get in touch with coke.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Anything you buy from coke is 2‑dollars less than what I pay.

PINKY HARRIS: Oh, hey. I'm not discounting that. It's still a descent price. I'm just saying, when I first reopened, I couldn't get delivery from coke.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And they're not just a few cents higher. Like I was telling Frank, I got a case of Powerade from Sam’s, and it was like 12 bucks or 12.99. When I get them from coke delivered to me, they're almost 24‑dollars. And that was a year and half ago.

PINKY HARRIS: Oh, I know. Yeah, I'm getting vitamin water zero just for myself from coke and it's outrageous. We actually went to brewing our own flavored teas and stuff because they had gotten so crazy. But we're making crazy margins on what we're making now so cool.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Exactly. The coke obligation is for the machines, you know. As long as you're putting them in the machines. If you're selling them behind the counter, out of the cooler sell what you want to at the price you want to sell. I know Costco they have a 35 pack of 12‑ounce coke I think they're 9‑dollars. Pretty cheap.

PINKY HARRIS: I will say this, we actually went back to the ole school eight selects and they're doing great. You know, we were able to significantly cutdown on the flavors that we had, and the machines are much more reliable. They're not nearly as sexy, but profitability wise it's much better.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Nothing sexier than profitability.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right on.

PINKY HARRIS: Right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And Shreveport if you buy a case of coke from Shreveport it's 11.73.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. We're not going to solve the coke crisis right now. Next on the agenda is the date for our next soiree. Do y'all want to, are we thinking we're going to be in person next time around?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I believe so.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think so too. Just so we know, Cedercrest is no more. Where we used to have our meetings over there in the regional office. Everybody's moved. We no longer have access to that building. They moved into the acme building which is where we used to be when Mark and Ken and all of them used to work over there. We had that one meeting with John and Jerry and security guard shut us down because we were in the conference room with no walls on it. Thinking that might not be a good place. Frank, what was your idea, you said you had a convention or something coming up?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Well, that won't be for the September one. That would be for the following one.

STEVE DEBRUHL: So July, August, September. So we need somewhere for September. Talking about doing something in November, is that what you said?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. In November.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Or December.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Or December.

SHELLY LEJUENE: November is NFB, and December is LC.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Which one's in New Orleans in August?

SHELLY LEJUENE: That's the NAMA.

CANDICE LINVILLE: NAMA. We couldn't do it then?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, here we go. Kevin.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yep. Go ahead.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What's the situation on using the money to pay for people to go to NAMA?

KEVIN MONK: Well, it's my understanding that for those folks who are VR consumers that they can go through VR to pay for that. I still have not yet gotten really a satisfactory answer on use of the trust fund to be able to do that. I know they say use trust fund for like the consumer conferences like Sage Brush and the like. But I have not gotten anything definitive on NAMA.

FRANK GAFFNEY: What about upward mobility training? Mandatory upward mobility training every two years.

KEVIN MONK: Like I said, I have not been able to get anything definitive on that. And I've read and I've read and I just I can't, if you can point me to something I'll be happy to try to see if I can go to bat and make it happen.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I can point in the BEP where it says it's mandatory every two years. That's a law. BEP supposed to be a law, I guess.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Yeah. But that's kind of apples and oranges, to be honest with you. We have to do upward mobility, there's no doubt it about. Don't have to do NAMA. But it is good opportunity. I'd like everybody to go there if they can go there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I was just figuring that would be a good upward mobility. I believe they said we could use a room and we could have some of those people talk and be a good upward mobility training.

STEVE DEBRUHL: But the topic on the table right now though is the next EC meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't know if we want to do that as part of the training. But now here in Harvey we do have a big conference room. We could have the meeting here if you wanted to come to New Orleans.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Harvey's good.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We talk about Baton Rouge, but it's up to you guys. We could definitely make accommodations down here. Or even in Metairie. I don't know what's going on in Metairie if we have a room over there or not. Definitely do it in Harvey.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I can go anywhere. Truck will travel. We can do a conference call after check ability and see what we can come up with. How about that?

STEVE DEBRUHL: There's that. Kevin also I know they have a regional office managers meeting they have in Baton Rouge at the Red Cross Building.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. We used to have it at the Red Cross Building they have it. It's available sometimes in Baton Rouge. It's a pretty nice facility, pretty quiet facility. We definitely have to keep that, the decorum in mind. We haven't had that issue lately. So that's good.

CANDICE LINVILLE: That's two John puns.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Do y'all miss him?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Not really, but you would think.

STEVE DEBRUHL: He who shall remain nameless. Let's figure out a date first of all.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't have my calendar handy.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I do. You want to look at September, is that what we're talking about.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: September 3rd, that's a Friday before Labor Day. Let's avoid that. The following Friday is the 10th, and we have the 17th and the 23rd of September.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I would go with the 10th.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yeah. Tenth sounds better.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Cause if we wind up doing the next one in November be we need it early as we can in the month.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. I'll travel, I don't care. Do you have a preference, would you like it to be New Orleans or Baton Rouge, try to find a place in Baton Rouge? We can go see Don over there at the Toomey Welcome Center at the Texas border.

DON ARABY: There you go. That's a good idea.

SHELLY LEJUENE: You got a room for us?

DON ARABY: A lot of room, but no storage.

KEVIN MONK: Have to have it outdoors. At least it's a nice view.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I say a different change of pace from Baton Rouge. We've been going to Baton Rouge. Why not do it in Metairie or Harvey.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We can do it at Harvey and make Mike bring the food.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Now since we have travel, you want to do it 9:00, 10:00? What are you thinking? We're going to be in person?

FRANK GAFFNEY: To myself it doesn't matter cause I have to go the night before.

DON ARABY: Hell, I can do 3:00 in the morning. I've been doing that quite a bit here lately.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yeah. You're not the only one.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm talking about the rest of the humans. I'll be here cause I'm always here. You want to say nine, 9: 30?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Nine's fine with me.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Is 9:00 agreeable with everyone else?

DON ARABY: Sounds good.

SHELLY LEJUENE: That's fine. I just got to get there.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. So it would be available if you're coming from Shreveport, probably even Baton Rouge. Kevin, you think, as far as them spending the night? If Shelly wanted to come down the night before.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. I would think so. I would think it would be available based on the state travel regs. We would have to check that PPM49. To the best of my recollection, yes it would be.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I think it would be too. So I'll go ahead and reserve that for Harvey. I do think having it Zoom is great opportunity. So if Antoine wants to check in again, he doesn't have to get in his car and drive down here.

DON ARABY: Steve, this is Don. I have to go. I have a meeting at 5:00. My daughter's getting married next Saturday.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Congratulations, Don.

DON ARABY: Thank you. It was good hearing from all of you. And I'll just check with Frank or someone, you know, details about the next meeting.

STEVE DEBRUHL: You got it.

SHELLY LEJUENE: All right. Don, take it easy.

PINKY HARRIS: Congratulations.

DON ARABY: Okay. Thank you. Bye.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Find out how much it cost to pay for one of them.

DON ARABY: That's why we're going to do a benefit. All righty. Bye bye.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I got one down, one to go. It's 4:15. Let’s adjourn this meeting and start the trust fund meeting. Does that sound good to you?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SHELLY LEJUENE: I move the regular committee meeting be adjourned.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I second that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor aye.

{collective aye}.

Opposed? Meeting adjourned.

Trust fund

STEVE DEBRUHL: Let's just go right into it. I want to share my screen here. Mica, can you see that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I see Steve.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. Hold on a second.

KEVIN MONK: No. We got the pictures.

STEVE DEBRUHL: How about that?

MICA SMITH: I can see it now.

STEVE DEBRUHL: This is the trust fund balance.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You have to move it to the right. My right, your left maybe.

CANDICE LINVILLE: 881.265.37.

STEVE DEBRUHL: That's it. These are collections for September going back to 20. So year to date we've collected 202,000. We did get some checks in earlier yesterday from Chauntey. So I'm not sure if that's the total in there. But our balance as of today 881,275.37. Which is pretty healthy. The fact that we haven't really been doing a lot of repairs.? A lot of people closed. We have been getting diminished returns from third party because of the pandemic as well. But we haven't been spending a lot of it. So that's healthier than it was this time last year, I believe.

KEVIN MONK: We do have the stipends that are going to be coming out. Of course, this year we can't help the retirees.

FRANK GAFFNEY: So basically, we're going to have 48 stipends coming out.

KEVIN MONK: There about, yeah.

STEVE DEBRUHL: And we did reach out to all the retirees as best we could. We talked to a lot of them. A few of them we couldn't get in touch with. But we did mail everyone the letter. We heard some feedback.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Steve, we have a lot left because my battery is about ready to die?

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. No. So that was, let's do the roll call. Call to order Frank.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Let's call the meeting to order for the trust fund.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Shelly LeJuene, Baton Rouge.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville, New Orleans.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmar, Shreveport.

PINKY HARRIS: Pinky Harris, New Orleans.

HERBERT READO: Herbert Reado.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. And Emma said she was there. All right. Is that everyone? Okay. Roll call. Got review of the agenda. Which we'll go through as we do it. And then approval of the minutes from the March 12th, 2021, meeting. Make a motion to accept those, Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Looked at it. Read it. Do I hear a motion to accept the minutes as read?

SHELLY LEJUENE: I'll move that we accept the minutes for the report.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Second?

EMMA PALMER: I second it. This Emma.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{collective aye}.

Opposed? Being no negatives, motion passed.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Michelle said she got kicked off. I can't find her here. All right.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Yeah. I'm about ready to die.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Approval of minutes, we just did that. New business. Trust fund monthly income disbursements. I shared that with you guys just a second ago. And the balance we said was‑‑ Shelly is on my screen over here.

SHELLY LEJUENE: I don't know why.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Got a full screen of Frank's face. Any unfinished business? Source of revenue data. We talked about it extensively with this new memo on the third party. So we definitely got to keep track. Like I said, as this develops, we got to look at ways to replace this income from the federal properties. And that's going to mean trying to get more locations on state property. Which we are working on. And then open discussion. Anybody have anything to say?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Not at the present until we get more information.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Okay. All right. And the next item is the adjournment. Does anybody make a motion to adjourn the meeting? Or anything else y'all want to say before we get out of here?

SHELLY LEJUENE: I move the trust fund.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Shelly makes a motion for adjournment.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I second. Aye. Whatever. Oh, my God.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor.

{collective aye}.

All opposed, besides Candice.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I can't imagine anybody would be opposed. All right. Well, thank you guys. Enjoyed it. Have a good weekend. I'm going to go book our conference room for our next meeting. I do think we should keep the Zoom going. I'll send out that information too when the time comes.

{talking simultaneously)

PINKY HARRIS: I'm sorry, Emma. Pinky, you go ahead first. What did you say?

PINKY HARRIS: Are we still allowed to participate on Zoom, or we required to come in person?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I'm talking about doing it in person and just adding the Zoom component to it so people can Zoom in. I guess we can do that.

PINKY HARRIS: I'm just asking is it a requirement to be there in person?

STEVE DEBRUHL: You mean as an EC member?

PINKY HARRIS: Yes.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't know. I can figure that out too between now and then.

PINKY HARRIS: Okay. Let me know.

FRANK GAFFNEY: As old rules and new rules. The emergency rules were okay. Under the old rules you couldn't vote.

STEVE DEBRUHL: I don't think the governor has changed that yet for open meetings. So I don't know. Between now and then who knows what's going to change.

PINKY HARRIS: Okay. Well, let me know.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Pinky, have a good time at your show.

PINKY HARRIS: What?

STEVE DEBRUHL: I said have a good time at your show.

PINKY HARRIS: Thank you. Thank you.

CANDICE LINVILLE: All right. Y'all have a fabulous weekend.

SHELLY LEJUENE: Have a nice weekend. See y'all later. Bye.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Emma. What a second. Emma, did you want to say something before we go?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Emma?

STEVE DEBRUHL: She's unmuted. Emma, you still there? Okay. That's it for Emma. Let's all thank Lynsey for her time today. Lynsey, thank you very much.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Thank you.

STEVE DEBRUHL: We'll look forward to your minutes and we'll get them. Morock, I'll send you a copy. You want to send me an email. I get an email address, I'll email them to you.

DREW MOROCK: I'll get one to you. Thanks.

STEVE DEBRUHL: All right. Everyone have a nice weekend. Enjoy your vacation, Lynsey.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Y'all do the same.

STEVE DEBRUHL: Bye