**MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA SHERIFF’S MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE MIDWINTER MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023 AT 8:30 A.M. AT GOLDEN NUGGETT IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA.**

Sheriff Greg Champagne welcomes and thanks Justice Scott Crichton who joined this morning by a conference call.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Gary Bennet called roll and the following members was present. Justice Scott Crichton, Sheriff Greg Champagne, Sheriff Brett Stassi, Sheriff Jay Russell.

**Sheriff Greg Champagne** we need the approval of the minutes from July correcting the pay raise error.

**SHERIFF BRETT STASSI MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY SHERIFF JAY RUSSELL ALL IN FAVOR SAY I, ALL OPPOSED SAY I, SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE MOTION ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

**Mr. Michael Ranatza**, the main emphasis of today’s meeting is to approve the course curriculum that we offered today at the mid-winter conference. If you would go over those course topics

**Sheriff Greg Champagne**, please let the record reflect that Sheriff Jason Ard is now present at the meeting. The course topics at this conference are we had one hour of Sheriffs training by Craig Frosch, legal issues during election year, the statues and all of the election year requirements. We had Blake Acuri and Laura Rodrigue had an hour on corrections and basic jail guidelines and various developments in correction law. Today we will have training with Kyle Ardoin and or his representative Ms. Newsome from the Secretary of State office will talk about Records Retention, statues as applicable to Sheriffs’ for one hour. Sheriff Jay Russell one of our committee members here will put on a seminar on officer involved shooting investigation and putting a unit together to do so. The final hour will be Ms. Kathleen Allen from the ethics commission will put on an hour on the finance disclosure act.

**Sheriff Greg Champagne**, those are the topics, is there a motion to approve.

**SHERIFF BRETT STASSI MOTION TO APPROVE THE COURSE CURRICULUM, SECONDED BY SHERIFF JASON ARD ALL IN FAVOR SAY I, ALL OPPOSED SAY I, SHERIFF GREG CHAMPAGNE MOTION ACCEPTED FOR APPROVALFOR OUR MID-WINTER CONFERNCE 2023.**

**Mr. Michael Ranatza,** I would like to make a recommendation for the committee to do training on social media and establish in that training some thoughts on model policy pertaining to the uses of social media. Not as a mandatory thing in our organization but just suggested practices. There are 1.2 million followers of Louisiana Sheriffs offices on social media and we really think we could increase the capacity of that and to the best interest of our sheriffs and our sheriff offices. We want maximum utilization of that and I also want to admit the fact that it is an election year and that it is a very effective tool for communicating with our constitutes and the public. We need to really bring some people up to speed on it. Some of our sheriff’s offices do an excellent job in their applications, I would like to take some of the best practices that we have and have them in the training and just offer that to all of the sheriffs in a one hour training.

**Sheriff Greg Champagne,** yes I agree we could probably have more than one hour, I think one hour is enough maybe two hours. We touched on this before and we had Russ Foster with employment law come in and he focused more on employee misuse of it. There is a whole lot of activity in social media obviously, so I agree with that.

**Justice Scott Crichton**, let me plug it in here for a second, I strongly recommend at least an hour, ninety minutes maybe two hours on all aspects of the use of social media, it is an effective way to communicate. We have had at least one case in the supreme court of the misuse and abuse of social media with regard to, not a deputy sheriff or a sheriff but in regard to a NOPD officer y needs to be on top of it, and he was fired by the chief. I agree we need to spend some time on that, it is here and everybody in all aspects, I think. Both the good with I think is a lot of it but also best practices.

**Sheriff Jason Ard**, there are a lot of different aspects to it, I use it extensively in my office and we are constantly learning. Mike, we don’t want to wait till July to do this.

**Mr. Michael Ranatza,** no we are really thinking and I need to speak to our President about this, we were thinking when we do our legislative night and Justice Craton, please come if you are available on April 10th at our headquarters. Really for our May meeting this would be more applicable. We would like the opportunity, during that May meeting to have the maximum number of sheriff’s in town because it is always peak legislative town so that the opportunity for us to do lobbing with our Sheriffs being in town for that meeting is great. It’s hard to get people out to the legislative night on the 11th to really come to a meeting. The second Wednesday is May 10th. We would like to put that meeting out there. Followed by discussion.

**SHERIFF BRETT STASSI MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN SHERIFF JASON ARD SECOND THAT MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED.**

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Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chairman

Sheriff’s Management Institute