

**BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**  
**September 3, 2009**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Robert Jones, Chairman  
Mr. Wayne Dasher  
Mr. Carl Franklin  
Sheriff Roger Garrison  
Mr. John Mayes  
Chief George Potter  
Sheriff Carlton Powell  
Mr. Tommy Rouse  
Mr. Roger Waldrop  
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.  
Mr. Justin Wiedeman  
Ms. Rose Williams  
Mr. Larry Wynn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Bruce Hudson  
Mr. Kris Nordholz  
Sheriff Cecil Nobles

**VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE:**

Mr. Bill Acuff

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:**

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:**

Commissioner Brian Owens  
Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield  
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison  
Ms. Diane Avery, Liaison from State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Chaplain Susan Bishop, Metro State Prison  
Mr. Sharrod Campbell, Office of Investigations and Compliance  
Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division  
Mr. Harris Hodges, Division Director of Corrections Division  
Mr. Danny Horne, Director of Chaplaincy Services  
Mr. Mark Guzzi, Legal Services  
Mr. Wes Landers, Operations, Planning and Training  
Warden Kathy Seabolt, Metro State Prison  
Mr. Norman Wilson, Food and Farm Services

Ms. Katrinka Glass, Risk Reduction Services  
Ms. Chandra Fussell, Risk Reduction Services  
Dr. Norm Felland, Risk Reduction Services  
Ms. Pat Lehn, Risk Reduction Services  
Mr. Larry Dale, Risk Reduction Services

Deputy Warden Anita Johnson, Decatur County Prison  
Deputy Warden Gordon Screen, Decatur County Prison

**VISITORS:**

Mr. Jim Lee Scott, A Closer Look  
Mr. Larry Hosea, citizen  
Mr. Brandon Hembree, Massey and Bowers  
Ms. Alison Hodgson, Senate Budget Office  
Mr. Joe Cross, citizen  
Mr. Stacy Williams, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office  
Ms. Loretta Lepore  
Mr. David Pratt, GEO Group  
Ms. Sara Totonchi, Southern Center For Human Rights  
Ms. Kendra Mitchell, House Budget Office

Chairman Robert E. Jones called to order the August meeting of the Board of Corrections. He began with requesting Chaplain Danny Horne to open the meeting with prayer. Chairman Jones announced the appointment of a new Board member, Mr. Justin Wiedeman, who stood and introduced himself. Mr. Wiedeman, a graduate of Georgia Tech, stated he appreciates the opportunity to serve with the Board. He stated his area of expertise is water and wastewater related, utilities, and construction. Chairman Jones welcomed Mr. Wiedeman and announced that Mr. Weideman will be the newest member of the Utilities Committee. Chairman Jones requested all visitors to stand and introduce themselves.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the September Agenda. Mr. Roger Waldrop made the motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Rose Williams, and voted approval by the Board members.

Chairman Rob Jones requested approval of the Minutes of the August meeting. Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr. made the motion to approve the Minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board.

Chairman Rob Jones called on Commissioner Brian Owens for his report.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Brian Owens started his report with welcoming Mr. Wiedeman to the Board. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Whitehead for setting up the meeting with Appropriations Chairman Ben Harbin several weeks ago and visiting Columbia County; they spent the time talking about budget issues of Department of Corrections. Commissioner Owens thanked Chief Potter for the meeting with Mr. Frank Shelton and other folks about the Grace Village project, which is a 26-unit apartment complex plus an intake substance abuse treatment center for homeless women. Commissioner Owens stated the folks were worried that the Department was walking away from that project, but they were assured that the Department would not walk away until that project is done. Commissioner Owens thanked Mr. Wayne Dasher in advance for putting together a meeting with a new doctor who is charge of the local hospital down there. There is a group of doctors interested in partnering with the Department on inmates with medical issues. Commissioner Owens thanked Ms. Rose Williams again for her assistance at Scott State Prison. The Department shut down Scott State Prison, and, out of the 281 staff members, 278 were placed in like positions within a fifty-mile radius.

With a powerpoint presentation, Commissioner Owens began with the first slide, Upcoming Events. Commissioner Owens called attention of the Board members to the Department beginning furlough days starting the second pay period of this month. Commissioner Owens stated Governor's office did order all state agencies to take at least three furlough days for all state employees. The Department will stagger the three furlough days between now and the end of the year on the second pay period. At the same time, the Department will insure meeting the vision of protecting the public. A question may come up about contract work details that the Department has in local areas, and, the Department will make sure that those are still fully in place; there will be no changes in the work details.

Commissioner Owens reported on the Jail Backlog numbers. The Sheriff's numbers are sitting right at about 5,000 again; however, the Department's numbers reflect about 3,800. The state prison population is at 106% capacity, so the Department is a little bit tight. Commissioner Owens stated Assistant Commissioner Schofield will come up in a few minutes and talk about beds coming on line. Commissioner Owens stated the Board members have previously been briefed about shutting down old inefficient buildings and replacing them with more modern fast track designs in existing prisons. Commissioner Owens stated that if constituents ask what is the

Department doing with shutting down prisons and where are they putting inmates, the response is the Department is adding fast track capabilities, private prison beds at the same time, to be more efficient.

Commissioner Owens continued with reporting that he will have Assistant Commissioner Schofield to talk about bed expansion and give an update on military activated individuals; Ms. Becky East will give a brief view of what the budget looks like for the remainder of this fiscal year; and the primary topic today is Ms. Katrinka Glass, who will have her managers report on what the Department does to help inmates to become better citizens, what results are, and what strategies are.

Commissioner Owens stated the Department held a great event last week, pointing to a framed program, pictures, and a CD, 'Voices of Hope,' of a choir of female inmates at Metro State Prison. Chaplain Susan Bishop had a vision several years ago that was fulfilled. If it were not for Chaplain Bishop and Warden Seabolt, this never would have happened. Warden Kathy Seabolt came forward and stated this was an absolutely wonderful day last Wednesday, and, it was one that was a long time in the making. Warden Seabolt thanked Commissioner Owens and the people on the Board who made this opportunity possible. Warden Seabolt stated that with being in the business of redeeming women, those who are sisters and mothers and grandmothers of future generations, then it is important to take advantage of these kinds of opportunities. Warden Seabolt stated that what this CD does is make it able for the women to reach out behind the prison walls and touch other people out there and share their gift.

Chaplain Susan Bishop came forward to explain further with this CD being a labor of love and a project that had been worked on several years. The CD was recorded last November at a live concert at the Canon Chapel of Theology School at Emory University. Last Wednesday, Metro State Prison had the unveiling of the CD. Chaplain Bishop went on to explain the history of the choir. She has been with the Department of Corrections since 1984. When Chaplain went to Milledgeville, Ms. Rose Williams was Captain of Security at one facility and was already taking the women out to sing. So, Chaplain Bishop and Ms. Williams took the inmate choir all over middle Georgia to perform. In 1987, Chaplain Bishop went to Metro State Prison, when it was a men's prison, and also started a men's choir. Chaplain Bishop stated that a music program teaches a lot more than just music. It is said that arts in the correctional setting is a way of escape; when fully engaged in music and arts, the person is fully engaged in the artistic endeavor. Chaplain Bishop further explained that inmates learn discipline, team work, accountability, responsibility, good theology, positive moral values, respect, conflict resolution, how to deal with worry and depression, gift of encouragement, and how to present themselves in public settings. Chaplain Bishop explained that the Voices of Hope choir know that when they go outside the institution, they represent God foremost; they represent Metro State Prison and Warden Seabolt and Chaplain Bishop; and also know that when people see them, they see every incarcerated woman in the State of Georgia. Through their positive conduct, they are saying they are women who have made mistakes but also women with gifts to offer. Chaplain Bishop has three basic rules: they are family; they are God-centered; and nobody fights and nobody

runs away instead, stays until the problem gets resolved. Chaplain Bishop stated that one way that music helps these women in prison is to provide them a way in which they accomplish something and give something back to someone else. The proceeds of CD will go back to enhance the work of the Children's Center. The Center is now open once a month at the prison; the goal is to have a full-time Children's Center Director and have the center open every Saturday. This would enhance the relationships the female inmates have with their children and will serve as a re-entry bridge in helping inmates maintain their family pride and connections. Chaplain Bishop stated this idea started with Commissioner Owens attending a Prayer Breakfast, and writing a note on a napkin, "recording studio Metro State Prison" and pushing it across the table to Chaplain Bishop. Chaplain Bishop took up the challenge and now the Voices of Hope gospel CD.

Commissioner Brian Owens called on Assistant Commissioner Derrick Schofield to give a bed status and military active duty. Mr. Schofield, with a powerpoint slide, gave an update on where the Department is with the bed plan. At the top left, there is a column of beds that are coming on this year. Mr. Schofield stated the Department is pleased to announce these 4,254 beds are operational; particularly noting, the 'triple bunking' initiative. There are about 1,400 beds, and, there are no issues with triple bunking in the prisons. Mr. Schofield pointed to the bottom of the powerpoint slide wherein it reflects that for FY '10 the Department is looking of gaining 1,000 beds. The Department has moved forward with triple bunking the pre-release centers, right now there are 130 operational beds; with continue looking at every space to maximize facilities. The fast tracks, i.e., Augusta State Medical Prison, Telfair State Prison, Central State Prison, will have 256 beds; and at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison will have 128 fast track beds there. Mr. Schofield pointed to FY '11, which will be Phase V of fast track beds, in creating another 768 beds. Two of those fast tracks will be at Washington State Prison and Rogers State Prison. The private prison bed expansion will bring 1,500 beds by end of summer of 2010; broken down with 750 beds at Wheeler Correctional Institute and 750 beds at Coffee Correctional Institute. The Request For Proposal (RFP) for a private prison is still in the process. Mr. Schofield pointed to FY '12, which reflects the next generation of fast tracks, with the plan for four 1,024-bed facilities. Mr. Schofield stated that with the 106% capacity in the prisons, this is the plan that will work on where to put the inmates.

Assistant Commissioner Schofield continued with giving an update on soldiers deployed; there are 166 correctional employees who are now serving our country. Mr. Schofield stated the Department takes opportunities to recognize and acknowledge those individuals. The Department truly misses comrades when they leave; not just from a work perspective but because of the great work they are doing with serving our country. Just an example, the managers and directors are responsible for certain number of these individuals by sending care packages and letters to those 166 employees. Mr. Schofield stated that when he was in the military, he never served in conflict but it was a pleasure just to get a piece of mail while being away from home. Mr. Schofield bragged on Commissioner Owens in how he takes time to write notes each month to those employees. Most recently, a wife of a friend of one of the employees

sent an email to thank Commissioner Owens for writing and recognizing the troops. Mr. Schofield explained how the directors just want to take the opportunity to say thanks to employees who are deployed.

Ms. Becky East, Division Director of Administration Division, with a powerpoint slide, began with explaining the FY 10 budget appropriations; those are \$1.1 billion and state funds totalling \$986 million. Ms. East stated that in July the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) sent a letter to all agency heads. In that letter, agencies were directed to take 5% cash allotment reduction, which meant it impacted the cash that this Department receives to pay bills. In addition to that, agencies were instructed to take three furlough days for all employees. They are also going to withhold the cash for those three furlough days, which amounts to \$6 million for Department of Corrections. Each day is approximately \$2 million. Ms. East explained this is what prompted the decision to go ahead and close Scott State Prison. Scott State Prison was a non-enduring facility and part of the plan was to target the non-enduring facilities. In that letter from OPB, the Department was also directed to submit three budget packages, i.e., 4%, 6% and 8% plans. Ms. East pointed to numbers on the powerpoint slide that reflected 4% is approximately \$38 million, 6% is \$57 million, and 8% is \$76 million. In those budget packages, the Department explained it would have to close remaining non-enduring facilities; would no longer be able to absorb costs of the inmates in the existing 106% system; would impact staff; would mean that if going to the 8% level that there is the possibility of eliminating certain programs; and does now mean asking major contractors to share in the furloughs. The Department's budget plan was submitted on September 1, 2009.

Ms. Katrinka Glass, Director of Risk Reduction Services, began her report with stating it is an honor and privilege to address the group. She stated that she wanted to talk about an update of Risk Reduction Services unit and the programs produced; talk about re-entry model; about program accountability measures; and outcomes for FY 09.

With a powerpoint presentation, Ms. Glass stated she would talk about Where We Are with looking at offender statistics, overall recidivism rate and trends; talk about Reentry Model; about specific Measures used to indicate proficiency and efficacy of programs; and talk about Outcomes of specific programs.

When talking about Offender Population Specifics, the numbers shown are not a surprise but just a refresher. New admissions is reflected as 21,680; annual releases numbers are 17,000; and current population is reflected as 54,256. The numbers also reflect probation centers; what is included in these probation centers are the substance abuse residential program. These numbers are also Field Probation.

Ms. Glass continued with How Are We Doing? Ms. Glass reminded that the recidivism rate in Georgia is measured and defined as a three-year felony reconviction rate. The numbers are always three years behind; what is measured is those folks that are released three years before. The graph on this slide reflects a ten-year trend line for recidivism for FY 1996 to FY 2006; the maximum reconviction rate reflects 31.5% in 1997 and the low reconviction rate was in FY 2004 at 27.6% Ms. Glass stated that currently the numbers are at 28.1%. With the slide, Who Recidivates graph reflects two lines, i.e., one for males and one for females. Females recidivated about the same that males did; the trend line is basically downward. Women are recidivating just below the male; around 28% for men and 23% for women. The next slide, Inmate Profile, reflects a snapshot of current inmate profile, the numbers based on August statistics. This is the inmate population by term type. This graph has a large part reflecting 44% of violent personal crimes and 15% indicates sex offenders. Ms. Glass stated the point is that 59% of the incarcerated for bad crimes. That leaves 40%, reflecting non violent crimes, which are those folks that can be worked into the programs.

Ms. Glass continued with the powerpoint slides, noting Who Recidivates. With this graph, Ms. Glass stated they wanted to look at what particular crime time recidivates. Ms. Glass pointed out the property crimes are highest recidivators at 34%. Other type crimes, such as drug possessions, violent and personal crimes, are smaller amounts. Ms. Glass stated these are the folks that the Department can work with in programming. Ms. Glass continued with her report in talking about What Are We Going To Do basically. The evidence-based initiatives show how the Department is attacking this recidivating problem. Back in early 2000, the Department embarked on a scientific research based approach to change an offender's behavior. If the offender thinks it is okay to commit a crime, that offender continues to do that. One of the things that the Department looks at is changing the offender's behavior. Ms. Glass stated to think about when going to the doctor with an illness, then the doctor diagnoses what your problem is, prescribes a medication or some intervention; you take the medication. This is the same kind of thing that the Department wants to do with programming. The diagnostic part of the programming is COMPAS instrument. That what does is diagnose how high the risk to recidivate is, diagnoses what the need is, what the problems are, what causes to recidivate. That is directed to offender needs and risks. Ms. Glass stated the Georgia Program Assessment Inventory is a diagnostic model, which addresses processes used and the services provided. Ms. Glass stated that as an example, if an offender has a drug problem, the programs help with getting the offender clean and sober. There are other parts to the problem, which could be a place to live or no family support or other things. Ms. Glass explained there are 13 scales used under the Georgia Program Assessment Inventory to look at a facility. The Department uses Best Practices; not just program dynamics, but also look at the services provided and look very closely at who is delivering those services. The Department looks at case management and the counselors are doing what they should be doing, such as meaningful contact, crisis intervention, leadership qualities. Ms. Glass stated the Department makes sure the right offenders are in the right program and needs and deficiencies are addressed. The correlation is that the higher this Program Program Assessment Inventory score is then the better is the recidivism rate.

Ms. Glass continued with explaining Reentry: From Post Sentence to Community powerpoint slide. Ms. Glass stated this is talking about a medical model; such as diagnosing what the problems are, prescribing an intervention, administering that intervention, and doing that follow-up as well. The slide reflected phases; such as Phase 1: Assessment, which is all prison bound offenders receive a COMPAS assessment and a Texas Christian University drug screen. That is the diagnostic part after prison bound offenders are sentenced but prior to going to a prison. In the probation field, all high and maximum offenders are getting a COMPAS and a drug screen. In Phase 2: Diagnostics the offenders go into the system and go through all the diagnostics. That is where the Department is doing the diagnoses of what the problems are and address what those needs are. The offender goes to diagnostics and permanent placement in the prison system, along with the COMPAS. In Phase 3: Confinement is where the point where the State Board of Pardons and Paroles looks at the COMPAS and pulling the pre-conditions for parole. Such as, if an offender needs to go to an Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Center program or needs a Cognitive behavioral treatment. Ms. Glass stated Phase 4: Release Planning is where the Department is still administering the program intervention, and, that instrument continues to follow the offenders back into the community. In this release planning phase, the Department continues to follow these offenders into the community. In the release planning phase, the Department concentrates more on transitional services; looking at housing issues; look at employment issues; family involvement. The last phase, Phase 5: Community Supervision, is when the offender is released back to the community and the COMPAS instrument continues to follow the offender so that everybody who has contact with the offender knows what the needs are, knows how many of the needs have been met, and what needs remain to be addressed. Either probation officers or parole officers follow up with any kind of referrals to the community.

Ms. Glass continued her report with What Are The Needs powerpoint slide. Ms. Glass reported that of the top three challenges, one is that 58.4% of offenders have probable or highly probable needs for Substance Abuse. This helps counselors begin on an individual basis; based on the fact that COMPAS instrument is a screen to tell where to start looking for intervention. The other two challenges are Criminal Associates/Peers and Family Criminality. This information is derived from a compilation of the COMPAS instrument and the offender's personal file. With the next slide, Evidence-Based Programming, Ms. Glass stated this talks about availability of programming. One section of categories represents the current Population; one category represents Substance Abuse; and another category represents Vocational/Academic education. The COMPAS numbers reflect 26,000 of 53,000 are showing a probable or highly probable need for either vocational or academic education. The yellow columns reflect Active Offender Completions for each of the three categories; the blue columns reflect Current Enrollment. Ms. Glass stated that the whole point is to say there is clearly not enough capacity for the needs that have been demonstrated. One way the Department tries to address this is with the offender who has the highest risk, the highest need, the shortest sentence, and who is the youngest person. Ms. Glass stated the Department tries to address as many offenders as can and continue to do the best they can with what they have. The next slide, Increasing Evidence-Based Programming, addresses program growth, prison growth, but does reflect enrollments and completions. The

columns from FY 2006 to FY 2009 are numbers derived from previous computer system data. In 2008, the Department transitioned from the previous computer system (OTIS) to the current computer system (SCRIBE); therefore, the numbers are spiked. The blue in each column indicates a daily average population; the pink indicates the number of program enrollment; and the yellow or green indicates the number of completions. The difference of looking at the number of enrollments and number of completions is there are reasons, such as medical, disciplinary, early discharges, moving inmates. The Department does not have the capacity to have all programs at all facilities. Ms. Glass pointed out that from 2003 to 2009, the offender population grew at 13%; during that same period, program enrollment increased at 93.4%; and completion rate increased at 153.4%. That is to say that the Department have tried to concentrate not just on increasing enrollment but also push on getting the offenders to complete the program.

Ms. Glass continued with the next slide, Treatment Effect From Programs, which are the cognitive programs, such as Residential Substance Abuse Treatment programs, GED programs, Vocational programs; this is the recidivism rate for general population which is 28.1%. Ms. Glass explained that the recidivism rate for the offenders in cognitive behavioral programs is 25.2%, which is a 2.9% reduction in recidivism. As far as inmate RSAT program of 24.1% is a 4% reduction in recidivism; which are not only have criminal thinking issues but also severe substance abuse issues. For GED completers, the offenders are recidivating at 5.9% less than general population. Ms. Glass stated the biggest one is that for Vocational Education, the reduction in recidivism is 14.2%. As one manager Dr. Norm Felland would say, an offender has to have a GED to get into a vocational program.

Ms. Glass introduced her staff, Ms. Chandra Fussell who is manager of Substance Abuse Services; Dr. Norm Felland, who is in charge of Academic Education; Ms. Pat Lehn is manager of Vocational program; and Mr. Larry Dale manages both cognitive programs and counseling programs. Ms. Glass concluded that programs do work; one way to support Risk Reduction Services is by getting the word out that the programs do work. It is important to change the way offenders think and change their behavior with providing tools and services and programs they need, the offender can get out there and be a productive member of society. Ms. Glass knows that if bring an offender in the prison system and that person does not have any work skills, not have education, they have a drug problem, think like a criminal, are antisocial, then how can we expect to put those individuals in and not do anything to them and expect them to be better when they come out? Ms. Glass added that a reentry committee is working with the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to assist some offenders to get housing and a register; this is not a program but a transitional service is being attended to.

Chairman Rob Jones stated the Board members very much appreciate the work done by her team. The Board fully understands this means not only public safety but also dollars down the road; when seeing a 14% drop in recidivism rate because of folks gone through vocational planning, that this is a tremendous long term savings to the state. The Board appreciates the work and all the programs. A lot of people might think in these budgetary times that this is

something that needs to be cut, but on the other hand, what is happening is saving money year after year.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Rob Jones began with stating he wanted to address a couple of issues. Chairman Jones asked each Board member to take time to correspond with staff people who are overseas and serving in the military. A list will be divided among the Board members for the Board to find time to communicate with staff who are serving our country.

Chairman Rob Jones asked the Board members for their thoughts on the Department's budgetary issues. The employees of the Department of Corrections are taking a furlough day; three days this year. Chairman Jones stated the employees will not be paid for those three days. Chairman Jones stated he wanted to hear thoughts of Board members on whether the Board could take the same action. Chairman Jones suggested that the Board not take Per Diem for the remaining meetings of the year. Mr. Roger Waldrop motioned to go with the suggestion, seconded by Mr. Larry Wynn, and voted approval by the Board members. Chairman Jones thanked the Board members for their support; knowing they sacrifice the time being away from their business and families to attend the Board meetings. This action will send the right signal to employees that the Board of Corrections stands with them. Chairman Jones and Commissioner Owens will talk about the October meeting as to whether there are issues requiring the Board members to meet.

Chairman Rob Jones requested a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss two Deputy Wardens of Decatur County Prison. Chief George Potter made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session, Mr. Bill Acuff seconded the motion, and members present affirmatively approved moving into Executive Session.

Following Executive Session, the Board of Corrections went back into Regular Session.

Chairman Rob Jones called the meeting back into regular session. Chief George Potter, Vice Chair of Operations Committee, stated the committee met this morning to meet Deputy Warden Anita Johnson and Deputy Warden Gordon Screen of Decatur County. Chief Potter made a motion that the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Gordon Screen as Deputy Warden of Security for Decatur County Correctional Institute, seconded by Mr. Acuff, and the Board members voted approval of the motion. Deputy Warden Screen stood and stated he is honored to be before the Board and thanked them for the vote.

Chief George Potter made a motion that the Board approve Ms. Anita Johnson as Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment for Decatur County Correctional Institute, which was seconded

by Mr. Tommy Rouse, and voted approval by the Board of Corrections. Deputy Warden Johnson stood and thanked the Board for opportunity to serve State of Georgia and Decatur County; this is a privilege for her.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Sheriff Carlton Powell stated that he recognizes that with the tough times that he appreciates what the Department of Corrections is doing to address the needs. Sheriff Powell requested Commissioner Owens be very cognizant of the ratio of correctional officers. The officers are the backbone of the organization. There are a lot of worthy programs the Department has going but when getting right down to the basics, it is to take care of the correctional officers.

Chairman Rob Jones announced that Dr. Felland, head of the education department, has copies of a book called the *Image*. This book is a compilation of art work of inmates and copies are available for each Board member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Robert E. Jones, Chairman

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James L. Whitehead, Sr., Secretary

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Laura Jones, Board Liaison