Randolph Sheppard

March 12, 2021

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good afternoon everyone. I am Steve DeBruhl. This is the March 12th meeting of the executive committee of blind vendors. We have Lynsey Hebert from Caption That. She is going to record the minutes of the meeting. And Frank will talk go over the agenda. Like Melissa was saying, everyone right now is currently muted. But you can unmute yourself and I think we need to do that to see who is going to be here. If you are on the executive committee unmute yourself. If you are a guest, please keep yourself muted. Roll call. Frank Gaffney.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Here.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmar, Shreveport.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville, New Orleans.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune, Baton Rouge.

DON ARABY: Don Araby, Alexandria.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Earl Hebert, unmute yourself.

HERBERT READO: Hebert Reado, Baton Rouge.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: And Earl is here. Waiting on him to unmute. That's enough for a quorum. Why don't we do this. All the EC members leave yourself un‑miked. And guests, if they have a question, they can raise your hand.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: If you are on the phone star nine will raise your hand.

KEVIN MONK: I think there is somebody in the waiting room to come in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Lyn Blanchard.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Asking people if you are not on EC to mute your phone. Frank, did you want to give opening remarks.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. It's been a while for everybody, hopefully we get through all this and welcome everybody to the meeting.

EARL HEBERT: This is Earl jumping in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: A few opening remarks. I want to welcome LWC staff. We have Michelle Duncan on the phone. Micah Smith. Our fearless leader, Melissa Bayham. She may have to drop out later. Kevin Monk and Chaunte Carter. I will kind of reserve my comments until we get into the new business. Kevin Monk, who is the director of blind services, perhaps you can say something for us.

KEVIN MONK: Yeah, I have a few things to touch on. First thing is hot off the press. I know we talked about it the other day. The funding related to the covid relief. We are waiting for a question and answer to come in from RSA. Because ultimately, we are charged with working with the folks on the committee to get active participation to figure out how to divvy up the funds. They just released the Q and As about maybe an hour ago. I read them once. I am going to have to go back and read them two or three times to digest them. And I'm thinking we're going to have to have another meeting with the committee probably towards the middle or end of next week. I am also under the impression that the national council of state agencies for the blind is probably going to have a meeting to kind of discuss these and go over them. I am sure that Frank is a member of a group with the committee chairs. They will probably want to go over them before we start putting our heads together and coming up with a plan as to how we think these funds need to be divvied up. Once that happens have to submit our plan to RSA along with certain signed documents. And then basically we will have until, it appears we have until September 30th to obligate the funds. Which means they have to be out the door, I believe, by the end of (inaudible). Kind of where we are with the funding. For those of you who haven't heard, there is covid relief money out there that's from the Rehabilitation Services Administration for people who sustained losses, people meaning Randolph Sheppard vendors who sustained losses due to covid. It would have to be last year. The loss has to be last year, not this year. The way I read on first reading of the Q and As.

Anyway, I did send the Q and As to Frank. I'm sure Frank will be sharing with you guys as well to be able to do that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I can do that right after the meeting.

KEVIN MONK: Before we leave this meeting, I would like to, if possible, set up another meeting. We can even say it's tentative, but I would like to have plans to have another meeting either next Thursday or Friday. Whatever works the best for everybody so we can all have a chance to digest this and come up with our plan for the money.

The next item I had is attorneys. We do have attorneys, the attorneys are working on stuff for Randolph Sheppard. Not yet the stuff that we presented that we want them to be working on with us in terms of new locations and all that. Right now they are working on the issue with Cedric Mitchell. That is going up for arbitration next week. So they are working on that and hopefully will be getting to the other issues soon after that's done.

The other thing I was going to mention to you guys is the situation that we have with the definition of equipment, supplies and all that. We have talked to the folks on the committee about them. I am sure you folks that are not on the committee have probably also started hearing some things. We have brought national experts in. They are looking into the situation. We're told they are having meetings, high level meetings to try to hopefully get further clarification or get something changed. We don't know, but until that actually changes and comes down then we have to live with the situation the way it is right now. So we are unable to go in and make changes to the definition of equipment, supplies which definitely affects you guys. We understand that. We are aware of that. And we are going to do everything that we can to try help whatever way that we can without going to jail. So that's basically what I have as an intro to the meeting.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thanks Kevin.

KEVIN MONK: Melissa, did you have anything you want to add.

MELISSA BAYHAM: No, Kevin. I think you did a great job. I think you covered all the major areas that we have been dealing with recently. Thank you.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I will say so the Cedric arbitration originated in 2016 and Monday morning at 9:00 we're going to have the, all the way to the Department of Education. So I will be going up to Baton Rouge to testify at 9:00 on this case Monday. So right now it seems to be limited, vast majority is did he file his appeal in time. The lower courts said no. So this is basically what that's going to be. Hopefully, we will have something to report. I don't know how long it takes to get a hearing, opinion, the verdict. I will certainly share that with you guys as soon as we receive it. Introduction of guests. I know Lyn Blanchard was here. Frank, if you want to approve or correct the December 11th, 2020 minutes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I read them through, and they are correct as usual.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Of course. Make a motion then?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I will go ahead and second that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor?

EMMA PALMER: I second that motion.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor? {collective aye} Motion approved.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thanks again Lynsey. The other thing I wanted to talk about was the American Rescue Plan, the $1.9 trillion dollar budget the president signed into law yesterday. Going to be more work around LWC cause they extended the unemployment benefits which is 300‑dollars a week. Extended to September. I know lot of our managers are still receiving unemployment. So that's good to know they will receive that extra 300‑dollars per week or 1,200‑dollars a month. Due to run out in September. Was supposed to expire this weekend. If you're receiving unemployment just continue to do what you're doing. Also give everyone 1,400‑dollars if you made less than 70,000‑dollars. Seventy‑five as an individual, 150 as a married couple. So people will have more money in their pockets as well. Every manager I think with exception to the big baller at Federal City should get a check. They are going out this weekend they say. Check your account. Might have a check in there.

Also the ACA, I don't know if everyone has Medicare, Medicaid. The Affordable Care Act there are subsidies for that too. If you're paying for your insurance, there are subsidies for that as well as childcare. Based on Micah's diagram might have some grandkids amongst this group here. If you do have children, there is a subsidy for you as well.

Kevin hit on it perfectly. So what I will do Melissa sent us a link. I can print it out and send an attachment, but also send the link in the body of the email so you can click on it. I will review that. And do we want to say Thursday is the time we want to do this meeting?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Anytime is fine with me.

KEVIN MONK: That's fine with me. I would like to wait, as my understanding the NCASB is going to be having a follow up meeting for some clarification purposes. And I understand that's going to happen fairly quickly after this. I would say a good tentative yes on Thursday.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Does 1:00 typically work?

EARL HEBERT: 2:00.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I will set up for 2:00 on Thursday and send out the invitation. I will try to attach on that invitation the link to it as well as documents. When this meeting is over, I will set that up for 2:00 on Thursday. A chance to read over the questions. The big thing I really got out of it they really wanted the EC and the SLA to work together to come up with ideas. Frank, you may want to talk to other markets to see what they are doing at this point in time.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. It will be on the chat.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: PP loans. For some reason I've seen a lot of advertisements from our managers for these PP loans. But a clarification that came out this week. It was thought you would get whatever your gross income was times two and a half. So if you were making 2,000‑dollars a month you could apply for 5,000 worth of the loan. But actually revised is your gross income for those two weeks. So that would really give you a substantial increase what you would qualify for. So these loans are hundred percent forgivable if you use it for payroll. Herbert thinking specifically about you. You can apply for it even though you didn't have that location last year. That was a question. Gross income for that month you can apply for a loan for next two and half months. Two and half times that amount. Then you have until, I think you have a year to spend it on payroll. As long as 65 percent is spent on payroll. You can spend it on other issues and still be 100 percent forgivable. But the program ends March 31st which means if you're going to do it you need to try to do it next week. If you're interested, I would ask you to contact your financial adviser, your bank or whoever else. The clock is ticking. It is a good opportunity for people to take advantage of.

Speaking of opportunity, vaccine eligibility is what I want to talk about next. On Monday, the governor lowered the criteria. Basically 16 years of age plus if you have certain underlying medical conditions. So I went to the website and printed off. There are about 32 different conditions you can have. So if you are overweight, obese or morbidly obese, which I got a triple header on that. I qualify. If you smoke cigarettes at some point in your life you qualify. The time is now. I would encourage all of you to get a vaccination. If you decide to do it probably everyone on this phone call would qualify most of our managers would qualify. Cause there are a myriad of conditions that you would qualify for. Talk to your managers and make sure they understand. Cause that's really the only way we're going to get out of this whole mess. People get vaccinated and people start going back to work. The governor has moved us into phase three. Hopefully bring more people back into the state office buildings that we rely on. Michelle has spoken to Calvin at Office of State Buildings and he doesn't foresee, Michelle are you on the phone? Tell me what Calvin told you.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Calvin said as of right now he has not gotten word from office of, you know, all the people down there. But that he did hear a rumor that Department of Revenue would probably be coming back 60 percent within the next few weeks. But he's not sure about any of the other buildings.

HERBERT READO: From what I'm gathering the buildings are supposed to start increasing on March the 15th. I mentioned that it to Randy, he hadn't heard anything about it. Someone told me in the building they're going to start increasing. Going to three days a week.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: They are already doing that. One week they work three days a week and the following week they work two days a week.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think it's just a matter of time unless we have another setback. Louisiana leads the nation, New Orleans leads the nation as far as vaccination. Doing very well as a state. Really think we are looking at six to eight weeks away to get a lot more people back in these buildings. Hopefully by that time we can decide what will happen with this relief money to put some money in people's pockets.

Kevin hit on it earlier about the RSA rules and interpretations and the challenges that brings up. Also brings up opportunities. So whenever you have a new manager going to an old location RSA considers that like a new set up for initial inventory and opportunity to provide initial supplies. So we've had Don Araby is taken over Chabert in September. A gentleman from Blanchard does repair work for us. We have a lot of 15-year-old, 20-year-old refrigerators. So Paul is putting together to get some quotes and we are going to replace some of Don's items that cost less than 5,000‑dollars. But they will be considered initial supplies. We are looking at buying some new refrigerators and freezers and merchandise. Same thing holds for Central. Craig Alexander won the bid for that. The manager for Central Hospital. His refrigerator was 21 years old. And the fridge was like 17 years old. David is shopping for a replacement for each one of those. We can't repair them, we want them to be as new as they can possibly be. That's an opportunity that we are taken advantage of right there.

The other thing I was going to say the Toomey Vinton Welcome Center. We put that out to bid on, Chaunte sent the bid later out Wednesday. Some of you may have got it today, if not probably the weekend or early next week. Big difference in what it was the last time. We put the bid out almost a year ago today. Machines were doing about 5,000‑dollars a month. And then when the pandemic hit, we rescinded the bid because the governor declared the health emergency. So it went down for a while. It got open and then the hurricanes came. The Hurricane Zeta, Hurricane Laura hit end of September and Hurricane Zeta hit end of October. And the rest area was closed. It opened in January. Total sales for six machines in January were 1,099‑dollars. February it picked up to 1,600‑dollars between the six machines. In August of last year they did 6,000‑dollars. So we're letting people know about it. It will come back at some point in time, but not what it was as far as the revenue goes. Not to say in eight months it won't get back to what it was as people start to travel more. That's going to be a challenge. We had a couple managers apply for it last time. Don you were one of them, I believe.

DON ARABY: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I don't see Don putting in for it.

DON ARABY: No.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So that's going out and a tour scheduled for March 3tst, I think. You may want to share with your constituents that is going out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I got mine today and I'm usually the last one.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good to know. That was the new topics I had. Frank did you want to step in and add anything to the new business?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Basically we went over the fact the lawyers haven't got to our requests yet. And let everybody know we talked about a few more that have been added to the list and Steve and them are checking on it. Brought up the national guards and all over the state, checking on those. I've been pushing to get the RSMAs out to look for more locations whether it be for a third party or a manager. We need both. That's about it. Steve, Emma said let her in.

EMMA PALMER: I thought it would kick me back in, but it didn't. All right.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Because she got that cheap Boost Mobile.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: A good time to do open discussion. Does the EC have anything they want to bring up at this point in time?

HERBERT READO: On the Claiborne bid, when would that be going out?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good question. Since you were satelliting that it's been about three months?

HERBERT READO: Since October.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Since the beginning of October.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think I need to go ahead and put it out.

HERBERT READO: I think we started it and then got caught into covid a little bit.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That will be a challenge, but I will work on that and try to get that out next week. How does that sound.

HERBERT READO: That will be all right.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I will get with Michelle and we will figure out a day for the tour. Try to get out at least by next Friday. If not, I will let you know different. But we will try to put that together. I may be calling you to get numbers.

KEVIN MONK: How is it doing as far as business right now.

HERBERT READO: Right now we're holding it down about a thousand dollars a day with three employees. At first, I was using five or six employees and making about a thousand dollars. So I cut back on three employees and just run it like that. We're not doing any entrees. Basically sandwich and breakfast. So far, they want the other stuff, but it's just not enough traffic right now. Hopefully if they get a little bit more people in the building, we can probably start doing an entree like two times a week or something like that. It's holding its own with three employees.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Hard to figure that when you have three days a week this person is working and two of them are off and then the next week two of them working.

HERBERT READO: Yeah, the way they say they going to increase the building Monday. I'm not making any changes. I'm going to wait and see.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: If you start seeing more people. Part of the challenge, a building at one point had 1200 people and now 400 people in it. What are you really bidding on. Part of the challenge we've had so far.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Also no training started yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: No training in the Claiborne building.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Right. That's normally where they do the majority of mandatory meetings and they send emails out to let you know. Sometimes they even tell you how many people are in the class. But that has stopped completely.

HERBERT READO: Like today, Friday is a slow day. Today we only did 794 today. Friday is not real good day.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think I might bid with all that positive talk. Candice, you got anything to bring up?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Not really.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Tell us about Delgado.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Nothing is going on there. The only thing on the grounds is mice. Right Herb, all they got is rats.

HERBERT READO: Don't say that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Rats and mice. Don't discriminate.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Thank God for Micah. When I went there to go get the machines, he said yeah, they came in and put traps or whatever. And I didn't see anything, but that don't mean anything. And Micah walks up there and goes oh, yeah. You got one and you got one in it. Anyway, so thank God for him cause let me tell you that thing busted open when he tried to move it. I would have probably been puking everywhere so God bless Micah. So when the health department met Micah over there last week or whatever they told them they had just come from culinary and that culinary told them they were opening in the fall. But I haven't heard anything official. But I heard LSU is opening in the fall.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Micah and I were looking at the Delgado website. Really haven't addressed it yet. They haven't said they are not opening either. Hopefully come the fall semester which will be the end of August, beginning of September.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Beau called me yesterday, my franchise. He wanted to know what was going on because Einstein asked him to make his projection for the rest of the year or whatever. And he only has like two locations that aren't open right now. So everybody else is kind of already in the game.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Do what Delgado allows us to do.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Any other EC members?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Have we heard anything, I know about the lawyers, have we heard anything from UMC?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: UMC in Lafayette.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Not that I am aware of. Melissa are you still on?

KEVIN MONK: That's also with the attorneys, Frank. And so hopefully that will be one of the things they will get to as soon as they have Cedric behind us.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That might take a couple years.

KEVIN MONK: A nice chunk of money going out of the trust fund.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'll be sitting with the attorneys all day Monday morning. I'll have the opportunity to talk to them about this. All right. So want to move onto the subcommittees. We have budget. Frank, did you have anything you want to talk about as far as budget goes?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. I have the budget, but I have to get it where I can read it. But if there is anything that I find I will bring it up. I can even bring it up at the next meeting if there is anything important to check on.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We will talk about it in the trust fund meeting too. Constitution and bylaws, Emma Palmar. Anything to add and talk about? I don't see Emma.

CANDICE LINVILLE: It's that Boost phone.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I was a Boost Mobile platinum dealer so don't be talking bad about them. They work if you know how to operate them. It's not always the phone.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Operator error.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I used that a lot. Okay. If Emma comes back, we'll discuss constitution and bylaws. Earl Hebert, inventory.

EARL HEBERT: Nothing new as far as I know.

KEVIN MONK: I have something as it pertains to inventory. One of the things we had kind of looked at is trying to just kind of ballpark and figure out some things as it pertains to this funding that came up. What is the inventory laws. What is the potential inventory laws that you guys had. One way we looked at it was trying to figure out what is the difference between the inventory y'all had on September 30th of 2019 and September 30th of 2020. And I know that's not the true number that you guys lost. But just to kind of give us a ballpark, something to play with we looked at that and it was just north of 100,000. About 120 130,000‑dollars or so if I memory served me correctly. Lower in 2020 than it was in 2019. And so but I know that's not going to be the true picture. Hopefully, it puts us in the ballpark.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: They restocked themselves. Only go up from that point I can imagine.

CANDICE LINVILLE: So what is the rule on that right now. Say a place where you lost everything and say you open back up. Where is that money.

KEVIN MONK: We get to make up the rules next week, basically.

CANDICE LINVILLE: So I know at one meeting we had we were saying maybe if you open the case of voc rehab voc rehab could start your initial inventory for job retention or something of that nature.

KEVIN MONK: That is one possibility. But that was before, all those discussions before this funding had come out. I'm not taking that off the table at this point. But certainly if you are getting compensated for a loss you sustained there would probably be no reason to go to VR. It would be like double dipping. You couldn't do that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right. A discussion to decide whether compensation is being for loss of income or loss of inventory.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And what that inventory number is. If we divide that number evenly between managers. Like I know say the number was like 11,000 per manager. That wouldn't cover everything, my loss. So then I would have like probably a 5,000‑dollar lapse and what I lost and what I was recovering. So then would voc rehab pick up from there?

KEVIN MONK: I'm assuming could be a possibility. Melissa, you have any thoughts on that? If that FRRP funding could cover part of it and maybe VR could step in and do the other?

MELISSA BAYHAM: We need to really discuss that because under the VR program it talks about the initial inventory. So that's something that we would have to talk about. There is a lot of unknowns right now that maybe when you talk with NCSAB it will be clarified. Cause I have read the FAQs and still lot of questions in my mind. For example, it says that we cannot pay for losses that were not otherwise compensated. Then they go onto not answer the question about the PPP loans and unemployment insurance. So we have to make a determination if those have to be applied to the loss as well. Still a lot that we have to figure out. And as far as the vocational rehabilitation funds, like I said, we have never paid for initial stock and supplies in vocational rehabilitation. In a case. We have always done that through Randolph Sheppard. Some things that we would have make sure we are dotting the Is and crossing the Ts correctly.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Other states do. We don't.

MELISSA BAYHAM: That can be part of the research. But what I have learned, I think I have been director two and half years, just because other states do it doesn't mean it's correct. I have learned that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Kind of how we got in this boat we're in right now because of another state. On inventory as well I can say once a year we have to account for all the equipment inventory. In this case equipment and supplies. Anything that cost over a thousand bucks it's considered inventory state property control. So we just completed that. Everybody had everything. Nothing was missing. So I want to thank you all for that, for taking care of it. Of course most had been closed for the last year. No opportunity to lose anything. Just so you know, the amount is 571,000‑dollars we're going to have to work with. As far as devising the plan.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And how many managers, 48?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Forty‑nine. There was a question I saw you have to be currently an active manager now to participate. So if you had a location and you left the program. Say you are in Houma, for example, and you left the program. Then you would not qualify.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I bet you liked how he slid that one in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It could be Dulac. I'm just saying anywhere.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Okay. I have no qualms with the Houma issue.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: There is no issue.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Not issue. You know what I mean. For example.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: The hypothetical. Shelly LeJeune, location merger. Anything going on you want to talk about there?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We got to get some locations before we can do mergers. The RSMA's job.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. New facility development. Herb will probably give you an answer similar to what Shelly just gave me.

HERBERT READO: No new facility that I know.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Carbon copy.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Eric and I met with Jefferson Parish Library yesterday. They had a snack shop in there. A very big library, but it's a library. The woman decided not to renew our contract because she wasn't making any money. But we met with them as well as Refreshment Solutions. They have two vending machines in the employee section. About 100 employees there. Getting commissions for 20 odd years. But we talked about putting in a similar concept as Hale Boggs with a front machine, refrigerated food machine and then a snack machine that also dispenses coffee in the cups and put a coffeemaker in there. Probably put that out to bid for third party. That will be new third-party revenue. I don't foresee it being worth making an individual manned location. But at the same time I will hear your thoughts on that. We talked about it last time. Add it to someone's schedule, but then they kind of liked what we were hearing from Refreshment Solutions. And I think a good opportunity to get some more money for the trust fund.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I'm good with that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So not new facility.

KEVIN MONK: I was saying some years ago I had done some research on libraries and I had reached out to other states. And they basically discouraged that as a location to be assigned to a bind vendor for several reasons. Number one, libraries tend to overstate their people coming in and out. In other words, if you come in to drop a book off and turn around and leave and they count you as a customer so to speak. The next thing is that typically they will confine food and drink consumption to a particular area. Typically you're not going to get to go and work on the computer or read your 50-year-old book with a drink or whatever in your hand. It's just not as much of a money-making proposition as you would think it would be typically for libraries.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Maybe that's why she decided not to renew the contract. My mom goes to the library, before covid. Go like twice a week. She reads like 25 books a week. I guarantee you she wouldn't buy a coke. And she would probably count as 100 visits in that library. Not really looking to eat lunch.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I don't know about this particular library, but we have a newer library in Baton Rouge, and they have actually meeting rooms and a separate place to eat, stuff like that. Actually looks better than what you think of as, what I think of as a typical library. But I'm not sure about this particular location.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It's a nice location.

MELISSA BAYHAM: I did a training there. Little more than the typical library. But I don't know about this particular one.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It's nice. They have meeting rooms there and stuff. But actually redoing the sidewalk and that's not going to be completed probably until the end of May. Looks to me might be a little later than that. Looking to maybe do this at the end of May, beginning of June. If it starts to make a lot of money, we can always take it back and put a manager in there. Good way to get started for sure. Get some money for the trust fund. Want to go back to inventory for a minute. Remus is on the line. He came over this morning and gave me a check to pay off his inventory. Give him a hand. I got that check. I am going to deliver that to Baton Rouge next week. Thanks for doing that.

SPEAKER: Congratulations. Glad you were able to do that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Policy and procedure, that was also Herbert Reado. You have any policy procedure questions, comments, criticisms?

FRANK GAFFNEY: After we get further ruling on this other deal, we will have more to talk about policy and procedures.

HERBERT READO: Wait on that then.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thursday meeting we will talk about it again. Number seven is roadsides. Frank Gaffney, chairman.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. All the roadsides are open if you can call it that. I believe the only one making any money is Sam. As far as I know cause it's slow in the rest areas.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Terry Carmendale isn't rolling?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I haven't talked to Terry.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I had Eric check on him. He's off between 50 and 40 percent according to his paperwork. The other thing Toomey is out. If anyone is interested getting a roadside business all they have to do is come to the tour on the Texas border March 31st and meet with Paul Rabo. Number eight is training. And that's also Herbert Reado.

HERBERT READO: No. I thought we supposed to had done a training, but I don't know what happened to it. The cash register or something.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We had a training scheduled last year on March the 13th with the NFB. Terry was supposed to come. So y'all know what happened on March the 13th, everybody crashed.

HERBERT READO: I think we postponed that a couple times.

SPEAKER: A year ago tomorrow.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Using the virtual zoom. Other RSMAs and other managers have been attending blast online training. Found some of them to be very educational.

KEVIN MONK: This meeting has been very well attended. I don't know why we couldn't use Zoom and schedule it and do what we could through that.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Kevin and Steve, they are having a training session, I think it might be Tuesday and it's to do with Robert's Rule. It's supposed to be very good. You do have to register to get in. Anybody needs the link, I have the link I can send it to them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's for committee members only.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Only for committee members?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Committee members only and they are allowing SLA.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: The SLA was allowed. That's something maybe we can get them to do Steve, everybody interested in that because that's very good.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What Shelly is talking about is Terry Smith and Nicky National Association of Blind Vendors has doing these online trainings and it's Robert's Rules of order. Which is what we are supposed to follow during our meetings. Actually, Shelly, I did sign up for that.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I did too.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I would encourage other AC members to sign up for it as well.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Can you send me the link.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sure will. Shelly, you want to do it or me do it?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: It doesn't matter, as long as she gets it. All committee members can go to it, correct Frank?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. You have to register.

EARL HEBERT: Send that link so I can register.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. So earl and Candice. Herb, you want to go? I will send it out to all the EC members, how about that?

EMMA PALMER: I was going say send me one Steve.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Most certainly do that. They're doing a pretty good job of it. They're getting better. Needs to turn his phone off every now and then because every time he breathes it pops up there. Other than that, has some good stuff on there. I think that's something we may look at doing. Maybe next month or month after that Herb and Shelly, some upward mobility training. Terry Smith owes us a visit. Coming down on this day last year. Zoom virtually to him. Whatever you want to ask him. If you want me to start working on that we can pick a date. And then what we talked about last year when you think about it, having everyone come to Baton Rouge. This way people can be like Candice, kick back on the couch and look out the window.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, yeah. I have to say, I love Zoom. I was planting my cantaloupes five minutes before I took the call. Nice to not have to worry about getting to Baton Rouge. And as far as any kind of training goes, and this is me and my vision situation personally, I have a 13‑inch iPad, I see everything much better through zoom than I would be in a meeting room as well.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Just think all the power Steve has in Zoom.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: With great power comes great responsibility.

HERBERT READO: If I may, that may be something that we can when they do the Robert's Rules of orders whether or not we can still, when things do get better, will we be able to still have Zoom meetings.

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. We're doing that under a proclamation from the governor.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right. Cause we can't vote. We have to be in person.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Nice try Herb. I had your back on that one.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You can do it by Zoom, but you can't vote. And you don't credit for being there.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Until we are told we can't do it we will continue do it. Really applies for the blind vendors trust fund meeting and this meeting.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We can always use ADA against it and say people can't get to the meetings.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Limitations as far as us doing upward mobility training via Zoom or anything like that. So Herb, you're on the training subcommittee. Who else is on your committee by the way?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't know if we have one anymore.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Since you're the chairman, who else is on your subcommittee?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Lyn Blanchard is on it too or used to be.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Chairman of the subcommittee, who else is on your subcommittee with you?

HERBERT READO: That's a million-dollar question.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think he just gave it to me. So who wants to be on Herb's training subcommittee to organize this?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I will be on it with you Herb, don't worry.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Shelly, Herb and I. I might stick Micah on there. We will work on upward mobility.

EMMA PALMER: I will be on it with you too.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think it's probably best, three's company here for the subcommittee. We'll be going backwards. We will work on that. No reason why we can't do this more often than once a year if we have something worth talking about. I think we should go back and try to start with Terry Smith. Have him kick it off and maybe do that sometime March, April, May. We'll figure it out. Herb, whenever you want to organize a meeting between the subcommittees, I can do another Zoom meeting I can set that up as well. And I will leave Shelly's mike up the whole time.

HERBERT READO: We could have committee meetings on Zoom?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: This is a public meeting we are having right now. So is the blind vendors trust fund. But for us to have any kind of communication like with this meeting to discuss the money next week we can do it via Zoom. Right now the governor's affect is still in effect. Still legally adhering to the law.

FRANK GAFFNEY: You can do subcommittees on Zoom anytime.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Exactly.

KEVIN MONK: One of the things I'm thinking of for upward mobility training is for those of us who went to, I want to say the San Antonio Blast there was a presentation there on using cashless systems or credit card readers and all that. And being able to pull your customers in. One of the best presentations I've seen in years. And I think that presentation is actually up on the blind merchant’s website. And if that one could just about be used as upward mobility as well.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. I believe all that stuff is on their website.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. It is.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yeah, Kevin. That was good. I know what you are talking about. All right. We will kick off subcommittees.

FRANK GAFFNEY: But we can't buy no more credit card readers.

KEVIN MONK: If the vending machine cost over 5,000‑dollars we can.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Everybody needs to know we're working with what we have.

EMMA PALMER: Is that already in affect right now?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Yes, ma'am.

EMMA PALMER: Man, we could have stocked up on a bunch of stuff before they did that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We didn't know it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Lynsey, make sure you put down it was Emma Palmer who said that.

EMMA PALMER: That's right. We should have had a bunch of credit card readers in the store.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We're going to get together for that training meeting next week. Get with Herb and we'll figure out a time and do that on Zoom too. I will set that up. Zooming all week next week. All right. Moving on for training we have vending. The chairman of that subcommittee is Candice.

CANDICE LINVILLE: All I know it's going to be talking a lot. I do have a question. So didn't Micah already purchase some 5G readers?

MICHA SMITH: I purchased one. That was installed at Delgado west bank location and it was just like a test, you know. And so everything worked all fine. It's one of Herb's machines. He called USA Technology. They transferred it over. He canceled out the old serial number. As far as I know. And it worked, like it actually worked. I tested my credit card, you know. So that was just a test case. And then we were supposed to see what it looked like and how easy it was to do. And then we were going to get a count. My idea was get a count and then just order them all at once. But we never got to that point. So and I think there was some discussion about Niacs too. Some discussion within the EC about maybe not going the route of USA Technology since their customer service is so poor and going with Niacs instead. So that's kind of where it is. And now we find ourselves in the situation where we can't buy it. At least right now.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Only took you about five minutes, didn't it.

MICHA SMITH: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: If you have 5,000 on a vending machine, we can maintain that. Frank, you had that Niac on your drink machine, don't you?

FRANK GAFFNEY: No. I haven't installed it yet. I have it, but I haven't installed it yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Does anybody have that Niac system?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Michael Tally said I think what he has about half and half between Niac and USA.

FRANK GAFFNEY: He has 160 machines and has about half and half.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: He's also in Alabama. Anybody in Louisiana have any? I don't think we have anybody.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Nobody in Louisiana in our program. The difference was the Niac to buy a new one it's all set up I think was like 239‑dollars. And to update ours 129‑dollars.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: But I wish we can update the service department cause it sucks.

MICHA SMITH: One of the worst customer service experiences I have ever had with any company is USA Technologies. They are terrible.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We agree with you.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I tell you what, I got an email. Does anybody on the line use Venmo? Well, they have a business alternative now. I haven't looked into it cause I'm not open. But I know I like the personal one just fine and dandy. There are fees with the business. I don't know exactly what they entail, but so like for me who I have the square register, I don't know even know what I'm paying anymore with that. Cause they tack on a charge for everything. If they tax, they tag on 10 more cents. If they use their phone they tack on. So everything that's the added benefit of using it they tack on a little more to benefit them. So I don't know where Venmo, I know when covid first hit and all like our pizza places and stuff around here were just doing it to their phone number. It was still like free cause it was going from a person's cell phone to a person's cell phone. Not necessarily a business. But obviously Venmo caught on and they're wanting to make a little money off it. I wonder if they are going to be price competitive with Square.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: What side of the counter is the charge on? Your side or the customer side?

CANDICE LINVILLE: I don't know. I just got the email within the last week. I didn't investigate it, but I know there is a fee because it says something about the fees are reasonable. Just trying to encourage people to swap on over. I will look into it before we meet next and see what they have to offer or how it works.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Venmo is just a payment system. They have an account, and I can text Candice money. Make sure you lock your phone. There's a scam people doing. Can I barrow your phone and they Venmo themselves the balance.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Oh nice. So my son, well usually he is paying me back. But like for his jobs and stuff for work, that's how, a lot how he gets paid. He uses it a lot, but different business, you know.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That's actually pretty good.

KEVIN MONK: I wish my wife would forget how to use it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What is weird about Venmo too unless you put your account private it puts your business up there for people to see. Steve sent Candice 120‑dollars.

CANDICE LINVILLE: It can be public where anybody can see it or you can keep it semiprivate where you and your contracts, people you know can see it or you can be totally private. But I know with the business model maybe that could work to someone's advantage. Then they go hey, Joe Blow just got bagels over at Einstein. Like almost kind of advertise a little bit for you.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I don't like people knowing my business like that personally.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Me neither, but you know.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: No reason to volunteer that information. So upward mobility training with Shelly. That kind of dovetails with Herb's training. We are going to work on that committee meeting next week. So Frank the last one is insurance for you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Everybody's paid up for the year. Of course it's way down. But everybody is paid. Took a while to get everybody. But most of the people paid properly.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Also on the welcome center bid they have to pay the insurance. How would that work if somebody comes in there and took over Toomey in April. Can they add on?

FRANK GAFFNEY: David has it worked out where we can add things to the policy. And we would just have to pay that amount which won't be much.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. Based on the current sales.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Cause it was on the list. And it was put on hold.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It is on the bid announcement. Whoever who gets the location will be responsible for paying the insurance for the rest of the year. It shouldn't be, what do you think Frank, a couple hundred bucks.

FRANK GAFFNEY: At the most. Probably less.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I would probably say less too.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That's insurance. Unemployment insurance again make sure you are paying your unemployment insurance when you do get open. All right. Moving off that, we have district concerns. District one is Candice Linville. Any concerns?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Not that I know of. The only, I got a text yesterday about, I think I was telling Micah, about an ice machine leaking. And then Ryan wanted to get on the call today, but he didn't tell me what he wanted to get on for.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Ryan, are you on the call now? I think he was on earlier.

SPEAKER: He was.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I don't see him. Ryan, are you there? Ryan going once. I think he might have dropped off.

SPEAKER: Tell him how to unmute.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Ryan if you were there you need to unmute yourself.

KEVIN MONK: Star six.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If you are on the phone.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I just see phone numbers. I see some people's names. A lot of people shows the phone number. Is he a 504 number?

MICHA SMITH: Let me look it up.

PAUL: I just wanted to listen in. I didn't have any problems.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. Tell us what's going on at your location at the post office.

PAUL: Everything is going well over there. No problems at all.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You find your business what it was last year or down a little bit?

PAUL: Dropped. It wasn't much.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Picking up now, back to normal?

PAUL: It's better now.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good to know. Thanks for checking in. Pinky's not here. I don't know district two has any concerns I'm aware of.

PINKY HARRIS: I'm here. I texted you to see if you would let me in.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I apologize.

PINKY HARRIS: It's okay. I understand. I was late.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: How long you been listening in?

PINKY HARRIS: About an hour.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: We could have said something about you.

PINKY HARRIS: We tried to call in right at the beginning, but we couldn't get in. Still snowball training. So yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I apologize.

PINKY HARRIS: It's fine. I figured you saw my phone number and didn't know it was me.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Any concerns?

PINKY HARRIS: Admittedly I haven't gotten a hold of anybody. I've had like the week from hell. I don't know of any except I'm sure everybody would like to open.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Tell us what's going on at the courthouse.

PINKY HARRIS: It's good. It's about to, it's picking up and it's about to pick up again. We're getting more staffing back next week and jury trials are starting at the beginning of April. We're starting snowballs on the 22nd, 23rd. That should be interesting. We did a test run today. We're getting there.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Very good. Congratulations on your new venture.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. Coffee is back to pre‑pandemic levels. Crazy. Yeah, it's good.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good news on the trials too.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah. They've been postponed, no joke, ten times probably. And then even the April 4th date we heard was getting pushed back to June. But apparently the judges are over it and ready to go. They're just going to try and it and see what happens. Might be good news for Alexander George too. I don't know exactly what criminal court is going to do. But I don't think, I think they're backing up.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I know the Supreme Court, all the cases until the end of March.

PINKY HARRIS: Yeah, but then they mandated to start, and it seemed like it might actually go this time. Not sure how many. Last time they tried it was November. They did two and stopped because it was a mess. So we'll see how it goes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Earl, what are you hearing from Lafayette Courthouse.

EARL HEBERT: April 1st it's supposed to start up. Get a good day and the next day, back to nothing. Never can tell one day from another how it is.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thank you guys. Herbert, district three. What's happening in your neck of the woods?

HERBERT READO: Nothing that I know of. I don't have anything.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Everything in ship shape.

HERBERT READO: I don't know about top shape. A lot of managers not at work.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I got you. Shelly, any concerns in district four?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Probably the major concern is few of them found out what's going on with the agency not paying repairs, changing all these rules. It just gives everybody bad taste in their mouth, a bad attitude because we don't know where the program is going to end up at. That's the problem. Besides that, that's enough right there.

CANDICE LINVILLE: As if covid wasn't bad enough.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Exactly.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Just to be clear what we're talking about. We're not talking about not doing any repairs. Repair anything that cost over 5,000‑dollars.

EMMA PALMER: That's not doing any.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You would be surprised what cost 5,000‑dollars. Micah and I, just about everybody on this call at least one or 2 5,000‑dollar vending machines.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Not me.

EARL HEBERT: All my refrigerators are 15 years old and older.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Personally, I just hope the agency can get back things they were and I'm having a lot of trouble dealing with it. I don't understand it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Really nothing that we have control over at the state level. I wish we did. I like spending money. Me and Micah like retail therapy on a Friday. Buy a refrigerator, buy freezer. I like that.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Just talking about that for a second, Steve. So where is it going come into play with that new rule if that doesn't get settled when it's not our equipment in there to begin with. So like Herb in the cafeteria or me who most of that equipment doesn't even belong to the state. It's Delgado’s.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Exactly right. And Claiborne is the exact same way.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'm still operating under the assumption it's 5,000‑dollar. Shelly, I know we sent somebody to work on your walk‑in freezer a couple weeks ago, a week ago.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah.

EMMA PALMER: Steve, like I was telling Frank, cause Texas got that same thing and when Gee was over there, she kept having to buy ice cream machines. She wasn't making any money hardly off of it. But she was up to almost 800‑dollar on keep repairing it. And every time, they don't call it out there, they call them something else. You have to get this machine fixed. Why keep getting it. Then they wouldn't let her take it out of there. Just like throwing money down the drain cause she keep getting it repaired and wasn't making any money off of it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: They were making her pay for the repair in Texas, is that what you are saying?

EMMA PALMER: Yes. She was having to pay for the repair of it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Kevin you want to drop in here?

KEVIN MONK: At this point I don't know what to say because if it cost over 5,000‑dollars obviously you can maintain it, obviously you can go buy another one to do it. Where we're running into problems if it doesn't cost 5,000‑dollars then in order to maintain it or replace it we are not going to be able do that outside of the six-month window for the new location.

CANDICE LINVILLE: But if it's not our equipment. It's not the states, not the managers, it's someone else’s. Can you just say, you know, I don't want to invest my money in it. I don't know when they bought it, how they took care of it, whatever. Go ahead and have a new piece of equipment put there.

KEVIN MONK: Talking about the difference between equipment and supplies. If you're talking about, for example, a sandwich table that was 15 years old and you said I don't want to spend my money. I don't want to repair that sandwich table. Of course, yes, you could purchase a new sandwich table.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Well, those are under 5,000‑dollars, but to have a double oven that steams and does everything but scratch your back, my guess is those are more than 5,000‑dollars.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yes. They are.

KEVIN MONK: If, for whatever reason, we replace that oven with a comparable unit then it's ours, it becomes our equipment.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I want to go back to the walk‑in cooler and refrigerator, freezer at Claiborne. First of all, you know it's over 5,000. Second of all, you can't replace it. And it doesn't belong to the agency. And when we first went into Claiborne the agency agreed to maintain the equipment. So what do you do in a case like that when it's over 5,000 and doesn't belong to our agency.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It was serviced already.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I know it's been serviced. It's just something I'm bringing up. Because what Candice is saying. It's not our equipment, it's OSB's equipment.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Talking about the supplies that OSB owns that doesn't cost 5,000‑dollars. If it's 5,000‑dollars we're covered. So we don't need to talk about anything that is 5,000 or over. That's even in the new rules the state will maintain it. But the stuff that doesn't cost 5,000‑dollars that's OSB that's where the problem will be.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: There's still a lot of equipment in that category.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We have to take this kind of as it comes. You can imagine everything breaking down at one time. But if these refrigerators are 22 years old and repaired twice. If we can replace the inventory, like I said in Don's case, upgrade Don's equipment, still functioning equipment. Go back into the warehouse. If it did get to the point your refrigerator goes out and we replace it with one we took from Chabert, yeah it might be 15 years old, but still operative. Kind of mix and match as we go along.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Basically we can't repair, but we can transfer.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Correct. We have a ton of those AP 4 wides in the warehouse we had refurbished, for example. In this day and age might not be a bad thing to put. I know people like the five wide. We have machines and we can deliver them out there to you. It is counter intuitive to rent a truck and pay George to go down there to deliver a machine that really all it needs is 5‑dollar repair work. I know money is hard to come by nowadays as well. We'll do everything we can. We can't repair, we replace it. If we can't replace it, we will have to figure it out from there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Another thing that's going to come up on this is, okay, if the managers has to call somebody for repair are we going to have to call the state's work person.

EARL HEBERT: That's true.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Or can we call our own people to make it cheaper.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Frank, I never thought about that. I don't know. I'm writing that down.

KEVIN MONK: Definitely a good question. I know some of our locations have criteria for people that they will allow in the building and not. Particularly federal locations. They will only let certain people in.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Claiborne is one of those buildings.

KEVIN MONK: A list of approved contractors, vendors, repair people they will let in. I'm sure at other locations have more flexibility such as the rest areas. I'm sure you would have a lot more flexibility. Certainly, a good question. One worth looking into.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Don Araby, district six any concerns? Why don't you let us know what's going on down there at Chabert.

DON ARABY: First of all, district six, nothing I know of here, Steve. And Chabert is still pretty much the same. Actually, this week I just come back from there today, left at midnight. It seemed like it was a little bit better today. Probably 100 dollars better today than it has been. The machines are still a little on the slow slide, but they are still saying that they are not letting that many people in. You have to wait outside still for your appointments and stuff, and they let you know. I spoke to a lady today and they said they didn't know when that was going to change.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Anything else to be looking at coming up? Have you talked to Craig about Central, is that working out for him?

DON ARABY: I haven't talked to him, Steve.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I know he left us inventory. We appreciate that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That right there is another thing talking about inventory. Don's inventory was no good and he had to buy more inventory and it went bad. And had to buy more inventory so he could leave for Craig.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: A topic for our meeting Thursday. Trying to decide what the rules are going to be. Who knows.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's what I've gotten out of some discussions I've had. It's going to be, basically my understanding is, that it's going to be up to the state on almost everything. The state and the committee.

DON ARABY: I just wanted to make one point. I don't know if I was one of the unfortunate ones. But with the unemployment benefits when I was receiving them when we were closed and stuff and then at a really bad time I got a letter stating I owed 16,000‑dollars back that I shouldn't have been getting it. And they told me to appeal it. I did. They said I would hear something between 45 and 60 days. Thank God I haven't heard anything yet. So I don't know if that's good or bad.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: When you do hear something please let us know about that.

DON ARABY: Okay.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Has anybody else gotten a letter like that?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I don't think so.

DON ARABY: The fortunate one.

SANDRA JONES: I have also and I'm still waiting as of and that's been since February the 19th.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Who's talking? Is that you Sandra?

SANDRA JONES: Yes. Sandra Jones.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Start over again. What kind of letter did you get?

SANDRA JONES: I received the same letter saying I owe unemployment. And I did put in my appeal also. And I'm still waiting since February the 19th with the date that I turned everything in and I'm still waiting to hear from them, and I hadn't heard anything yet.

DON ARABY: I received mine on January the 8th and I have not received anything yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Any of y'all still receive unemployment benefits or not?

DON ARABY: I'm not. When I got that, I quit. Which I had just before that, because I was figuring after the first of the year I would start seeing a little money from Chaberts. I wasn't at first because the back and forth and paying the helper because I had the eye surgery that I couldn't lift anything, so I wasn't making anything. When I got this letter, I shut it down quick.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sandra you the same way? Are you receiving benefits now or you stopped when you got that letter? Probably stopped you, Sandra?

SANDRA JONES: I'm sorry. I had muted myself back. When I received the letter they did mention when I put in the appeal to still put in my claims. If the situation is still the same. So the situation is still the same so I'm still just waiting to hear from them, and I hadn't heard anything yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'm asking are you still receiving an unemployment check each week or unemployment money?

SANDRA JONES: No. They stopped it. Oh, yeah. They stopped it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: They didn't give you an opportunity.

SANDRA JONES: No.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think Alex George may have actually got one recently as well. I think what that is I think your number did come up. Battling fraud and abuse in the program. There's like 30,000 accounts they flagged. So I don't know if there's any way you can expedite the hearing or anything else. You three got selected or everyone else is going to have to pay it back at the same time. It was set up for sole proprietors. So I think when you get the administrative hearing, I think we're going to be okay.

DON ARABY: I'm kind of thinking so too. Just a bad deal to get.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sure. I got a copy of it. I know how bad it is. I read it. Just keep us posted when you do hear anything.

DON ARABY: I will.

EMMA PALMER: Wasn't it through RSVA saying it was okay for Randolph Sheppard to apply for unemployment.

EARL HEBERT: Yeah. Y'all did some applications.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: RSVA?

EARL HEBERT: Michelle filled out a couple applications for people.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sorry. I misunderstood what you were asking.

EMMA PALMER: That's what I'm saying. It was legal to do it, but is it any kind of way, any documentation.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Don whenever you get your case you can say Steve DeBruhl made me do it and I will come over there and talk. I don't know that we can do any good. We did encourage you to apply for it. There's no doubt about that.

DON ARABY: Now it's been over 60 days, so I don't know.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Emma there's nothing for him to submit yet until they call him on the appeal.

EMMA PALMER: Okay. Well, I was just saying maybe he could have it when they did call, he would already have that to present to them. But okay.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You can certainly throw me under the bus because we did tell you to do it. I wouldn't have told you something if I thought it was wrong. Got a lot of people do it and haven't had this problem till Don started rocking the boat.

KEVIN MONK: We've also suggested people apply for the paycheck protection program as well. There are other alternatives out there. We're just passing along the information. We can't tell you you are going to qualify or not going to qualify. Whenever we hear things you may qualify for, you know, that may be helpful to you we are passing it along. Hey, fill out the application.

DON ARABY: And then you see actually the profit and loss statement is going to make, that's the one thing I'm going to bring when I go. This is what I made, nothing. We lost. I did my income tax, we lost money. I think with the profit and loss statements and the income tax returns it's going to show that. It was really, really bad timing for one thing. Kind of scary at the beginning. But I really think it's going to work out. I do.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good. I hope it does. So Emma while you are on the phone, do you have any other issues up there in Shreveport? She might have dropped out again.

EMMA PALMER: What did you say Steve?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I said do you have any other district concerns while you're talking about Shreveport.

EMMA PALMER: I was trying to call and tell them I wanted to Kevin to say what he was saying again about the school Hadley if you signed up with LRS to open your case back.

KEVIN MONK: The Hadley school for the blind has several modules or several training opportunities pertaining to Randolph Sheppard that could be considered upward mobility. There is a fee associated with the courses. I don't remember what the fee was. Anybody that's interested you can certainly go to hadley.EDU and there is some information there on the Randolph Sheppard courses. About a dozen or so of them, I think. And that could be something possibly if you have a VR case that the VR could possibly assist with.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Listed under BEP, not under Randolph Sheppard.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What is listed?

FRANK GAFFNEY: The classes.

EMMA PALMER: On that other thing at the post office, I still not doing the snack shop because they haven't did anything with the plumbing.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So snack shop is closed.

EMMA PALMER: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. Are they giving you any kind of pressure to open up or anything.

EMMA PALMER: Just a few of them. Not the big wheels. Not the main people because they know they not going to fix that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Exactly.

EMMA PALMER: They not saying nothing. I was talking to a lady, actually Monday, she didn't say anything about that cause they know they not going to do it. The pipe is busted underground.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We also have two locations out here right now on interim managers. The Vinton courthouse and the Shreveport state building.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Part of the challenge in that neck of the woods is not a lot of managers. Not like a high-volume location.

EMMA PALMER: No. Not at all.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: We should consider merging those locations?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I don't think we're going to get anybody to take them. Well, maybe the state building. But the Vinton Courthouse we got interim manager, I call it that, but all he's doing is filling up the machines. I know he's not going to take it when he has to open the cafeteria. I'm in the snack shop. It's a beautiful snack shop. But nobody wants to drive that far.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Equipment and supplies.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah. Beautiful equipment and supplies.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: All right. I think you mentioned the bus station, so I was going to give an update on that. The update is there's really no update. I sent an email to Vanessa who is our contact up there. But Michelle had spoken to her last week and they really haven't progressed any further than before. Still waiting to replace the windows. But they don't seem to be moving very fast over there. I sent her an email. I haven't heard back from her today.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: I had emailed her on Wednesday. Her response to me was I emailed her back in November and so she told me she was going to do all this work. What she replied to me on Wednesday was after my last email my family and I came down with covid 19 so she's playing catch up. With that being said, a vendor is coming out on Friday to get her another estimate on rebuilding the shelf for the serving glass. And then she asked if also the service vendor is asking if we want to use both sides like we did before or just one. I did advise her I still want to continue to use both sides, so we don't have a long line of people trying to check out and wait for food all in the same line. Because what Ricky used to do is check people out at one line and send them over and get the food at another window. As of Wednesday I haven't heard anything back from her yet.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. That's good she responded to your email.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yes.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I will keep you guys posted on that whenever that comes up. Went out to bid last time nobody bid on it. We will put it out to bid when it's ready to go again.

CANDICE LINVILLE: About locations, you had sent me an email probably a year and half ago about a GSA location on highway 434 in Lacombe. Whatever.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I think that was three locations. I think what that was when Nesa had that tornado they were looking to relocate some of those people. And that was a site, a possible selection site they told me.

CANDICE LINVILLE: What you're talking about there was Slidell. This was something totally different. You said it was going to be like 40 to 60 employees. It was going to be a GSA location on highway 434 in Lacombe. Actually kind of right around where the heart hospital used to be.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Right. They usually send those things out sometimes two or three years in advance.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Supposed to open

STEVEN DEBRUHL: If you're interested let me know when it gets closer.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right. Past that time. It was supposed to be not this past fall, but the fall before. I think 2020.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I'll check on that. I haven't hurt from GSA about that location. When they sent it to me originally, I told them yeah, let me hear about it. Usually what happens they decide if they want to do it or not. Sometimes they send out a notice saying they've had a request for property in that location and they don't end up moving there. I got one yesterday for like 12 people at the airport. Eric drove by there. Sometimes they're adding onto an existing location, which makes sense. I don't know for a fact. If they are there, we can get the vending machines.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I think wildlife and fisheries is over there. Social security is over there. Obviously, a federal location.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Did we ever get anything back from Jessie about Barksdale.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: No. I haven't. He was supposed to get back to me on that as well as Belle Chase. I talked to the general from Belle Chase, not the general from Belle Chase, but the guy in the navy in DC. He was supposed to check on it and get back to me. I'll follow back up on that one as well. Cause he was very pro Randolph Sheppard, but he was very anti third party. Want to get a manager. He said also different little, some machines belong to the club, some belong, they have a fund for family and friends. He thought he could find vending machines. But that was towards the end of the year. I will follow up with him. He might have got the covid too. Cause he was a nice guy. He said I will get back with you, but I haven't heard back from him. That brings us to any other comments. Open discussion.

MIKE DAUZAT: I heard Frank say something about Marksville. Is there a place y'all looking into in Marksville?

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I heard it's nice this time of year over there. Do you know anything in Marksville that might be a good opportunity for us?

MIKE DAUZAT: I know they were talking about adding a courthouse and it's actually some kind of justice center that's going to house like probation officers, judges and stuff. Supposed to employ over 100 people in there. I talked to one of the guys on the building committee and he was supposed to get back to me. I even spoke to Kevin Monk about it when I first started talking to him. I haven't heard anything else.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Is that a parish?

MIKE DAUZAT: Yeah. I think it's going be parish.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What parish is that?

MIKE DAUZAT: Avoyelles. I think the guy I talked to his name was Mike Kelly. He on the building committee or something like that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Okay. If it's state court it will be state property. Parish and state property probably in the same location.

MIKE DAUZAT: If you need, I can try and find Mike Kelly's phone number and text it to you.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That would be great.

MIKE DAUZAT: I can do that. Thank you.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Thank you.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Mike, don't think you're going to be going anywhere.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Steve, I have a question. Are they ever going to let Bobby Powel reenter in his location? Also Buck Kimble is the same way too. He can only go to two machines.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Michelle, you have an update?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Well, I did speak with Gus and Gus said that he does not have‑‑

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Back up. Who is Gus?

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Gus is LA War Vets for Bobby Powel. And he says as of right now he can't give us any kind of date. Buck Kimble, they were trying to allow him to start getting into some other vending locations. And I'm not quite sure why they don't go into those.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I hope he still has his money in those machines. He hasn't been able to touch them.

KEVIN MONK: I was reading the news at lunch time and I saw where the state prisons are going to start allowing visitors. And I was wondering what impact that would have on Buck. I know he is not under necessarily Department of Corrections. But you would think they would follow the prisons at least not too far.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Yeah. We did hear that, and I don't know because they are the Department of Health. And LA War Vets is the VA. There is a guy that speaks out there at his locations. I don't really have, get in contact with him. But he doesn't make the calls either. He gets handed down the calls.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I would think at this point in time most of these guys have been vaccinated. They may free it up a little bit. Let's follow back up with Buck, Michelle, and see what's going on.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: Okay. I will. And I will check back with Gus again. That was last week I had checked with him. Like you said, been some new coming through so I will check with him again.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sounds good. All right, anything else guys you want to talk about? We need to pick a day for the next meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Looks like the 4th, 11th, 18th and 26th.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: June.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Today is the 12th. You want to do the 11th or the 18th?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Anything is good with me.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Those are all Fridays.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Say Friday June 18th. Lynsey put that down, so we don't forget.

MICHELLE DUNCAN: And then we got one coming this Thursday at two you said, right.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: June 18th, the 1:30 again?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Fine.

EARL HEBERT: Sounds good.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Put that on the agenda for that date. I will send out an invitation for that Thursday meeting.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And also don't forget to send out the ones for Robert's Rules. I checked my email, and I didn't get an email. I know you were on the call, but I saw you fiddling with something.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I'll send it to you Candice.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Thank you.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I thought I did. I must have slipped up.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Oh, my goodness. That's it. Fifty lashes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I had to send it to Frank again. He keeps losing it.

CANDICE LINVILLE: We're all losing it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: When I forward an email somehow or another it gets sent to the trash.

CANDICE LINVILLE: It's in the cloud.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: So this might be a good time to adjourn the EC meeting and kick into the trust fund meeting. Does anybody need to take a break or roll with this?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I'm ready to get it over with.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Need to make a motion to adjourn.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I make a motion we adjourn the meeting.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I second that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor? {collective aye} Motion carries.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That concludes executive committee of blind vendors meeting.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order of the trust fund.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: This would be the blind vendors' trust fund meeting March 12th, 2021. And Frank call will do the call to order.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Call to order trust fund.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Candice Linville.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Shelly LeJeune, Baton Rouge.

EARL HEBERT: Earl Hebert, Lafayette.

EMMA PALMER: Emma Palmer, Shreveport.

HERBERT READO: Herbert Reado, Baton Rouge.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Pinky, you still there? We have a quorum.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Review the agenda. We just did that. The approval of the minutes from December 11th, 2020. Did you get a chance to look at it?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's what I couldn't get.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: The minutes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Oh, the minutes yeah. I read those. Again, I get those within a day or two. Word for word.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You think we should approve those minutes?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I make a motion the treasurer report be accepted.

FRANK GAFFNEY: The minutes of the meeting.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Yeah. Trust fund minutes. How about that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor? {collective aye} Motion carries.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: New business. We have trust fund monthly income disbursements. Frank is having a hard time reading it. I can print these out and scan them to you guys. Right now showing a balance of 820,427.13. The last couple of months as far as collections goes off to a good start in January. We have 34,000 commissions in and 8500 in February. The expenditures with the new calculations he hasn't posted those to the trust fund yet. So Kevin and I are estimating the balance is actually closer to 800,000‑dollars. Don't have an exact total. Apologize for not having that. He's double checking his numbers based on the RSA guidance we've gotten recently. We got 800,000 bucks in the bank, basically, right now. That's the trust fund. That doesn't count the 571,000 for the compensation reimbursement. Any questions on that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: I forgot to bring it up. So many discussions, but we need a plan from the state on what we need to do to set up vacation pay and sick pay. What we need to do to start the process. I know it's a statewide deal whether the RSMAs will take the thing to each person and get them to vote and initial it.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: What are your ideas on vacation pay, for example.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, once we get the plans, we'll do more discussion and have another meeting and discuss what we're talking about. Really find out more about that 20,000,000 1st before we get to that. Yeah, haven't come up with a figure, but we will work out a figure for vacation pay and sick pay deal, both. For every year depending on availability of funds.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Would that be sick pay or just we use the sick pay more or less as the insurance stipend? Not the same thing?

FRANK GAFFNEY: That's another thing that is legal under the federal is the pay, the medical. The sick pay is different.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Didn't we say something about retirement or not?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. But we have to get more information on that. We can add that to it. I don't know what all that involves.

KEVIN MONK: We definitely have to get a vote from the managers to be able to do that. And that's certainly one possible answer to being able to help you guys with some of the recent changes that have come down to try to get more money to you to help cover some of the things that are out there.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I wasn't going to say that, but I'll let you. We have been discussing.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: That would be 100 percent trust fund money, right?

KEVIN MONK: Yeah. That's one of the uses for set aside. Yes, it would be 100 percent set aside funds in the trust fund.

FRANK GAFFNEY: In case somebody didn't know now all our money is set aside.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Since when?

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Since about two years ago.

SPEAKER: Since the Rehabilitation Services Administration told us it was.

KEVIN MONK: That has a lot of implications there and a lot of things that we used to do as a state program we may not be able to do anymore. I'm thinking in particular, and I'm just thinking out loud here, I don't know, like payment of the medical insurance for retirees. I don't know if we are going to be able to continue to do that. Cause we used to do that out of the state money. And you know it says that it has to be for‑‑

FRANK GAFFNEY: Licensed managers.

KEVIN MONK: That may be one of the things that comes out of this, among others.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Also like location closer assistance. That might be an issue we may or may not be able to offer that anymore either based on RSA's binding.

KEVIN MONK: That was purely a state program.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Forgive me, what is location closure assistance?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Temporary closure assistance.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Okay. Temporary. Got you.

HERBERT READO: Hey Frank, what would be the committee position if we wanted to challenge whether or not that's a trust fund or not. As the committee we've been using that trust fund for a while. And to say we thought it was a set aside fund. Say it's a set aside fund kind of a little bit different.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I believe I asked for the information on that because I brought up the fact in 16 in our court case for Fort Polk the arbitration ruled we were not set aside. But Kevin says that rule has been changed so we just need to get something that we can see.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Do we have that in writing?

KEVIN MONK: RSA did change that when they came down and their auditors said not trust fund, set aside. Sorry it's late on a Friday afternoon. Got my words twisted.

HERBERT READO: We probably need a legal from the committee point of view.

EMMA PALMER: What about the liability insurance we pay now does that set aside is the state still not able to pay that.

KEVIN MONK: No. We wouldn't be able to pay the liability insurance.

FRANK GAFFNEY: One of the things on the list the set aside. That vacation pay and sick pay we can do with set aside money.

KEVIN MONK: Health insurance, retirement, pension, you know like that kind of thing, we can do.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: And initial inventory.

HERBERT READO: But wasn't all that under the trust fund when we were doing the trust fund?

CANDICE LINVILLE: Right.

HERBERT READO: All that was really part of the trust fund. Now you change to the set aside.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Still got a trust fund, but now it's considered set aside.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Herb, let me say this. The rationale RSA gave to Melissa and Kevin is that part of our payments comes from federal dollars. So anything we do to get a location, to work on any kind of location the fact that we get compensated from the federal government makes everything we touch subject to set aside rule. Now you're right, we haven't interrupted it that way for 20 years.

HERBERT READO: But if it's a set aside then the manager should be receiving benefits from the set aside?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Well, that's what we're going to be working on. From now on, whether you know it or not Herbert, your location is a federal location.

HERBERT READO: Pass that by me again.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Your location is now a federal location.

HERBERT READO: How is that?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Because the RSMAs and that go to it and are involved in it and get paid by federal money so it's a federal location.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Still a state location, but the federal rules on set asides apply. Because like Kevin said, the only way to get around that if we set up an entirely different state agency. Kevin, explain.

KEVIN MONK: What you would have to do, and this is very, very basic understanding, I don't have all the in‑depth details. You essentially have to go in and set up a state program. If I, or Steve, or RSMAs, or anybody worked or went out to a state location and worked on a state unassigned vending location you have to charge that fund, you couldn't charge your salary. You would have to track your time separately. Everything would have to be done totally separately. But the problem is all of the locations that are there now that are contributing to the trust fund that are state locations obviously, we didn't know about this. This is brand new. And so it's in the set aside fund now. And you can't ever get it out.

CANDICE LINVILLE: No way to contest it?

KEVIN MONK: What they told Steven. I don't know. I don't know of a way to contest it.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Is there any other state where this happened where they just went in and said hey.

KEVIN MONK: I heard last week of a state where they went in, the state was receiving a settlement from a state location. So wasn't a federal location, from a state location. And RSA told them that was set aside as well.

HERBERT READO: The RSA has not done what they did to Louisiana yet to any other states.

KEVIN MONK: I can't say that for sure. I've heard of two other incidences that sound maybe not identical, but pretty dog on close.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Sounds like Texas may have been doing that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Texas was totally different all along.

HERBERT READO: They were set aside already.

EMMA PALMER: Texas was already a set aside state.

FRANK GAFFNEY: They get money other ways that covers that. I think.

HERBERT READO: So when we was doing the trust fund, so we was paying some of the RSMAs out of the trust fund?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Always.

KEVIN MONK: It was matching funds for federal dollars. A portion of the money comes out of the trust fund and a portion of it was federal.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: A big portion of it.

KEVIN MONK: It's 20 percent from the trust fund, 80 percent from federal, basically.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And it's going to stay that way?

KEVIN MONK: Yes.

FRANK GAFFNEY: So more or less 100,000‑dollars a year comes out of the trust fund for payroll. Cause the payroll runs about 550,000 or something like that every year.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: My salary, RSMA salary. And Kevin, Chaunte and Melissa a portion of their salary comes out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: That was a question I was going to ask. Under staff it said eight people. And I couldn't figure out who eight people were.

KEVIN MONK: For Melissa, Chaunte and I whatever time we spend on Randolph Sheppard we have to allocate our time. So we have to track that. So like from 1:30 this afternoon until whatever time we get off the meeting I'm Randolph Sheppard. When I pay older blind bills, when I work for them, I'm older blind.

EARL HEBERT: How much comes out the trust fund a year for eight people?

FRANK GAFFNEY: Between 5 and 600,000.

EARL HEBERT: For eight people?

FRANK GAFFNEY: This is what it includes. The payroll, social security, the sick pay, insurance, travel, everything. It's all broke down in that budget if anybody wants to look besides me.

CANDICE LINVILLE: The budget you couldn't read.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yeah.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I will send it to everybody.

CANDICE LINVILLE: You said George comes out.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: George is an employee.

CANDICE LINVILLE: A hundred percent or 80/20 too?

FRANK GAFFNEY: He's 100.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: No. Get federal money for him, right Kevin?

KEVIN MONK: All of the RSMAs, Steve and George they spend 100 percent of their time on Randolph Sheppard. Of that 100 percent of their time 20 percent comes out of the trust fund, 80 percent is federal.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Everything in the budget is matching federal dollars.

KEVIN MONK: Except the retirement, all that, we can't match. Not retirement, the health insurance. Sorry. Again, it's late. The health insurance premiums, if we do vacation pay, we can't match that.

FRANK GAFFNEY: We pay vacation pay and health pay straight from the trust fund.

KEVIN MONK: Yes. We would have to pay that straight from the trust fund is my understanding.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: If everybody got a thousand bucks that would be 49,000‑dollars comes straight out of the trust fund.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Should we be able to approve y'all vacation.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Kevin's already approved mine. Maybe next year.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And their sick time. Go ahead and mute him like he muted us.

FRANK GAFFNEY: I do keep an eye on that budget. If I have a question I ask.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: And don't worry, Frank is not embarrassed to ask any questions of anything.

CANDICE LINVILLE: 100 percent transparency.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I show you mine, you show me yours. We talk about this.

FRANK GAFFNEY: If I ask a question about it, I get an answer. I never have a problem. They don't know, they will find out for me.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You may not like the answer, but you will get an answer.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Right.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I have a question. Do we make a motion for the SLA to start getting information about the sick leave and all that stuff?

FRANK GAFFNEY: We can do that here in trust fund I believe.

KEVIN MONK: There was actually one in the previous meeting and that's one of the items we have for the attorneys when they get done with all this other.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Vacation pay, that's when that came up.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I remember. I just wanted to make sure it was covered since we're all there.

KEVIN MONK: You guys have already asked the question, we have already submitted it.

FRANK GAFFNEY: My suggestion on the vote is we give the RSMAs, and they physically go to every location.

CANDICE LINVILLE: And actively looking for new ones.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Yes. Told me they would be doing that.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: It's also a goal pandemic. I don't really feel like cold‑calling a bunch of people. But now it's winding down, hopefully winding down, we will try to get new locations. But everybody's in the same boat we are just about. For instance, the commission with coke at the lady’s prison was like 58‑dollars. It was terrible. Don't have anybody going visit them.

FRANK GAFFNEY: And even on federal prisons. I know from the chatlines, they open it up for visitation and everybody was tickled to death. But then they told them they had to remove machines or turn them around cause they won't let them use the vending machines.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: I do think brighter days are ahead. Hopefully, summertime things will get back to normal. Do have a couple RSMAs that have had covid. A few of them vaccinated. It is a more liberating when you get the vaccine you feel safe to go out.

FRANK GAFFNEY: Even with the vaccine, I just had to have a procedure at the VA, and even though I had both shots and it's been about three weeks since I had the second one, they still did the test because they say you have to do the test because you might not get it, but you can be a carrier.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: You can get it and it won't infect you. But they don't know, only time will tell as people get vaccinated. Pfizer is showing more and more it's preventing people from spreading it as is Johnson and Johnson.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I had my first shot so I'm waiting to get called into the second.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Good for you Shelly. Felt pretty good when you got that shot.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I got moved in and out so fast I thought I was a cow or something. Like cattle. I was at Baton Rouge Clinic. The O'Ryans next to the clinic, I went in one way, out the other. That was quick.

EARL HEBERT: I didn't have my sleeve rolled up and I was already done.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Lifesaving shot so I'm glad you guys got it. Don't you feel more comfortable being in the courthouse, Earl, that you got the shot.

EARL HEBERT: Yeah. I receive my second one Wednesday. Hardly nobody to talk to unless I go find them.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: But you don't feel like you have to hide behind the toaster.

EARL HEBERT: Yeah. You right.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Any other issues? Unfinished business?

FRANK GAFFNEY: To be continued on Thursday.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: Exactly. There will be issues then.

STEVEN DEBRUHL: Do you want to make a motion to adjourn.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: I make a motion the meeting be adjourned.

CANDICE LINVILLE: I second.

FRANK GAFFNEY: All in favor. {collective aye} Motion carries.

SHELLY LEJEUNE: All right, guys. See you later.

CANDICE LINVILLE: Have a great weekend.