

LOUISIANA SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION FOR REMOTE SELLERS

Minutes of February 13, 2020 Meeting

- I. **Call to Order/Roll Call** - The meeting of the Louisiana Sales and Use Tax Commission for Remote Sellers was called to order at 11:06 AM by Acting-Chairman Allen. A quorum was established with seven of the eight members in attendance. Members present were:
 1. Darlene Allen (LDR)
 2. Kimberly Robinson (LDR)
 3. Vanessa LaFleur (LDR)
 4. Kelli Jumper (LDR)
 5. Kressynda Krennerich (ULSTB)
 6. Jeffery LaGrange (ULSTB)
 7. Amanda Granier (ULSTB)

- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2020 and January 30, 2020**
 - A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting of January 9, 2020 by Ms. LaFleur and seconded by Ms. Jumper. The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.
 - A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from the special meeting of January 30, 2020 by Mr. Krennerich and seconded by Mr. LaGrange. The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

- III. **Update on Direct Marketer Registrations by LDR**
 - As of the date of the meeting, there are 2,132 active direct marketer registrations approved to file as direct marketers. Registrations are continuing to increase.

- IV. **Action Items:**
 - A. **Election of Commission Chairman**
 - A motion was made by Ms. Granier and seconded by Mr. LaGrange to appoint Ms. Kressy Krennerich Chairman of the Remote Sellers Commission for the remainder of this term for the local members. With no public comment or opposition from members, Ms. Krennerich was unanimously appointed as Chairman.

 - B. **Sample Portal Demonstration by AvenuInsights and Analytics**
 - George Harris with AvenuInsights (Avenu) gave a brief overview of the system's design and its basic functions of applying and filing a return. The

system will be a similar look and feel of Sales Tax Online system already in place and being used by taxpayers.

- Andre Burvant of Jones Walker, LLP asked what information will be required in the import file. Mr. Harris answered that the domicile code, the line and amount will be needed.
- Ms. Granier asked if a taxpayer will be required to have an account number to be able to file a return. Mr. Harris answered, yes.
- Ms. Babin asked about an application that may be pending and the review of the application. Mr. Harris answered that it will be reviewed and if approved the taxpayer will be sent an account number.

C. Discuss Rollout of Collection Agreements

- A version of the collection agreements were provided to members at an earlier meeting. The agreement will be between the Commission and state and local collectors to provide for the collection of sales tax as the statute provides. A motion was made by Ms. Allen to enter into the agreement with local collectors and was seconded by Ms. LaFleur. With no further discussion, public comment or opposition from members, the agreements will be sent to the local collectors for execution.

D. Identify Staff Needs and Acquisition Plan

- The Commission is currently working on staffing needs and is hoping to have staff in place in early May to help with the testing and rollout of the new software. The positions will be Civil Service positions and will initially be unclassified in nature, and may later be considered for classified positions. A special meeting will be called for next Thursday, February 20, 2020, to discuss the posting of the positions.

E. Discuss Transition Letter

- Letters will be sent to taxpayers and direct marketers who currently qualify as remote sellers. Letters will also be sent to collectors. Letters will initially be informative in nature and then will be instructional. Direct marketers who currently qualify will begin with current information and will then need verify the information for their profiles. They will be given new account numbers and instructions to register and file with the Commission going forward. Ms. Granier asked if taxpayer practitioners and representatives will also receive this information via letter. Mr. Morris answered yes; the Department began collecting information on practitioners on the Direct Marketer Return as of October 2019. The practitioners will also receive a letter with the registration information.
- Mr. Burvant asked about the currently approved direct marketers being reviewed again or just converted to the new system. Ms. Krennerich answered that those accounts have all been vetted by LDR and when they verify their information it will be indirectly vetted again. Mr. Burvant also asked about those who are under the thresholds and whether they will still be able to file and will the flat rate still be in place. Mr. Morris answered that those under

the both thresholds will still be able to file using the Direct Marketer Return at the 8.45 percent.

- Rick Mekdessie asked how remote sellers will know the correct tax rate and will it be included on the Commission website. George Harris answered that that feature is not currently in the system, but can be added. The Uniform Local Sales Tax Board is in the process of developing a look-up tool as well. Ms. Robinson asked if there is a look-up tool by address that Avenu offers. Mr. Harris answered, yes, it's available through Sales Tax Explorer which is a paid subscription that will provide the domicile code and tax rate by address. A link can be placed on the website. It is an annual subscription and it is based on the number of lookups.

V. Other Business

- Luke Morris announced that the last quarter of 2019 distributions will be going out via email in the next week. The distribution will not include the 1% fee. It will still be based on the four percent collected based on the usual population.

VI. Public Comment

- There was no further public comment.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:52 AM.