

# LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON CIVIC EDUCATION

**Address:**

Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**Telephone:** (225) 342-6090

**Committee Staff**

Tammy Crain-Waldrop  
Legislative Researcher

Lily Dugas  
Secretary



## Louisiana Commission on Civic Education

### APPROVED MINUTES

November 18, 2022

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education was held on Friday, November 18, 2022 in the John Hainkel Room at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The chairman, Judge C. Wendell Manning, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

#### II. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll and the following was noted:

##### MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge C. Wendell Manning, Chairman  
Senator Beth Mizell  
Dr. Belinda Davis  
Peggy Cotogno  
Nancy Toorean  
Representative Barry Ivey  
Barry Erwin  
Sean Dimond  
Judge Jason Dagate  
Judd Jeasonne  
Polly Johnson  
Caylee Deshotel  
Michael Ince  
Kristian Betty  
Cory Stewart  
Claire Stevenson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Fredell Butler  
McHugh David  
Representative Barbara Freiberg  
Terry Landry  
Shelbie Newman  
Lauren Russell Ladner  
Joel Watson, Jr.  
Claston Bernard

STAFF PRESENT

Tammy Crain-Waldrop, Legislative Researcher  
Lily Dugas, Secretary

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Manning introduced Mary Landrieu in the audience and recognized Candace Shields and Tammy Crain-Waldrop for their work on the commission. he further asked every member of the commission to introduce themselves and reviewed the responsibilities of the commission.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Senator Mizell made a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2022. There being no objection, the minutes were approved.

**V. APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr. Davis made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Annual Report. There being no objection, the Annual Report was approved.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice

Madeleine Landrieu, Dean of Loyola university College of Law, presented a presentation on the Nancy M. Marsiglia Institute of Justice, which is a partnership between United Way of Southeast Louisiana and the Loyola College of Law to help spread knowledge about the constitution. She explained the origins of the institute.

Mike Marsiglia, the son of Nancy Marsiglia, explained the origins and success of the institute.

Madeleine Landrieu further explained what the institute does, its values, its partnership with United Way, and plans for the future. She also presented various statements from people who have benefitted from the institute.

Senator Mizell and Madeleine Landrieu discussed the importance of the work of the institute reaching rural communities.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Hon. Madeleine M. Landrieu, Dean, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law  
Mike Marsiglia, University of New Orleans College of Law

B. Pilot Test of Educational Materials for the "Ken Burns in the Classroom" Program

Nancy Toorean, Education Director of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), shared with the commission various educational resources available online through LPB, including various educational videos.

Senator Mizell asked about availability of these resources. Nancy Toorean said they were available to anyone in Louisiana.

Dr. Davis thanked public broadcasting for their work.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Nancy Toorean, Education Director, Louisiana Public Broadcasting

C. Safe Schools Louisiana Anonymous Reporting App

Darlene Cusanza, with Crimestoppers, presented to the committee the Safe Schools Louisiana Anonymous Reporting App. She explained what the app does and showed real examples of tips reported by students. She showed data on what types of tips are received and which schools use the app. She further explained how the app is used and the laid out the process from student tip to resolution.

Michael Comeaux, with the Louisiana Department of Education, expressed the departments support for the app.

Senator Mizell and Darlene Cusanza discussed why certain schools systems may opt out of using the app. They further discussed what happens when a student reports a tip.

Dr. Davis expressed her appreciation for the effectiveness of the app.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Michael Comeaux, Louisiana Department of Education  
Darlene Cusanza, President and CEO, Crimestoppers of Greater New Orleans

**VII. UPDATES**

A. Legislative Youth Advisory Council

Megan Bella explained what the Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) does.

Calvin Alexander, a student with LYAC, explained what he has done with LYAC over the past year in the Criminal Justice Committee, the Mental Health Committee, and the Education Committee.

Faith Courville, a student with LYAC, explained what she has done in the past year in the Environmental Committee and on her work with a youth survey developed by LYAC.

Isabella Lancaster, a student with LYAC, explained what she has done in the past year with LYAC.

Judge Dagate thanked the students for their commitment to addressing issues.

Senator Mizell thanked the students for showing up and stressed the importance of young people expressing their opinions.

Chairman Dagate thanked the students for their presentations.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Megan Bella, LYAC  
Calvin Alexander, LYAC  
Faith Courville, LYAC  
Isabella Lancaster, LYAC

B. Constitution Day 2022 Presentations

Peggy Cotogno explained how judges and lawyers visited schools during Constitution Day to present to students in classrooms. She further explained how the Judges in the Classroom and Students in the Courtroom program has grown.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Peggy Cotogno, LA Center for Law and Civic Education

C. 2022 Justice Kimball Summer Institute for Teacher Training

Peggy Cotogno explained how the Justice Kimball Summer Institute for Teacher Training provides free professional development to teachers. She further explained future training opportunities that the institute will provide for teachers.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Peggy Cotogno, LA Center for Law and Civic Education

D. Civic Education Events Calendar and Submission Review

Peggy Cotogno explained the Civic Education Events Calendar and provided a form for anyone who wants to add to the calendar. She showed the commission the online calendar.

Judge Manning thanked Peggy Cotogno for maintaining the calendar.

WITNESS CARDS - INFORMATION ONLY

Peggy Cotogno, LA Center for Law and Civic Education

**VIII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

Lily Dugas introduced herself as the new secretary for the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

Judge Manning thanked everyone for coming and said that any suggestions for future agenda items from the members are welcome.

Caylee Deshotel said that the Girls State program is in the process of looking for guest speakers for the program.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Mizell made a motion to adjourn. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Page 6  
Louisiana Commission on Civic Education  
May 20, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

---

Judge C. Wendell Manning  
Chairman

---

Approval Date