Old State Capitol Governing Board meeting

June 28

Louisiana Secretary of State’s Office

8585 Archives Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Members present: Nancy Broadhurst, Florent Hardy, Liz Harris, Frank Ranzburg, Sue Turner

Secretary of State Tom Schedler, OSC Director Suzette Crocker and Mary Durusau, Museum Division

Meeting was called to order by Mary Durusau.

The meeting lacked a quorum so no action was taken.

Secretary Schedler said the museum system budget was $1.9 million at the beginning of the legislative session and ended at nearly $3 million. This amount is less than last year’s operating budget of approximately $3.4 million, and further cuts may be made if projected revenues are not realized.

Schedler said that over the last 18 months, two museums have been handed over to local control: the Garyville Timber Mill Museum and the Chennault Military and Aviation Museum. The secretary said he is still in discussions with the mayor of Abbeville about the Military Hall of Fame, and the mayor of Ruston about the Military Museum. The Cotton Museum in Lake Providence is essentially self-funded because of an ad valorem tax passed to support this facility.

Schedler also told board members that they might hear discussions about consolidating the museums under the secretary of state and the lieutenant governor’s office. He said that he is interested in doing what is in the best interest of the museums and the state. The only museum Schedler said he would not be willing to see moved is the Old State Capitol, which ties to the mission of the Secretary of State.

There was a general discussion about the “Spirits of Louisiana” fundraiser on Oct. 27 at the Old State Capitol.