

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING
Board Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting held a called board meeting on March 15, 2023, pursuant to a meeting notice published on the Alabama Secretary of State's web site and the ABCR web site on February 7, 2023. The meeting was held at the Administrative Office of Courts in Montgomery.

The meeting was called to order at 1:56 pm by Board chair Parian Tidwell, with the following Board members in attendance: Parian Tidwell, Claude Hundley, Mary King, Dylan Marsh, and Margaret Turner. Board members Jennifer Egbe and Alan Peacock were absent. Ms. Tidwell noted the presence of a quorum. Also present were Mark Wilkerson, Board counsel, of the law firm of Wilkerson & Bryan, and Victor Biebighauser, ABCR executive director. There were three members of the public in attendance as observers.

Mr. Rich Hobson, administrative director of courts, joined the meeting briefly, welcomed the Board to the AOC, and made a few remarks about current issues and challenges for the court system and the licensed reporter community.

Ms. Tidwell brought up the draft minutes of the August 10, 2022, meeting for the Board's consideration. On motion made by Ms. Turner and seconded by Judge Hundley, the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Ms. Tidwell referred the Board to the agenda item for election of officers. On motion made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. King and unanimously adopted, Judge Hundley was selected temporary chair. The chair declared all offices vacant and determined that the offices for election were as follows: chair; vice chair; and secretary. Ms. King nominated Parian Tidwell for chair. There being no further nominations for chair, the nomination closed on Ms. Tidwell. A voice vote was taken, and Ms. Tidwell was elected chair. Ms. Tidwell nominated Margaret Turner for vice chair. There being no further nominations for vice chair, the nomination closed on Ms. Turner. A voice vote was taken, and Ms. Turner was elected vice chair. Ms. Turner nominated Mary King for secretary. There being no further nominations for secretary, the nomination closed on Ms. King. A voice vote was taken, and Ms. King was elected secretary. The election being completed, Judge Hundley turned the meeting over to the newly elected chair, Ms. Tidwell.

Ms. Tidwell recognized Board counsel Mr. Wilkerson for the general counsel's report. On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the Board entered an executive session at 2:15 pm, on advice of counsel, to discuss matters involving general reputation and character, physical condition, professional competence, and mental health of individuals subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of this Board. The public Board meeting resumed at 2:20 pm, at which time the Board considered a proposed Consent Order in ABCR Case No. 2022-003. On motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Mr. Marsh, and unanimously adopted, the proposed Consent Order was approved.

Mr. Wilkerson then summarized for the Board the content of Executive Order #734 regarding public records disclosure and access by state agencies. Mr. Wilkerson referred the Board to proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations designed to comply with the Executive Order. There followed discussion and questions by Board members. After the discussion, on motion made by Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Turner, and unanimously adopted, the Board directed Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Biebighauser to proceed with publishing the proposed revisions for comment.

Mr. Wilkerson then moved on to Executive Order #735 regarding reduction of administrative rules among all state agencies. Part of the Executive Order required agencies to place a moratorium on new rules and regulations, unless specifically mandated by state law, and to conduct an inventory of existing rules and regulations for possible reductions in compliance with the order. After discussion and questions on this topic, on motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the Board directed Mr. Wilkerson to compile the inventory.

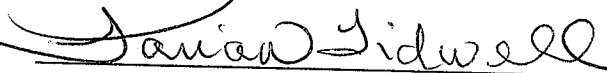
Mr. Wilkerson then advised the Board that he wished to discuss certain legal ramifications and options involved with matters involving litigation or imminently likely to be litigated based on certain courses of action, which constituted grounds for an executive session under Alabama law. On motion made by Judge Hundley, seconded by Mr. Marsh, and unanimously adopted, the Board entered an executive session at 2:40 pm for such purpose. The public Board meeting resumed at 2:55 pm.

The Board then considered the next agenda item, a letter addressed to the Board from a licensed reporter. No further action was taken in response to the letter.

Mr. Biebighauser then updated the Board on the forthcoming relocation of the Board office to a new location. He advised the Board that he expected the relocation to take place on or about March 21 absent any unanticipated delays.

Under new business, Ms. King brought up an issue of an ACCR who had deceased and there was a question of obtaining a transcript of the reporter. The Board discussed the general parameters of the situation and noted that there was nothing in the Rules & Regulations that provided any guidance thereto.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. King, and unanimously adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.



Parian Tidwell, Chair

June 16, 2023
Date