GSCCCA Update

Vol. 5, No. 1 April 2001

An update on the activites of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Coopertive Authority

Board of Directors

Chairman:

Woodson Daniel Hawkinsville, Georgia

Vice Chairman:

F. Barry Wilkes Clerk of Superior Court of Liberty County Hinesville, Georgia

Secretary/Treasurer:

Joanne P. Caldwell Clerk of Superior Court of Rockdale County Conyers, Georgia

James L. Flatt President, Regions Bank Albany, Georgia

E. Dunbar Harrison Athens, Georgia

Tom Lawler Clerk of Superior Court of Gwinnett County Lawrenceville, Georgia

Ray Marchman Greensboro, Georgia



Authority welcomes new board members

The Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority welcomes the following new members to its board of directors:

- Tom Lawler Tom serves as Clerk of the Superior, State and Magistrate Courts of Gwinnett County. He was elected in 1997. Prior to that, he had a private law practice, served as Gwinnett County District Attorney, as Juvenile Court Solicitor and as a Gwinnett County police officer. He has been associated with Gwinnett County for 30 years.
- Barry Wilkes Barry serves as Clerk and Court Administrator for the Superior, State, Juvenile and Magistrate Courts of Liberty County. He was administrator of the sixcounty Atlantic Circuit of Georgia public defender program before being elected clerk of superior court in 1984. Prior to that, he taught in a high school in Southeast Georgia.

In addition to welcoming Tom and Barry, the board bids farewell to outgoing members **Sandra Glass**, former Clerk of Superior Court of Oconee County, and **Dan Jordan**, Clerk of Superior Court of Jasper County. Both Sandra and Dan served on the board since the inception of the Authority in 1995, and, through their tenure, oversaw the development of the statewide central index for UCC filings, the development of the statewide index for real estate and personal property records, the development of a statewide database on civil case filings, and the inherited responsibility for overseeing the central database of notaries public. Without their steady guidance and tremendous contributions, the success of these projects would not have been possible.





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Newsletter goes online

The Authority is excited to announce that our newsletter will now be posted online and accessible through our website. This technological advance will allow us to streamline operations and be more efficient. A hard copy of this edition is being mailed to all clerks and other newsletter recipients in order to notify everyone of this change but future editions will only be posted online. All newsletter recipients will be notified of new editions through e-mail and will be able to link directly to the newsletter from the e-mail. Clerks will receive the message through their e-mail address

(Example: Joanne.Caldwell@Rockdale.gsccca.org). If you prefer a different e-mail address, please notify David Williams of this information via e-mail (David.Williams@gsccca.org). ■

Board meeting review

The Board of Directors of the Georgia Superior Court Clerks' Cooperative Authority convened for its quarterly meeting on January 24, 2001 at the Authority office.

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General Business:

To begin the meeting, newly appointed GSCCCA board members Tom Lawler and Barry Wilkes were administered the oath of office. Once completed, the following motions were made: Mr. Daniel was nominated to serve as chairman of the board; Mr. Wilkes was nominated to serve as Vice Chairman; and Ms. Caldwell was nominated to serve as Secretary-Treasury. All three nominations were seconded and approved unanimously.

Greg Morgan with the accounting firm Mauldin & Jenkins presented the Treasurer's/Audit Report which was unanimously approved along with the minutes of the October 26, 2000 board meeting. Mr. Daniel made a motion to allow the transfer of funds from the investment account to the operating account. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Authority Projects & Upgrades:

Throughout a discussion of Authority projects, the Board unanimously approved several motions:

- A motion that the Authority redesign the notary public commission form to be a standard letter size of 8½ x 11 inches to expedite the electronic creation of information and the future remittance of electronic data to the Authority. (This included a motion to authorize Mr. Wilkes to design the form.)
- A motion to accept the proposal of the UCC Development Team on the redesign of the UCC system with the understanding that the system will accommodate expanded search logic.
- A motion to authorize spending the necessary funds to expand the existing imaging system to seven terabytes.

During a report on the UCC project, Mr. Williams stated that filings for 2000 were seven percent less than 1999 and that the number of certified search requests was also less than in 1999. Through an ongoing public awareness program and with the intent of marketing the UCC search system, the Authority will have a presence at various conventions with potential users or persons affected by the system.

Other Business:

The Board unanimously approved two other motions:

- A motion to approve the MIT personnel contract extension. The proposal provides for a two-year extension to the current contract with no fee increase on the UCC Project.
- A motion to accept a contract with the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia (Council). The contract serves as an agreement for the Authority to provide for the transmission of data from the Council to the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and provide for the development of specifications and standards.

Planning to move?

The Authority Customer Support staff is available to assist with the connection of GSCCCA-sponsored equipment when a clerk's office moves. In order to be effective, Customer Support needs to be notified of potential moves as soon as possible to coordinate service changes and schedule visits. In the case of the data communication and phone lines, the provider normally requires a standard 45-day notice to move service. If you have questions or a move to report, call Customer Support at 1-800-304-5174 or email them at help@gsccca.org.

Report equipment problems

If you experience problems with GSCCCA-sponsored equipment, please notify Authority Customer Support immediately at 1-800-304-5174 or send an email to help@gsccca.org. If you delay reporting these problems, we risk missing warranty deadlines. Please help us take advantage of these warranties by letting us know of problems right away.

Attention deed indexers!

The Real Estate System has recently received (and rejected) a number of names with dashes in them. Please be aware that the "dash" is an illegal

character in the Real Estate System. If you have questions regarding illegal characters, please consult the Real Estate Indexing Standards Guidelines or call Phil Kobierowski at 404-894-2552 or e-mail him at phil@edi.gatech.edu. ■

Learn about UCC changes

Learn about the impact of H.B. 191 which revises Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code. The changes to the code will be covered by the Authority at the upcoming clerks' meeting at Sea Palms. Topics to be covered will include: the new forms, reasons to reject a filing and where a secured party files.