

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION

Friday, January 29, 2016

5:06 p.m.

The Mills House Wyndham Grand Hotel
115 Meeting Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert J. Grey Jr., Chairperson
Harry J.F. Korrell, III
Laurie Mikva
Martha L. Minow
Father Pius Pietrzyk, O.P.
Robert E. Henley Jr. (Non-Director Member)
Allan J. Tanenbaum (Non-Director Member)
John G. Levi, ex officio

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles N.W. Keckler
Victor B. Maddox
Julie A. Reiskin
Gloria Valencia-Weber

STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT:

James J. Sandman, President
Ronald S. Flagg, Vice President for Legal Affairs,
General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
Lynn Jennings, Vice President for Grants Management
Rebecca Fertig Cohen, Chief of Staff
Mayealie Adams, Special Assistant to the President
for the Board
Carol A. Bergman, Director, Office of Government
Relations and Public Affairs
Janet LaBella, Director, Office of Program
Performance
Lora M. Rath, Director, Office of Compliance
and Enforcement
Carl Rauscher, Director of Media Relations, Office of
Government Relations and Public Affairs
Wendy Rhein, Chief Development Officer
David L. Richardson, Comptroller and Treasurer,
Office of Financial and Administrative Services
Jeffrey E. Schanz, Inspector General
Joel Gallay, Special Counsel to the Inspector
General, Office of the Inspector General
John Seeba, Assistant Inspector General for Audit,
Office of the Inspector General
Daniel O'Rourke, Assistant Inspector General for
Investigations, Office of the Inspector General
David Maddox, Assistant Inspector General for
Management and Evaluation, Office of the
Inspector General
Herbert S. Garten, Non-Director Member, Institutional
Advancement Committee

STAFF AND PUBLIC PRESENT (Continued):

Frank B. Strickland, Non-Director Member,
Institutional Advancement Committee
Allan J. Tanenbaum, Non-Director Member, Finance
Committee
Andrea Loney, Executive Director, South Carolina
Legal Services
Leslie Fisk, South Carolina Legal Services
Adam Protheroe, South Carolina Legal Services
Gerald Jones, South Carolina Legal Services
Matthew Billingsley, South Carolina Legal Services
Rusty Infinger, South Carolina Legal Services
Rita Roache, South Carolina Legal Services
Stephanie van der Horst, South Carolina Legal
Services
Juanita F. Middleton, South Carolina Legal Services
Jamie L. Bell, South Carolina Legal Services
Angela Myers, South Carolina Legal Services
Kimaka Nichols Graham, South Carolina Legal Services
Mark Fessler, South Carolina Legal Services
Kirby Mitchell, South Carolina Legal Services
Sheila Thomas, South Carolina Legal Services
Don Saunders, National Legal Aid and Defenders
Association (NLADA)
Robin C. Murphy, National Legal Aid and Defender
Association (NLADA)
Terry Brooks, American Bar Association Standing
Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants
(SCLAID)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (5:06 p.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN GREY: If you could take your seats,
4 we'll go ahead and start the Finance Committee. If
5 you're not part of the Finance Committee and you want to
6 continue your conversation, I encourage you to do that
7 outside in the hall.

8 Otherwise we can't hear ourselves thinking,
9 and that would be a terrible distraction in the face of
10 the grave issues we have to discuss and of the time
11 frame which we've been allotted.

12 (Laughter.)

13 CHAIRMAN GREY: I would also comment that the
14 volunteer members of the Finance Committee are present,
15 Allan Tanenbaum and Bob Henley, both of whom continue
16 to add value and their experience to the work that we
17 do. And so on behalf of the board, I'd like to thank
18 you for your continued participation.

19 MR. TANENBAUM: And considering the financial
20 situation, we will not request any raise.

21 CHAIRMAN GREY: Well, that's a good thing.

22 MR. MADDOX: What I think he said is they

1 would not request a pay raise.

2 CHAIRMAN GREY: And Vic does interpret things
3 literally. So I want you to know that.

4 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a motion to approve
5 the agenda on the table?

6 M O T I O N

7 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

8 MS. MIKVA: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN GREY: All in favor say aye.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 CHAIRMAN GREY: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a motion to approve
14 the minutes of the open session on October 4th?

15 M O T I O N

16 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

17 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a second?

18 MR. HENLEY: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN GREY: All in favor say aye.

20 (A chorus of ayes.)

21 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a motion to approve
22 the committee minutes of October 19th?

1 M O T I O N

2 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

3 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a second?

4 MR. KORRELL: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN GREY: All in favor say aye.

6 (A chorus of ayes.)

7 CHAIRMAN GREY: Thank you.

8 I would like to ask the treasurer and
9 comptroller, David Richardson, to make a presentation
10 on LSC's financial report for FY 2016.

11 MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you. My name is David
12 Richardson, for the record, the treasurer of the
13 corporation. The pages that I'll be referring to in
14 the board book begins on page 267.

15 For the two-month period, we are in line with
16 our spending. There's actually a variance that is
17 shown in the table. The one thing that I will call to
18 your attention in the memo is that we did -- normally,
19 we give our grants starting January 1st. So normally,
20 there's very little grant expense. This time, the same
21 thing.

22 However, I have noted that we have provided

1 grants of \$347 million for January. That is in excess
2 of the budget that you approved in October. But there
3 was a special circumstance in that we got a \$10,000
4 increase in our budget --

5 MS. BERGMAN: Ten million.

6 MR. RICHARDSON: -- \$10 million, excuse
7 me -- and we have allocated that money to our grantees.
8 And that will be reported to you in the January
9 finding.

10 So our spending is very much in line. I have
11 laid out the spending, the open positions by office. I
12 will give one additional update. In the information
13 technology area, there's one additional staff member
14 that has been hired since the memo was written. And of
15 course, we've hired our director of data governance,
16 which began on January 4th, so we're happy with that.

17 I've also, on page 4, given you a breakdown of
18 the current spending and the budgets for the grantees'
19 activity, the private funds. And you see the amount
20 that is budgeted for 2016, the expenses to date, and
21 I'll be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

22 This is in line with our budgeting. You'll see that

1 we actually have a variance, and we're in good shape
2 financially from this period, and actually, as I've
3 looked at December also this week, for December also.
4 But you'll get a report on that later.

5 CHAIRMAN GREY: Questions? Father Pius?

6 FATHER PIUS: Remind me again, what was the
7 increase for management's budget from the
8 continuing -- it's a continuing resolution, I guess?
9 It was 10 million for field, and how much extra for
10 MG&O?

11 MR. RICHARDSON: 500,000.

12 FATHER PIUS: That's not incorporated yet into
13 the budget?

14 MR. RICHARDSON: It's not in this one. It's
15 in --

16 FATHER PIUS: It'll be in the next one?

17 MR. RICHARDSON: -- the next.

18 FATHER PIUS: Could you just make sure that
19 it's clear for us as to how that 500,000 is allocated
20 among different expenditures when you do it? When you
21 do it, so just looking forward to the next time, so
22 we're clear on how the budget decisions were made as to

1 the use of those funds.

2 MR. RICHARDSON: It's actually the next budget
3 item.

4 FATHER PIUS: Never mind, then. Thank you.
5 You're so good.

6 CHAIRMAN GREY: It's coming.

7 CHAIRMAN GREY: Allan?

8 MR. TANENBAUM: How much contraction do you
9 think will occur over the next three months with the
10 variance in the compensation and benefits category? Or
11 do you think we will continue to see this 50 percent,
12 55 percent, variance?

13 You mentioned that the hires, the opening of
14 the hires and the compensation increases in 2016. But
15 by the time we get to our next quarterly meeting, do
16 you see that variance contracting significantly?

17 MR. RICHARDSON: I believe it will. Certainly
18 with the hiring of new staff, that will go down. The
19 variance you're talking about is the largest variance
20 of the total variance of the corporation. So the
21 biggest variance is staffing because we do still have
22 three open positions, actually, as we go forward.

1 So as we give that and we go into our
2 evaluation system, as people get their step increases
3 and whatever increases are worked out during the year,
4 that is also budgeted in here. So as we give those in
5 the coming months, you should start seeing that come
6 down.

7 But I do believe the biggest variance you'll
8 see during the year is continuing to be in salaries and
9 compensation. But I think we've done a better job as
10 far as looking at budgets and what we're planning on
11 spending this year.

12 CHAIRMAN GREY: Madam Vice Chair?

13 DEAN MINOW: I have a question, but I don't
14 know if it's for this item or the next item. I'm
15 trying to put together what this new budget means for
16 the savings that we had for not filling some positions
17 because we didn't know what the future budgets would
18 be. So how do we think about that?

19 MR. RICHARDSON: Well, we've started an
20 internal process of reviewing and being ready to
21 present a 2018 budget for you. And we're trying to set
22 up a new model, a new system, to do that that will be

1 more transparent.

2 What we do see, though, is that this money
3 that we currently have as carryover, and I've increased
4 the carryover in the consolidated operating budget that
5 we're going to ask you to approve next, will help
6 support not only 2017, 2018, and 2019 budget.

7 It is dependent as far as the activities of
8 the corporation -- if we take on new responsibilities,
9 if we take on a new priority, and if we have additional
10 staffing. I've done it based on level staffing. But
11 if we have to add staff to take on additional
12 responsibility, then it may not last quite as long.

13 But I think our history shows that we're going
14 to have people -- we're going to have attrition. We're
15 going to have people retiring for whatever reason,
16 people going to additional jobs and then coming back,
17 and there's a delay in hiring.

18 So I feel that we currently have enough money
19 to get us into 2019 with level appropriation.

20 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Could I have a crack at
21 that? We did not delay filling any positions because
22 of uncertainty about what the level of our funding

1 might be because of what both the House and the Senate
2 voted earlier last year, that the Senate appropriations
3 committee and the House -- in terms of funding for
4 management and grants oversight, we had a reasonable
5 level of confidence that we could continue to fill the
6 positions that we had planned to fill.

7 What we do have is a perennial problem with
8 open positions, as many organizations do. Few
9 organizations operate at full staffing 100 percent of
10 the time. What we are working on now is a better model
11 for forecasting how many vacancies we're likely to have
12 and how long it's likely to take us to fill them based
13 on our history.

14 We've looked at our numbers over the past few
15 years to see what our average attrition rate is. We'll
16 try to average those numbers and see what a reasonable
17 projection might be going forward. And we have good
18 data on what we call the time to fill vacant positions,
19 how long between a vacancy arises and when a new person
20 is hired into that position.

21 I am conscious of the fact that we perennially
22 report that we're way under budget on our personnel

1 expenses, and the reason is vacancies. I think we have
2 enough history and data to be able to do a better job
3 of bringing projection in line with reality.

4 We'll always need to be a little bit
5 conservative because we are relatively small. We
6 employ a hundred people. It's not as if we employ
7 thousands. And if we're off a little bit, that could
8 have consequences. But our goal is to bring more data
9 analysis and rigor to the process of projecting
10 budgeted positions to actually filled positions.

11 CHAIRMAN GREY: I'm encouraged by the fact
12 that, Mr. Treasurer, we've asked you about this every
13 time. This is something that's an ongoing examination
14 by the committee of what you're doing. And we're
15 encouraged to know that each time, you are working to
16 narrow the gap between positions -- funding for those
17 positions and the expected need for positions to
18 execute the responsibility that you have.

19 And I think that's been borne out by the fact
20 that there have been a number of adjustments made to
21 the responsibilities and duties of the particular
22 offices or areas of responsibility within LSC, the

1 oversight for various functions and how they've been
2 reconstituted in some cases, eliminated in other cases,
3 added on in others to try to keep us current in the
4 support of the field operations. And so don't mind us
5 if we continue to ask about how you're doing.

6 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: I welcome it. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GREY: Robert?

8 MR. HENLEY: Jim, are you satisfied that the
9 pay grade attributable to the positions are correct and
10 that that's not the reason why we can't find the
11 people, because we're not offering enough money, or
12 we're losing people because they're being offered more
13 money in the nonprofit world for those same positions?

14 Are you satisfied there's no disconnect in the
15 compensation and benefits designations for these
16 positions that either you lose people or that you've
17 still got open?

18 PRESIDENT SANDMAN: Yes, I am. And the reason
19 is because we had a comprehensive compensation survey
20 done a couple of years ago using a reputable
21 compensation consultant to compare what we pay in our
22 positions to what's paid in what they identify as the

1 relevant market.

2 The relevant market they identified was a
3 combination of government positions and nonprofit
4 positions. They took a careful look at our position
5 descriptions. They also looked at our history: Where
6 do people come to us from? When they leave us, where
7 do they go to? That's a good definition of what your
8 relevant market is.

9 And I have no reason to believe that we're not
10 able to hire people because we're not paying enough.
11 When we have vacancies and it takes us some time to
12 fill them, sometimes it's because of the nature of the
13 position.

14 For example, we have a position in the Office
15 of Compliance and Enforcement called fiscal compliance
16 analyst. We've learned from experience that that's a
17 title that doesn't mean much in the open market.

18 It's a name that means something to us at LSC,
19 but we, for advertising purposes, have come up with a
20 different nomenclature to try to translate our position
21 description into something that's more likely to be
22 meaningful to the person with credentials that we're

1 trying to attract.

2 Neither do I have any reason to think that
3 people are leaving us because they're getting a lot
4 more money elsewhere. All of the indicators, both in
5 hiring and in attrition and in terms of the salary
6 survey that we did, show that we're right where we
7 should be in the market.

8 We do also look at our attrition statistics to
9 see if we're losing more people than you would expect
10 in an organization of our type and size. And I will be
11 presenting those to the board tomorrow. Here's a
12 spoiler alert: No. There's no reason in our attrition
13 statistics to suggest that we're off base.

14 Our attrition in recent years has been higher
15 than it was in the federal government for the most
16 recent period that we can find information. That was
17 from 2004 to 2012. During that period in government
18 agencies the attrition rate was 5.8 percent. Our
19 attrition rate over the last few years -- I'm
20 forgetting the number off the top of my head, but it
21 was roughly 11.8 percent, 12 point something percent.

22 We do have recent data that allows us to

1 compare ourselves to 300-plus nonprofit organizations,
2 both in the United States and Canada, and their
3 attrition rates for the years 2012 to 2014. And their
4 rates during that period ranged between 16 and 18
5 percent, well above where we are.

6 I'd also note that the government numbers we
7 have for 2004 to 2012 include the height of the
8 recession, when almost all employers saw their
9 attrition drop dramatically because there were no jobs
10 for people to move to.

11 So these are all things where we look at
12 market data to see if there's any reason to think that
13 we're out of line, and I don't think we are.

14 CHAIRMAN GREY: Any other questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIRMAN GREY: Thank you, Mr. Treasurer.

17 Madam Director of Government Relations, an
18 explanation about the 2016 budget would be helpful.

19 MS. BERGMAN: Well, we can start with a little
20 history. When we got together last October, things
21 looked a little different.

22 As Jim referenced, where we were then is that

1 the House and Senate last year had passed a joint
2 budget resolution that took sequestration into account,
3 so that they had a budget resolution across the board
4 that was significantly below what the White House was
5 looking for.

6 So as a result, what happened is the Senate
7 was not able to bring a single appropriations bill to
8 the Senate floor. So the Senate CJS appropriations
9 subcommittee voted the 385 million for LSC. The House
10 did pass most of their appropriations bills, and House
11 CJS subcommittee, and the full committee and then the
12 floor, passed 300 million for LSC. So that's how we
13 were going into the process for FY '16.

14 What happened at that point in the end
15 of -- there was no budget by October 1st, and there was
16 a CR passed at that point when Speaker Boehner decided
17 to resign and then Mr. Ryan decided to come forward.
18 And so at that point there was a CR then that funded at
19 the FY '15 level, with a .2108 percent rescission
20 across the board for everything. And that went through
21 December 16.

22 So once there was a CR and the change in the

1 House leadership, there was then room for there to
2 become a two-year budget agreement. So that was a
3 House-Senate-White House deal that Speaker Boehner was
4 still a part of at that point. Mr. Ryan was not.

5 And that two-year budget agreement set the
6 overall spending considerably above what had been the
7 joint House-Senate resolution. And the two-year budget
8 agreement put \$50 billion more into FY '16 funding, to
9 be divided between domestic and defense spending, and
10 it puts an additional 30 billion in spending for FY
11 '17. Okay? So this is in lieu of sequestration.

12 So that passed the House and the Senate at the
13 end of October. The President signed it into law. At
14 that point, you had to have another CR in order to give
15 the appropriations committees to actually come up with
16 an omnibus bill.

17 So in past history, oftentimes the House and
18 Senate split the difference between the two bills.
19 Obviously, the good news is we came out of this with
20 the Senate number, with the 385. And I don't want to
21 take anything away from Judge Toal's presentation
22 today. There is no question that her daughter has

1 played a key role with Senator Mikulski. But I want to
2 acknowledge that a few other people were involved in
3 the process.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MS. BERGMAN: And I say that because I think
6 it's really important for us to recognize the role of
7 the Senate Republicans. I really think that a huge
8 part of why we got the 385 has to do with the role that
9 Senator Shelby played and Senator Cochran played.

10 And I know that the Senate staff, bipartisan
11 staff, came to the meeting with House staff where they
12 took the House subcommittee chairman Mr. Culberson's
13 language, and they blew it up because he had said in
14 large letters that if there was more money, he was
15 going to put more money into LSC.

16 And that is how they went into negotiations
17 between the Senate and the House. And a lot of work
18 went into this process, and obviously, Mr. Culberson
19 agreed, and we ended up with the Senate number. And I
20 think that it's important to recognize that a lot of
21 people play a huge role in that process going forward.

22 So there's the additional funding for LSC

1 overall. It all gets annualized. The conversation had
2 happened at the October board meeting, what happens if
3 there's an increase or a decrease? In fact, as David
4 and I had talked about in the past, this does get
5 annualized over the entire year's process.

6 So I think that's where we end up in terms of
7 funding for this year. I'll stop there, unless you all
8 talk -- I can talk now about FY '17 or we can do it
9 after, whatever's easier.

10 CHAIRMAN GREY: Let's do the resolution and
11 then pick it back up.

12 MS. BERGMAN: Okay. But any questions on FY
13 '16?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN GREY: Great job, by the way, in
16 helping us understand, navigate, and advise us about
17 that because that, with your participation, has become
18 a lot less mysterious. So thank you.

19 Mr. Treasurer?

20 MR. RICHARDSON: Okay. In your board books,
21 page 277, there's a memo in regards to our consolidated
22 operating budget. This details the 10,000 increase as

1 to what lines?

2 MS. BERGMAN: Ten million.

3 MR. RICHARDSON: Ten million again. Sorry,
4 \$10 million increase.

5 CHAIRMAN GREY: We're going to have to start
6 looking for offshore accounts pretty quickly.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. RICHARDSON: There was \$8,850,000
9 basically that went to basic field. And then the
10 remaining 500 went MGO, and then the Inspector
11 General's office got an increase of 650,000.

12 What I've done in the next couple of pages,
13 I've shown that we did an estimate of carryover when we
14 produced our budget. I have detailed the increases
15 that are needed now that we have completed our audit,
16 completed our financial statements, where the money
17 came from and the result of that. There's an increase
18 of \$556,000 to be added to the budget.

19 And Father Pius, to your question, the
20 500,000, we have basically made just a few little
21 adjustments to our budget. One of them, we have
22 started our Pro Bono Innovation Fund evaluation, so

1 75,000 was moved to OPP for that evaluation.

2 With the Office of Data Governance not
3 becoming operational until January, we have moved for
4 the first quarter to pay for salary and benefits into
5 contingency. And the \$500,000 increase that we saw,
6 we've moved that into contingency also because as a
7 group, we've already worked on budget and have an
8 amount of operation during this year.

9 So what basically we have before you is a
10 resolution on page 283 with the total amount of the
11 budget that we're asking you to pass. And I've got a
12 breakout there of the appropriation, the U.S. Court of
13 Veterans' Appeals, the carryover.

14 And the budget that we're asking you to
15 approve is \$399,069,943. And there's a breakout on the
16 two pages immediately preceding to show that. It's
17 pages 281, 282, and then the resolution.

18 I'll be glad to answer any questions you may
19 have.

20 CHAIRMAN GREY: That's a great explanation.
21 Any comments or questions? A motion?

22 MR. MADDOX: Just one question. The \$10

1 million, the allocation, was that by statute or was
2 that our discretion to allocate those funds that way?

3 MR. RICHARDSON: It's by statute.

4 CHAIRMAN GREY: Yes. Good point.

5 Is there a motion to approve the resolution?

6 M O T I O N

7 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

8 MR. LEVI: I'm tempted to say it went to
9 groups, but I shouldn't.

10 (Laughter.)

11 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

12 MS. MIKVA: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN GREY: Thank you. All in favor say
14 aye.

15 (A chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIRMAN GREY: Opposed, no.

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRMAN GREY: The resolution is approved.

19 Madam Director, would you take us to '17 and
20 '18?

21 MS. BERGMAN: FY '17 appropriations, yes, Mr.
22 Chairman.

1 So we're in the process of preparing our
2 budget justification to go up to Congress. The board
3 approved the ask of 502.7, and that is 15.8 over last
4 year's request. The White House budget is going up to
5 Congress on February 9th.

6 Our goal is to always try and have our budget
7 justification coincide with that. And we start moving
8 already to set up meetings with the appropriations
9 subcommittee staff immediately to talk about our
10 budget, and then we put into play meetings.

11 We try to meet with the staff for very single
12 member that sits on the House and Senate CJS
13 appropriations subcommittee, and then key members of
14 the appropriations full committee in both the House and
15 the Senate.

16 Obviously, at any point, if we can meet with
17 members, we certainly bring Jim and/or John into those
18 meetings. And then we will look to identify additional
19 opportunities when folks may be in town in April for
20 both the board meeting and the ABA Day.

21 There has been discussion that especially in
22 the Senate, Senator McConnell has indicated that he

1 intends to move very quickly in trying to move on a
2 budget to pass the Senate. They actually want to do
3 this in March before they go on recess and start the
4 appropriations bills in April and move very quickly on
5 the appropriations bills.

6 We have not seen a schedule come out of the
7 House, but certainly there's been conversation there as
8 well about wanting to move forward on the budget.
9 Theoretically it's easier, with the framework of the
10 two-year budget agreement, that they have a number that
11 everybody's agreed to moving forward. So we'll see how
12 that plays out.

13 Happy to answer any questions.

14 CHAIRMAN GREY: Do you have any advice for us
15 exactly? Because we do have a new Congress, in a way,
16 with a new Speaker, and the expectation of a new
17 political season, does any of that play into some of
18 your more tactical considerations?

19 That was a dumb question. Withdraw that
20 question.

21 (Laughter.)

22 CHAIRMAN GREY: Mr. Chairman?

1 MR. LEVI: Carol will do her usual great job
2 of organizing our efforts as the clock unfolds. And we
3 hear these things. I really don't know what the
4 timing -- the best timing and best use of us. But
5 certainly she will start her maestro, I assume --

6 MS. BERGMAN: Well, in some ways I think it's
7 going to be a very different kind of year. Because of
8 the budget framework, it should be theoretically much
9 easier to come up with budgets in the House and the
10 Senate, and for the appropriations committees to move.

11 But I think realistically, neither party is
12 going to see it as in their interest to pass
13 appropriations bills before the election. So my guess
14 is that things will move as far as they can, and then
15 it will come to a complete standstill.

16 And there will not be appropriations bills
17 until after the election because I don't anybody will
18 see it as being in their own interest to do so. But
19 that is obviously just my own perspective.

20 CHAIRMAN GREY: Charles?

21 MR. KECKLER: Well, I just wanted to point out
22 briefly -- thank you, Mr. Chairman -- that since we are

1 here in Charleston, of course, that very recently
2 Speaker Ryan met with Senator Scott to have a poverty
3 forum here in Charleston, and to discuss these issues
4 and the development of policies and approaches to help
5 remediate poverty.

6 So it is of interest, I think, to your point
7 about it being something of a new Congress. And to the
8 extent that we can show that our program does remediate
9 and bring people out of poverty and show those results,
10 I think that there certainly will be people who will be
11 interested in that message.

12 CHAIRMAN GREY: Father Pius?

13 FATHER PIUS: I was going to say this for my
14 member's report but I'll say it now just because we've
15 been talking about this. I had the opportunity,
16 through a contact, to meet with David Hoppe, who is the
17 chief of staff for Congressman Ryan, and I had a good
18 conversation with him about legal services. And he's
19 left some openings up for me to continue my
20 conversations with him, so I hope to pursue that some
21 more.

22 I don't know whether it will pan out to

1 anything, but I certainly hope that my conversations
2 with him might pan out with something with the Speaker.

3 I've certainly mentioned our events in April to his
4 chief of staff, with the hope that maybe the
5 congressman or a member of his staff might be able to
6 attend.

7 So I certainly just was very pleased with my
8 conversation with his chief of staff, and like I said,
9 I certainly will continue those.

10 MS. BERGMAN: Well, we are also working with
11 the -- now that there is a bipartisan caucus in the
12 House on legal services, in the past couple of years
13 LSC has sponsored a briefing in the House and the
14 Senate. The caucus is interested in sponsoring a
15 briefing this year.

16 And so we are certainly working with them
17 about what they would find most helpful, and we have
18 certainly suggested that there be conversations with
19 the Speaker's office in light of Mr. Ryan's interest in
20 working and looking at the issues of poverty. So I
21 think that there's a lot of potential there for some
22 kind of collaboration.

1 CHAIRMAN GREY: Charles, I think that's -- I
2 want to make sure, and I said that for the purpose that
3 you, I think, took note of, and that is we have to be
4 diligent and observant and be able to take advantage of
5 opportunities as they present themselves this
6 go-around, not wait until things happen to be reactive.

7 And I think that has always been John's
8 position, to be proactive and try to advance our
9 position -- not our position, but the interests of the
10 mission in which we find ourselves. So I think any
11 thoughts from you would be helpful about that.

12 MR. LEVI: I will, tomorrow, in my little talk
13 provide some thoughts I have.

14 MR. MADDOX: Carol, how many members in that
15 caucus?

16 MS. BERGMAN: That's a really good question.
17 I don't think it's enough yet, which is why I think we
18 have not been able to sit down with them and
19 really -- we've provided them, the names, with
20 both -- we have a list now, obviously, of how everybody
21 has voted on various amendments.

22 But we've also been able to cross-reference it

1 with other research that's been done about everybody
2 who's an attorney in the House. And we have provided
3 the caucus staff with all of those numbers and
4 recommendations of who they really should reach out to.

5 I don't know that they want to make any
6 numbers public until they have a sizeable number.
7 That's really why I think we don't know yet.

8 MR. LEVI: But it's just very recent, too.

9 MS. BERGMAN: Yes. It was November.

10 MR. LEVI: November. And then Congressman
11 Kennedy had a baby girl, and has really basically not
12 been down there. And then you have the holidays and
13 the snow.

14 FATHER PIUS: Other than that.

15 MR. LEVI: Other than that, yes.

16 CHAIRMAN GREY: Thank you.

17 Let's see. I should note that we have our
18 evaluations. For the sake of time, I'm going to ask
19 that we have a committee discussion about those issues
20 in the evaluations on our next call. They are there
21 for us to comment on; if anybody feels strongly about
22 any one of them, I'm happy to receive comment now.

1 Otherwise, I'd like, Mr. Treasurer, to make sure that's
2 on our agenda to talk about in our next meeting.

3 FATHER PIUS: This wasn't part of mine, but I
4 did want to concur with the line that said, "I like to
5 hear Robert Grey speak." So I just wanted to add my
6 voice.

7 MS. REISKIN: I love that.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. TANENBAUM: Do you want to admit, Robert,
10 who put that in? Not saying it.

11 CHAIRMAN GREY: Anyway, with friends like
12 Allan -- Mr. Treasurer, a report on selection of
13 accounts in depositories.

14 MR. RICHARDSON: Each year, according to a
15 resolution that was adopted in 2012 -- actually, number
16 3 from that year -- the president and I meet annually
17 to discuss our bank and our banking needs. We've done
18 that. This memo memorializes that fact, and there is
19 no action required.

20 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there public comment about
21 any of the proceedings today?

22 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there any other business to
2 act on?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN GREY: Is there a motion to adjourn?

5 M O T I O N

6 FATHER PIUS: So moved.

7 CHAIRMAN GREY: Second?

8 MS. MIKVA: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN GREY: All in favor say aye.

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 CHAIRMAN GREY: Opposed, no.

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN GREY: The motion carries. We're
14 adjourned.

15 (Whereupon, at 5:43 p.m., the committee was
16 adjourned.)

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