



Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Avenue SE | Suite 1402, West Tower | Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-463-1980 | www.ethics.georgia.gov

Regular Meeting | Thursday, March 6, 2014 | 10:00 AM

Summary of Commission Meeting

Location: 200 Piedmont Ave. SE Suite 1514 C,
15th Floor, West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Kevin Abernathy, Chair
Dennis Cathey, Commission Member
R. Lawton Jordan III, Commission Member

Commission Staff:

Holly LaBerge, Executive Director
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Administrative Assistant

Commission Members via Phone:

Hillary Stringfellow, Vice Chair
Heath Garrett, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney General:

Stefan Ritter, Senior Assistant Attorney General

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS ACTED UPON:

Subject	Summary
Meeting Called to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM
Opening Comments of the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair identified all members present and present via phone. Approved to amend the Agenda to include Personnel in Executive Session and to include two additional items to the Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> State Mutual Insurance and Admiral Life Insurance cases. Doug Chalmers on matter from 2009 ruling that conflicts with the Act concerning PAC & party contributions not counting towards the \$25,000 threshold.
Executive Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entered into executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel.
Items voted on by the Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved to adopt as a Consent to Dismiss without Prejudice the ongoing investigation at this time against State Mutual and Admiral Life Insurance.

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Subject	Summary
Items voted on by the Commission <i>Continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressed 2009 ruling that is in conflict with the Act in relation to PAC's and party contribution to candidates not counting towards the \$25,000 threshold. Chair decided to have Jonathan Hawkins (outside counsel) craft the language to clarify the rules, as he is doing for the rest of the rules. Approved meeting minutes of November 13, 2013, December 19, 2013, January 16, 2014, January 28, 2014 and February 14, 2014.
Rule Making Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed Rule Making procedures: Chair stated that there does not need to be a case to request an update of the rules. Jonathan Hawkins will continue to compare existing rules with the Act and update the rules including the 17 questions that have been brought up for clarification with first draft posted on the website for 60 days, then open to public comment for 60 days, afterward coming back to the Commissioners to consider.
Denial of Late Fee Hardship Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denial of Late Fee Hardship Waiver Appeal was heard by the Commissioners on: Joe Cook: Executive Secretary stated that the late fee waiver had been previously reduced twice. Approved to lower and assess the late fee penalty to a total of \$300 for all reports.
Campaign Contribution Limit Adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed use of Consumer Price Index in setting Campaign Contribution Limits. Chair motioned that campaign contribution limits are to be wrapped into discussion and update of rules with the understanding of the need to update state wide and legislative limits at the same time.
Executive Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY 14A and FY15 budget and legislation update. Four open positions have been posted to our website and are being posted through State Accounting Office and to the State jobs website. Registered over 1,000 lobbyist since January 1st. There are 169 complaints pending in the office.
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 AM