

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
FOR THE CORRECTIONS OFFICER RETIREMENT PLAN LOCAL BOARD
FOR THE JUDICIARY**

A Public Meeting of the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan Local Board for the Judiciary was convened on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 331 and via Zoom, Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

Board Members Present in Conference Room 331: Kevin Kluge (Chair); Jason Hathcock; Mark Smalley; Scott Mabery

Board Members Present by Conference/Video Call: Jennifer Fish

Also Present in Conference Room 331: Kayla Adkins, Board Secretary; Alexi Papalossi, Recorder; Yvonne Wong, AOC HR Officer

Also Present by Conference/Video Call: Nick Cornelius, Board Attorney; Maria Land (Disability Applicant #25-01)

Call to Order:

Approval of Minutes:

April 1, 2025 – Public Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mark Smalley moved to approve the public meeting minutes of the April 1, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. The minutes stand approved. **CORP 2025-17**

Recognition of Mark Smalley's Years of Service

The Chair presented a plaque to Mr. Smalley on behalf of the Board, commemorating Mr. Smalley's 16 years of service.

Mr. Hathcock presented Mr. Smalley with an engraved watch on behalf of the Arizona Probation Officers Association to recognize his 16 years of service and his dedication to assisting probation officers statewide.

Mr. Smalley thanked the Board and the Probation Officers Association. He expressed his honor and appreciation to have served on the CORP Local Board and expressed his best wishes for its continued success.

Notice of Retiree Return to Work – Heather Brownson

The Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work from the Cochise County Judicial Branch for Heather Brownson, indicating that Ms. Brownson retired from the Cochise County Adult Probation Department on November 8, 2024, with an effective CORP retirement date of December 1, 2024. She had since accepted an employment offer with the Cochise County Judicial Branch and returned to work on March 17, 2025, in a non-CORP-designated position as a Probation Services Coordinator.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38-884.N-O. and Ms. Brownson's current position description were provided to the Board.

Mr. Papalossi noted that Ms. Brownson appeared eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension because she returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position after retirement.

MOTION: Jason Hathcock moved that the Board received a Notice of Retiree Return to Work for Heather Brownson and found that (1) Ms. Brownson was eligible to continue receiving a CORP pension; (2) Ms. Brownson's employer, Cochise County Judicial Branch, was not responsible for paying the CORP alternate contribution rate on her behalf because she returned to work in a non-CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Mark Smalley and passed unanimously. **CORP 2025-18**

Request to Remain in ASRS – Luz Cabada:

The Board received a request dated April 10, 2025, from Luz Cabada to remain in the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-891.F.

Ms. Cabada was previously employed with the Maricopa County Judicial Branch from March 14, 2005, until February 14, 2025, as a Legal Assistant/Probate Examiner. Ms. Cabada will become a full-time Juvenile Detention Officer with the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department on April 21, 2025. Her request indicates that she has 19.917 years of credited service with ASRS.

Copies of A.R.S. § 38-891.F. and Ms. Cabada's current position description were provided to the Board.

Mr. Papalossi noted that Ms. Cabada appeared to have met the eligibility requirement of a minimum of five years of credited service under ASRS and filed her request with the Local Board within ninety days of accepting a CORP-designated position.

MOTION: Scott Mabery moved to approve the request by Luz Cabada to remain in ASRS, as it appeared Ms. Cabada had met the eligibility requirements of a minimum of five years of service credited under ASRS and filed her request with the Local Board within ninety days of accepting a CORP-designated position. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. **CORP 2025-19**

Consideration of Total and Permanent Disability Application – *The Local Board may vote to go into executive session to discuss medical documentation and to receive legal advice for the following Disability Application pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2 & 3).*

The Board received Application #25-01 for Total and Permanent Disability benefits from Maria Land on March 12, 2025.

- The applicant is a Maricopa County Adult Probation Officer with 20.079 years of service.
- The applicant identified the disabling conditions as essential thrombocythemia, stroke, meningioma, stage 3 kidney failure, post-traumatic stress disorder, rotator cuff tear, and uncontrolled high blood pressure.
- Ms. Land was notified via certified letter and email that the Board would consider her application at this meeting and of the applicant's right to attend.
- The applicant initialed the Waiver of Confidentiality provision, to allow discussion of the medical condition in an open public meeting.
- The applicant provided medical reports of findings and treatment with the application. The application and medical reports were provided for the Board. The criteria for Total and Permanent Disability benefits per A.R.S. §38-881.01 are:
 - "Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental condition that is not an accidental disability, that the local board finds totally and permanently prevents a member from engaging in any gainful employment and that is the direct and proximate result of the member's performance of the member's duty as an employee of a participating employer.
- A copy of A.R.S. §38-886 governing Local Board consideration of applications for Total and Permanent Disability was included for reference purposes.

Pre-Existing Conditions:

The applicant's physical exams dated May 10, 2007 and December 8, 2016 were provided. The exam reports identified the following pre-existing conditions: Bell's palsy with paralysis (left side of face) and high blood pressure.

Discussion:

The Chair asked Ms. Land if she would like to make a statement to which she declined.

Mr. Hathcock asked Ms. Land to clarify her years of service. Ms. Land stated that she began working in 2004 and was involuntarily terminated due to an injury on the job. Ms. Land continued to explain that during her period of unemployment, she ultimately withdrew money from her CORP retirement and was unable to purchase it back.

Mr. Hathcock inquired about when Ms. Land was rehired. Ms. Land stated that she returned to work in September 2016. The Chair noted that Ms. Land had two physical exams completed from

2007 and 2016 and questioned why her physical exam was completed in 2007 if she was hired in 2004. Mr. Hathcock noted that prior to the Joinder Agreement, Ms. Land was under the Arizona State Retirement System, which did not require a physical exam. After Ms. Land switched over to CORP in 2007, she completed the required physical exam.

Mr. Hathcock reviewed the requirements of Total and Permanent Disability with Ms. Land and explained that a doctor would have to find that she is not able to engage in any gainful employment. Mr. Hathcock asked Ms. Land if she was familiar with Accidental Disability and inquired why she made the selection she did. Ms. Land stated she was confused and unfamiliar with the two types of disability and expressed that she would be open to changing her application from a Total and Permanent Disability to an Accidental Disability.

Mr. Hathcock requested that Ms. Land specify which health conditions made her unable to complete her job duties. Ms. Land specified that her rotator cuff injury and her post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are the two conditions that prevent her from working. Mr. Hathcock asked if she had provided documentation of these conditions, including medical documentation and incident reports. Ms. Land stated that she had provided the medical documentation but did not have the incident report for PTSD from her employer. Ms. Fish inquired if there was a workers' compensation report in addition to the incident report. Ms. Land stated that she is only aware of an incident report completed by the Sheriff's Office.

Motion: Scott Mabery moved to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mark Smalley and passed unanimously. **CORP 2025- 20**

MOTION: Scott Mabery moved to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Jason Hathcock and passed unanimously. **CORP 2025- 21**

The Chair asked Ms. Land to confirm her agreement to amend the existing Total and Permanent Disability Application and convert it to an Accidental Disability Application. Ms. Land confirmed.

The Chair informed Ms. Land that the next step would include an independent medical evaluation (IME). He specified that the Board would send her to a psychiatrist for her PTSD and an orthopedic surgeon for her rotator cuff injury. Mr. Hathcock requested that Ms. Land provide the incident report from the Sheriff's Office and obtain her employment dates from the Maricopa County Judicial Branch.

Motion: Jason Hathcock moved to refer Applicant #25-01 for an Independent Medical Evaluation for Accidental Disability for two issues – an IME for the shoulder issue and a psychiatrist for the PTSD condition. The motion was seconded by Mark Smalley and passed unanimously. **CORP 2024-22**

Acknowledgment of CORP Physical Exam Final Letter

Name	County	Letter Issue Date
Michael Coleman	Maricopa	3/10/2025

The Chair noted, for the record, that the CORP physical examination report for Michael Coleman was not received within 60 days of receiving their membership application and that the final letter requesting the examination report was sent via certified mail.

Approval of Membership:

The Board voted on the approval of the following requests for membership:

Name	County	Effective Enrollment Date
Stephen Hunkup	Coconino	3/11/2025
Shayla Doyle	Coconino	3/9/2025
Cara Singer	Coconino	1/13/2025
Christian Mayes	Maricopa	3/30/2025
Brienne Bigolin	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Briley Conliff	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Christina Ventura	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Dominique Goodin	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Kamar Wade	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Michael Coleman	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Stefanie Marsland	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Sarah Fernandez	Maricopa	4/6/2025
Michael Smith	Maricopa	4/21/2025
Anthony Huerta	Navajo	3/30/2025
Fredrika Heimbigner	Navajo	4/13/2025
Regina Rivera	Pima	3/30/2025
Jose Lopez	Pima	4/12/2025
Brianna Bernal	Pima	4/13/2025
Ryan Swecker	Pima	4/13/2025
Bryce Bowling	Pima	4/20/2025
Shaquille Howard	Pinal	2/3/2025
James Hodges	Pinal	4/6/2025
Miko Rodriguez	Santa Cruz	11/25/2024
Heaven Davis	Yavapai	4/6/2025

Mr. Hathcock inquired about the following members:

- Shayla Doyle
 - Mr. Papalossi informed Mr. Hathcock that PSPRS has been contacted and is waiting on confirmation regarding Ms. Doyle’s plan selection.
- Shaquille Howard
 - As noted for the record, PSPRS verified via email that Mr. Howard’s plan selection was correct.

MOTION: Jennifer Fish moved to approve the 24 applicants listed on the agenda for this meeting for membership in CORP pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-893.D. and to note for the record that the physical examinations for Stephen Hunkup, Cara Singer, Stefanie Marsland, Michael Smith, Jose Lopez, Bryce Bowling, and Miko Rodriguez identified a physical or mental condition or injury that existed or occurred before their dates of membership in the plan. The motion was seconded by Scott Mabery and passed unanimously. **CORP 2025-23**

2025 CORP Electronic Election Update

At the December 3, 2024 Local Board Meeting, the Chair requested that the Board Secretary provide monthly updates on the CORP Electronic Election.

The following actions were completed by the Board Secretary:

- Issued voting ballots on 4/14/2025
- Sent a reminder email to vote on 4/25/2025
- Voting will be closed on 5/9/2025

Mr. Hathcock asked how many votes had been received. The Board Secretary reviewed and advised the Board that 358 votes had been recorded.

Future Agenda Items:

- Disability case #25-01
- Legislative Update

The Chair asked the Board Secretary to review the IME questions to ensure the questions are applicable to Ms. Land's case and also requested the medical doctors to attend the Board meeting to discuss their findings.

Mr. Hathcock requested that the Board Secretary contact PSPRS to determine if Ms. Land's break in service would affect her disability application.

Call to the Public:

No members of the public addressed the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Transcribed May 8, 2025