

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
June 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chair
F. Richard Lyford, President
Nick Batter, Assistant Vice President
Benjamin Wilson, Treasurer
Joan Voelker, Secretary
Tom Boyd, Past-President
Eric Brust, Circuit Librarian

Roll call was taken. Vice-President Frances Ross was unable to attend the meeting.

The minutes of the Executive Committee's March 20, 2019 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Ben Wilson, who succeeded Sheila Greenbaum as Treasurer of both the parent Historical Society and the Court of Appeals branch on April 13, 2019, reported the balance of the parent account as \$10,003.19 and the Appeals account as \$14,404.92.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that Judge Alice Senechal had replaced Judge Ralph Erickson to represent North Dakota on the Historical Society's Board of Directors. She said that the Historical Society website had been updated with Judge Smith Camp's review of the recently published Nebraska history, *Echo of Its Time*, and the U.S. Courts Library's recent display, *The 8th and 10th Circuits: Court Family for 90 Years*. She said the display was made in celebration of the 90th anniversary of birth of the Eighth Circuit as we know it today and our sister Tenth Circuit, created when the Eighth Circuit was divided in two in 1929. She also reported that as part of National Library Week activities, the Library sent all court staff a history trivia quiz based on Historical Society website content.

Transition of Treasurer for Parent Society & COA Branch

Mr. Wilson said that Ms. Greenbaum and he had met so she could hand over to him the treasurer's files and go over the various tasks involved, including the tax filing. He wished to thank Sheila for getting him up to speed.

Card for Sheila Greenbaum

With Sheila's card in circulation, Mr. Lyford requested that Ms. Voelker let him know when she received the card as the last person to sign. He planned to send flowers to arrive at the same time as the card.

Accountant to Assist Treasurer

With the Board having approved Treasurer Wilson's authority to engage an accountant to assist the him in the filing of taxes for the parent Society and the individual branches, Mr. Wilson reported that he had contacted an accountant and planned to contact more firms to see what they charge. He said that he would pass on the information.

An inquiry was made as to the filing deadline for the Historical Society, and Ms. Voelker stated that it was November 15.

Position of Chair

Mr. Boyd reported that he had spoken with an Eighth Circuit Judge about the prospect of succeeding Judge Kopf as Historical Society Chair. He said that the Judge was open to the idea but wanted to learn more about what the position entails. Judge Kopf offered to call the Judge to share this information. He described the position as one that facilitates meetings, opening the Board of Directors meetings and then turning the helm over to the President. Mr. Boyd chimed in, saying that Judge Kopf had been an excellent liaison between the Board and the Eighth Circuit federal judiciary.

Branch Regulations

Assistant Vice President Nick Batter described this project as reviewing the existing branch regulations to analyze compliance with the Society's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, with the intent to reach out to the branches to update their regulations and in doing do, reconcile any discrepancies.

Prior to the meeting, Assistant Vice President Nick Batter had emailed the Executive Committee a chart summarizing his survey of the branch regulations. Mr. Batter noted during the meeting that he was missing the South Dakota regulations, and Ms. Voelker said that she would send them to him.

Based on his analysis, he suggested that rather than reaching out to the branches to individually reconcile conflicts found in their regulations, that the Society amend the Bylaws to be more in keeping with the branches' actual operation. The Executive Committee thought this was an elegant solution. Mr. Batter said that he would send out a list of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws so that they would be ready for consideration at the next Board meeting to be held in Omaha, in conjunction with the August 2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Mr. Batter and the rest of the Committee further discussed offering a model set of branch regulations to facilitate the branches' need to simplify and update their regulations.

Mr. Batter said that he would modify letters previously drafted to the branches to reflect this new approach.

Circuit Oral Histories

The topic then turned to the project to carry out oral history interviews of the Eighth Circuit's court of appeals judges who have taken senior status or will reach the age of 70 by 2021.

Status Updates

Judge Michael J. Melloy (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) – Senior Status

Mr. Lyford said he had not been in contact with Judge Melloy since the last Executive Committee meeting when it was reported that the interview had been slated for summer 2019.

Judge James B. Loken (Minneapolis, Minnesota) – Age over 70

Mr. Boyd said he had been in touch with Judge Loken but had no further updates on the scheduling of the interview.

Next Target Interviews

Judge Duane Benton (Kansas City, Missouri) – Turns 70 in 2020

Mr. Lyford had no further updates regarding Judge Benton's interview, which is planned for summer 2019.

Judge Bobby Shepherd (El Dorado, Arkansas) – Turns 70 in 2021

In Frances Ross' absence, it was noted that Judge Susan Hickey had agreed to interview Judge Shepherd.

Other Items

Nebraska History

Judge Kopf mentioned that the recently published history of the District of Nebraska, *Echo of Its Time*, will be featured prominently at the 2020 Judicial Conference in Omaha. He said that Judge Smith Camp is working on the program and that the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote will be a centerpiece.

Broadcasting Historical Topics

Circuit Librarian Eric Brust described a project that the U.S. Courts Library has worked on with the AO's Office of Public Affairs (OPA). OPA's video team is creating a video on Nebraska's Chief Standing Bear case, and the Library sent them a good deal of research. He said that the video team is going to Nebraska this summer to film some content and that he had encouraged them to contact Judge Smith Camp, who is very knowledgeable on the topic.

Mr. Brust suggested that Historical Society branches wanting to spread the word about their good work could convey historical topics to the OPA and to the Library. He said that the Library's June newsletter would feature Judge Heaney as a D-Day hero and offered the Library newsletter as a vehicle for broadcasting historical topics. Anyone wishing to share ideas may contact Eric Brust, 314-244-2660, eric_bust@ca8.uscourts.gov.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.**

There being no other business, the conference call meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Voelker".

Joan Voelker, Secretary