

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
September 12, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chair
Hon. Jane Kelly, Chair Candidate
F. Richard Lyford, President
Nick Batter, Assistant Vice President
Benjamin Wilson, Treasurer
Joan Voelker, Secretary
Tom Boyd, Past-President

Roll call was taken. Circuit Librarian Eric Brust was unable to take part in the meeting due to work travel.

Welcome to Judge Kelly

Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, Judge Kelly had graciously agreed to succeed Judge Kopf as Chair of the Historical Society when he steps down and to begin taking part in the teleconference Executive Committee meetings. As this was Judge Kelly's first meeting with the Committee, Judge Kopf welcomed her and introduced her to the group, briefly outlining her background. In turn, each member of the Committee welcomed Judge Kelly and introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee's last meeting on June 20, 2019, were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ben Wilson reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,976.96, reflecting the deduction of \$30 to file the parent Society's biennial corporate registration with the Missouri Secretary of State and the addition of a very small amount of interest. He reported the Appeals account balance as \$14,404.92.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Joan Voelker reported that Jeffrey Simon replaced Larry Rouse as the Western District of Missouri branch's president and representative on the Board of Directors. She also said that she had received all of the branch annual financial reports and only lacked a few of the activities reports. She said that she would pursue the missing reports and post all to the website.

Accountant to Assist Treasurer

Mr. Wilson said that he had gotten pricing on hiring someone to handle the tax e-filing for the parent Society and individual branches but thought that the cost was relatively high for the small amount of time it would take to do this task. He then offered to take this on himself, noting that he had instructions from former treasurer Sheila Greenbaum, whose law firm had performed the e-filing since tax year 2008, and that he could contact Ms. Greenbaum if questions arose. The Executive Committee agreed to take Mr. Wilson up on his offer and thanked him. It was discussed that the e-filing was due by November 15.

Position of Chair

Chair Judge Kopf said that if Judge Kelly was still willing, she would assume the position of Chair of the Historical Society in August 2020. This would take place after a required vote of the Board of Directors at their meeting held in conjunction with the Judicial Conference in Omaha.

Board Meeting at Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference

Ms. Voelker said that a detailed agenda of the conference was not yet available to her, but that when she could access one, she could suggest time slots to consider for the board meeting. President Lyford said that he was planning to send a notice to the branches in January inviting them to display recent historical publications at the conference.

Branch Regulations

Assistant Vice President Nick Batter reported on the project to review the existing branch regulations for compliance with the Society's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. He said that his analysis revealed that the simplest solution would be to amend the Bylaws rather than ask the branches to revise their regulations. Judge Kopf, who is also working on this project, and Mr. Batter discussed the need to rewrite both the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws so as to not compel the branch regulations to be too rigid. It was noted that the Historical Society has functioned well without revision to these documents, but that it would be good to have legal documents that are not in conflict with each other. Judge Kopf and Nick Batter will continue to work on this project so that the proposed revisions can be put before the Board at its meeting in August.

Circuit Oral Histories

There were no substantive updates on 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.

Judge Michael J. Melloy (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) – Senior Status
Judge James B. Loken (Minneapolis, Minnesota) – Age over 70
Judge Duane Benton (Kansas City, Missouri) – Turns 70 in 2020
Judge Bobby Shepherd (El Dorado, Arkansas) – Turns 70 in 2021

Other Items

Judge Bennett

President Lyford said that Anthony Gaughan is thinking of writing Judge Mark Bennett's biography and that he will assist him in this project.

Nebraska Court History CLE

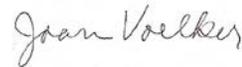
Judge Kopf said that the Nebraska Federal Practice Committee was sponsoring a CLE on September 20, 2019, on the topic of Nebraska court history. Presenters would include Dr. John Wunder and Dr. Mark Scherer, authors of *Echo of Its Time: A History of the Federal District Court of Nebraska*, and Judge Laurie Smith Camp, whose father was the Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted the Dennison case.

Next meeting

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary