

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
December 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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee's last meeting on September 12, 2019, were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilson reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,980.69 and the Appeals account balance as \$14,404.92. He said that he had completed e-filing with the IRS for the parent Society and branches without any problem. He added that he had checked with Sheila Greenbaum's assistant to make sure that he was proceeding correctly.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that the branch reports received to date had been posted on the Historical Society website. She noted that the website had not functioned well for several months and said that there was now a new internet address for the site that would make it function as it should. She said that she would distribute the new address to the Historical Society executive committee and board of directors and to the clerks of Eighth Circuit courts and the Federal Judicial Center History Office.

2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference

a) Board meeting

A time was agreed upon for the biennial board meeting held in conjunction with the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference: Wednesday, August 5 at either 2:30 or 3:30, to be scheduled with the Circuit Executive's Office. [Following the meeting, Secretary Voelker conveyed to the committee that the Circuit Executive's Office placed the board meeting in the 2:30 time slot on August 5.

b) Displays

Ms. Voelker shared that Judge Smith Camp had reserved the ABA's traveling display, "100 Years After the 19th Amendment: Their Legacy, and Our Future" and that the U.S. Courts Library was planning to use digital kiosks for displays. President Lyford suggested having a display of recent historical publications, similar to the last conference.

Election of Officers

As successors for the positions of treasurer and chair had previously been identified, the committee turned to the other two positions that have expressed an interest in stepping down after many years of excellent service: president and vice president. Candidates were not identified at this time. Chair Judge Kopf suggested that President Lyford continue for one more term, and Mr. Lyford said that he would consider it.

Branch Regulations

Discussion turned to the project to update the branch regulations to reflect de facto branch operation and to comply with parent legal documents. In order to simplify this endeavor, Chair Judge Kopf and Assistant Vice President Nick Batter drafted a revision to the Society's Articles of Incorporation making them broad enough to allow the branches maximum structural flexibility and drafted a revision to the parent Bylaws conforming them to those ideas. It was noted that while the branches would be given this wide flexibility in drafting revisions to their regulations, the board will still have veto power in that any proposed revisions would need to be approved by the board.

The drafted revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws had been shared with the committee via email prior to the meeting, and the committee agreed with the proposed revisions. It was discussed that redlined versions would be prepared for the board's consideration at the meeting in August and that the notice deadline for the board meeting was 30 days prior to the meeting date. Judge Kopf asked Ms. Voelker to contact him closer to the date regarding how to share the revisions.

Judge Kopf also asked Mr. Wilson if one of the corporate attorneys at his firm could file the amended Articles of Incorporation with the Missouri Secretary of State. It was noted that Secretary Voelker would need to sign the filing and that Treasurer Wilson would need to write a check for the filing fee.

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.

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

Mr. Lyford reported that he had seen Judge Melloy at a function and that Judge Melloy indicated he was willing to have his oral history done.

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

Mr. Boyd said that Judge Loken had prepared some of his files and an outline and that Judge Loken and Judge Hansen were discussing a timeline for the interview. Mr. Boyd thought it might possibly take place this spring when Judge Hansen would be traveling to Minnesota.

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

Mr. Lyford said that he had no updates on this project.

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

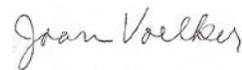
Ms. Ross said that Judge Susan Hickey was working on this interview.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary