

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
March 12, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

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

Roll call was taken. Circuit Judge Jane Kelly, Chair Candidate, and Circuit Librarian Eric Brust were unable to take part in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilson reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,984.42 and the Appeals account balance as \$14,404.92.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker said that she had submitted the Historical Society's parent annual report for inclusion in the Eighth Circuit Annual Report and posted it on the website. She reported that the North Dakota branch had completed the oral history of Senior U.S. District Judge Patrick Conmy and had posted it on YouTube. She said that she had placed a link to the interview on the Historical Society website.

2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference

a) Board meeting

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, it was noted that it was possible that the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference could be cancelled and that should that happen, the Board could conduct its biennial meeting via teleconference.

b) Displays

Prior to the meeting, Judge Kelly had conveyed through email that South Dakota Judge Karen

Schreier had said that a few authors who had books relevant to the theme for this year's conference would like to display them in some fashion at the Judicial Conference. The committee discussed the matter, and President Lyford said that he would write letters to the authors inviting them to display their books at the conference. Judge Kopf suggested also displaying Judge Warren Urbom's book and the history of the District of Nebraska, which had been published since the last Judicial Conference. Ms. Voelker shared that Judge Smith Camp had asked the League of Women Voters in the Eighth Circuit states to each develop a display for the conference.

Election of Officers

President Lyford and Vice President Ross had earlier in the year expressed a willingness to step down after many years of service, it was discussed which position would be filled by Assistant Vice President Nick Batter. During this meeting, Mr. Lyford generously agreed to continue to serve as president for another term, and it was agreed that Mr. Batter would be the candidate for the position of vice president, which will be put to a vote of the Board at its next meeting.

Revision of Historical Society documents

As Judge Kopf and Mr. Batter had previously shared the draft revisions to the parent Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws with the committee for their consideration, it was noted that the next step would be to put the proposed revisions before the Board for their approval at the its next meeting. If the proposed revisions are approved, the redlining would be removed as appropriate and the amended Articles of Incorporation filed with the Missouri Secretary of State through Mr. Wilson's law firm. Judge Kopf asked Secretary Voelker to distribute the proposed revisions to the Board when she emails them notice of the Board meeting.

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 said that he would follow up with Judge Melloy.

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

Mr. Boyd reported that Judge Loken's oral history had been recorded that very morning in Minneapolis. He said the interview, conducted by Judge David Hansen, went very well and lasted over two hours.

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

Mr. Lyford said that he would follow up with Judge Benton.

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

There were no further updates on this project.

Other Items

Mr. Batter reported that he was working with Ms. Voelker to compile a spreadsheet of oral histories and other primary source material on the Eighth Circuit's federal judges. He said he had been developing a spreadsheet and would share it with the committee for their input. He also offered to extend the scope to state materials if anyone in the committee wished the share information on such sources. Judge Kopf mentioned Judge Urbom's judicial papers collection, and it was discussed that the National Archives in Kansas City holds materials documenting the history of the Eighth Circuit.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary