

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
June 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

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

Roll call was taken, and all were present.

2020 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference

Chair Judge Kopf, before turning the meeting over to President Lyford, addressed the most pressing business before the executive committee, the biennial board meeting typically held in conjunction with the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference. He conveyed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Conference, planned to occur in Omaha in August, had been cancelled. He then proposed how to hold the biennial meeting of the Historical Society.

a) Board meeting

Judge Kopf outlined his proposal for a virtual meeting of the Historical Society. He said that he could email a notice to the board conveying that the Historical Society would not meet in person this year due to COVID-19 but that it could conduct business virtually by means of email. On this notice he would present the business of the Historical Society with two agenda items: 1) the election of officers and 2) the proposed amendments to the parent Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. He would state that if there was no objection by a board member by a certain date, the candidates for elected office and the proposed amendments would go into effect. He would further state that if there was an objection, the board would meet via conference call. He suggested that if there was a need for a conference call because of an objection, the date of the call would be the date previously set by the committee for its meeting at the conference, that is Wednesday, August 5, at 2:30 p.m. CST. Everyone agreed to Judge Kopf's proposal for the board's 2020 meeting. Judge Kopf asked that Ms. Voelker send him a list of the Historical Society email addresses.

b) Displays

Prior to the meeting and in discussions of displays for the Judicial Conference, Judge Karen

Schreier had told Mr. Lyford and Ms. Voelker about items the South Dakota Historical Society [the state historical society] was selling to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. With the conference cancelled, Mr. Lyford shared the link to the online store with the committee and said he was planning to buy items for the women in his family.

Guidance for the branches

It was suggested and agreed that branch annual reports would be made optional this pandemic year.¹

Mr. Lyford said that the Southern District of Iowa was planning to hold its annual meeting in one of the courtrooms with social distancing.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee's last meeting on March 12, 2020, were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilson reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,985.66 and the Appeals account balance as \$14,404.92.

Judge Kopf asked Mr. Wilson to email him the account balances so he could convey these to the board when he notified them about the board meeting.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that South Dakota board member Donald Knudsen had stepped down and that the branch was looking for a replacement. She also said that she would send out the notice for branch annual reports but convey that the report is optional this year.

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 had been sent a copy of his interview for approval and that he needed to follow up on this.

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined by Judge Kopf and Mr. Lyford that branch reports would be required to comply with IRS requirements.

Judge Duane Benton (Kansas City, Missouri) – Turns 70 in 2020
There were no further updates on this project.

Judge Bobby Shepherd (El Dorado, Arkansas) – Turns 70 in 2021
There were no further updates on this project.

Other Items

It was discussed that the Eighth Circuit plans to hold its Judicial Conference open to the bench and bar next year, October 27-29, 2021, at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Mr. Batter said that he spoke with Judge Smith Camp, who planned the programming for this year's Judicial Conference, and offered to have the speakers submit their materials related to the 19th Amendment for inclusion in the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.**

Judge Kopf noted that as he would not be on the September executive committee meeting call, someone else would need to schedule the conference call with AT&T. It was agreed that this be discussed before the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary