

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
August 22, 2005, 12:15 p.m.

Officers participating:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, President
Frances Ross, Vice President
Ann Fessenden, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer

Others participating:

Tom Boyd, Past-President

Historical Society President Judge Kopf called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee Chair Tom Boyd (who replaced Ann Fessenden, after she asked to be relieved as Chair), reported on the proposed slate of officers:

Judge Richard Kopf, Chairman of the Board
Prof. Frances Ross, President
Mr. Richard Lyford, Vice-President
Ms. Ann Fessenden, Secretary
Ms. Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer

He also reported that all had been contacted and indicated that they were willing to serve. The Executive Committee members all agreed with the slate. Tom Boyd will send a written report that can be sent to the Board members along with their notice of the upcoming meeting.

Judicial Conference meeting

A Board of Directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the 8th Circuit Judicial Conference on **Thursday, October 20, at 2:00 p.m. in the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado**. Judge Kopf asked the Committee for agenda items. Topics identified included: report of Nominating Committee and election, discussion and vote on by-laws changes, reports by individual branches, and open discussion.

Ann Fessenden inquired if further bylaws amendments were needed to separate the offices of secretary and treasurer and also whether it was necessary to forbid branches from having any court employees as officers. Judge Kopf indicated that the current bylaws allow for either combined or separate offices of secretary and treasurer, and that it would be better for full compliance with the new ethics rules if the branches did not have any employee officers. He said that he would be reluctant to further change the bylaws proposals because they had been reviewed by the Chief District judges.

Judge Kopf inquired about the meeting notice that needs to be sent to the Board. Ann Fessenden indicated that she will prepare a draft and send to him for his approval, and then issue the notice at least 30 days before the meeting, as required in the bylaws. Sheila Greenbaum asked if it would be possible to find out who would be reporting for each branch at the meeting. After some discussion about the difficulty of getting reports from the branches, it was decided that Ann will include a reminder in the meeting notice, and forward any reports she gets electronically to the full Board. Also, Judge Kopf volunteered to call each Chief District Judge to encourage them to be sure someone from their branch attends the meeting. Ann Fessenden called to his attention that North Dakota is currently without a judge Board member, and Judge Kopf agreed to let Chief Judge Hovland know about this vacancy.

Newsletter

Ann Fessenden reported that she and Joan Voelker will be preparing the Historical Society's semi-annual newsletter for distribution at the Judicial Conference and encouraged everyone to provide articles or article suggestions. Some topics they are currently considering include: the proposed new bylaws, the State and Federal Court Historical Societies meeting held last year in St. Louis, the first all-female panel in the Circuit, an article about Lewis and Clark previously written by Tom Boyd, and a memorial listing of judges who have died since the last conference. Tom Boyd will prepare an item on the status of the new 8th Circuit History. Frances Ross suggested a reminder about the importance of preserving judges' papers. She will also try to think of other possible topics. The deadline for articles will be **September 20**.

Display

Ann Fessenden asked for guidance from the Executive Committee as to the topic for an historical display at the Conference. The two topics she and Joan Voelker are considering include the 20th anniversary of the Historical Society, and the historical connection between the 8th and 10th Circuits. After some discussion, it was determined that the topic with widest appeal would probably be the 8th/10th connection, but that it would be desirable to distribute a brochure or handout at the Conference calling attention to the Historical Society's anniversary. Ann and Joan will work on both of those.

Ethics Compliance Issues

Ann Fessenden reported that she has obtained a post office box so that the Historical Society's official address could be different from that of the Court. The address is:

**PO Box 595
St. Louis, MO 63188**

She has not yet had language added to the web page to clarify that the Historical Society is not a part of the Court. She will draft and send to Judge Kopf for approval.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary