

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
March 15, 2006 9:00 a.m.

Participants:

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chairman of the Board
Frances Ross, President
F. Richard Lyford, Vice-President
Ann Fessenden, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer
Tom Boyd, Past-President
Hon. Richard Peterson, Past-President
Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian

Ms. Ross called the meeting to order shortly before 9:00 a.m. All Executive Committee members were present.

Court of Appeals book and fund-raising

Mr. Boyd was going to have to leave soon for court, so he began with a report on Court of Appeals fund-raising. A donation of \$2500 has been received from his law firm, and \$1000 from the Southern District of Iowa. The Northern District of Iowa has also agreed to donate \$1000. (Presumably, these are from the courts' attorney admission fee funds.) He is also pursuing a number of other prospects, several of which look quite promising. Several committee members mentioned other donor prospects. The funds will be used to complete paying Prof. Morris, the author of the Court of Appeals history, and for costs associated with publication of the book. The book is currently going through the production process at the University of Minnesota Press. He will contact Ms. Greenbaum soon to get checks for some of these payments, and will also contact Ms. Voelker to get reproductions of some of the photos that will be used in the book.

Minutes

Mr. Boyd then excused himself and Ms. Ross returned to the original agenda. The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Newsletter

The discussion turned to whether the newsletter needed to be produced more frequently and issued in electronic form. (Mailing costs for print distribution would be prohibitive.) Concern was expressed about the time requirements and pressure that a more frequent schedule would impose on the library staff. It was suggested that perhaps we could ask the 8th Circuit Bar Association to regularly include Historical Society news in their newsletter. Judge Kopf moved that Ms. Fessenden contact the editor to see if she would be willing to do this. This was approved and will be done.

Other publicity methods

Discussion then turned to other possible ways to publicize the Society. It was suggested that when the Court of Appeals book is published, we could try to have reviews published in newspapers and academic journals. All agreed that this should be pursued. Possibly activities at the next full 8th Circuit Judicial Conference (presumably 2007) were discussed. The Executive Committee members agreed that a historical speaker should be included on the main conference program, perhaps Prof. Morris. A breakfast meeting and program would also be desirable. Ms. Fessenden will keep the group informed about date and location of the conference and when it might be appropriate to submit a proposal to a program committee.

Finances

Ms. Ross asked about the state of the Society funds. Ms. Greenbaum reported that the balance in the “parent” account was, \$13,653.60; the Appeals Branch has \$7,326.31 (excluding new donations just received or in process.)

Secretary’s time limitations

Ms. Fessenden reported that she has been elected vice-president/president-elect of the American Association of Law Libraries. She will serve as vice-president for a year beginning in July and president the following year. This is a very large time commitment and will involve a great deal of travel. Therefore, she is concerned about her ability to continue to adequately fulfill her Historical Society duties. Ms. Voelker will assist, but her part-time work schedule limits her availability. Judge Kopf suggested that if Ms. Fessenden should find it necessary to step down, it would be important that another court employee fill that role, perhaps a member of the Circuit Executive’s staff. It was agreed that Ms. Fessenden will continue for now as secretary and monitor how well she is able to keep up with Society matters.

Next meeting

June 14, 2006 at 12:00 noon was chosen as the date for the next conference call.

Other announcements

Ms. Fessenden informed the group that the Court of Appeals will hold a memorial session for Judge Theodore McMillian on April 17. Also, Ms. Voelker has been working with the Circuit Executive’s Office and a contractor to develop a permanent display honoring Judge McMillian on the 27th floor of the Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary