

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
September 20, 2006, 12:00 noon

Participants:

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

Historical Society President Frances Ross and Past-President Tom Boyd were unable to participate in the call. Vice-President Richard Lyford conducted the meeting in Ms. Ross' absence and called the meeting to order at noon.

Minutes

The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Finances

Ms. Greenbaum reported that the balance in the parent account was, \$13,747.13. After an expenditure of \$140 to pay for use of a courthouse photo in the court history, the Appeals Branch had a balance of \$4,686.31.

Branch Reports

Ms. Fessenden reported on the receipt of 2006 annual reports from the branches. She said that most were in and named those missing. Plans were made to contact the branches that had not yet submitted reports and to post the reports on the Society's web site.

Board of Directors Vacancy for South Dakota Branch

It was noted that the South Dakota branch had a vacancy on the Board of Directors, as Mark Marshall had stepped down. Judge Kopf said that he would contact Chief Judge Karen Schreier regarding a possible replacement.

AASLH/Court History Group

Ms. Voelker reported on the 2006 meeting of the Court History Group, held Sept. 14-15 in Phoenix in conjunction with the American Association of State and Local History's (AASLH) annual meeting and gave the account below.

On Thursday evening the group gathered at the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Courthouse for a panel discussion and reception. The panel featured five former law clerks, now Arizona judges

and attorneys, to U.S. Supreme Court Justices Rehnquist and O'Connor who shared their experiences clerking for the Court.

On Friday, the group sponsored a morning program, "Visualizing Court History—Documentaries and Legal History," and a court history luncheon. Keynote speaker Dean Toni Massaro of the University of Arizona spoke on "Establishing the Rehnquist Center on Constitutional Structures and Judicial Independence." In the afternoon, the court history group met to discuss three topics: models for organizing a court historical program, the group's new court history listserv as a means of communicating throughout the year, and planning for the 2007 meeting in Atlanta. Ms. Voelker represented the 8th Circuit's U.S. Courts Library and Historical Society on the panel regarding court historical programs.

Mr. Lyford asked if this group would know of possible uses for old courthouses. In order to justify building a new county courthouse, he must propose uses for the old county courthouse. Ms. Voelker offered to ask the listserv and report back.

Oral Histories in Iowa

Mention was made of oral history projects in Iowa's Northern and Southern branches.

Mr. Lyford said that Judge Fagg had been interviewed by Judge Hansen, and now Judge Hansen needed to be interviewed. He asked for advice on how to begin this project, and agreed to talk to the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Iowa.

Judge Peterson reported that he was trying to arrange oral history interviews with Southern District of Iowa Judges Gritzner and Pratt.

Next meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2006 at 12:00 noon was chosen as the date for the next conference call.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary