

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

Participants:

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

Historical Society President Frances Ross called the meeting to order at noon.

Minutes

The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Finances

Ms. Greenbaum stated that the balance in the parent account was, \$13,811.91, though this figure did not include the check for \$21.76 made out to Joan Voelker for reimbursement of postage paid for various Historical Society mailings, as the statement was received on the day the check was written. The appeals account was reported at \$4,436.81.

Update on the 8th Circuit History

Mr. Boyd reported that earlier this month he had received the edited manuscript of the 8th Circuit history in Word format. He said that the University of Minnesota Press would make further changes, and then the manuscript would proceed to the galley proof stage. He also said the Press would try to remain on schedule by including the title in the spring catalog and offering the book for sale in summer 2007.

There was much discussion about how to promote the book. Several felt that Judge Morris Arnold would be the ideal reviewer for the book, himself being an esteemed published historian with all the necessary credentials. Judge Kopf suggested flying the author, Prof. Jeffrey Morris, to St. Louis or Minneapolis for a cocktail party and getting the press to attend at a time when the court of appeals would be sitting, and perhaps the Court of Appeals could recognize the book in a special session. It was decided that Ms. Fessenden would introduce this idea to Chief Judge Loken. Vice-President Lyford noted that the book promotion could also be used as a springboard for membership.

Branch Reports

Ms. Voelker said that most of the 2006 annual reports have been received from the branches and that those outstanding were expected in the near future. She said that the reports received to date had been posted on the Society's web site.

Ms. Voelker announced that as of the prior day, the Historical Society had a new Internet address and that the 2006 reports and the minutes of the executive committee's Sept. 20 meeting could only be accessed there. She said that an email would be sent providing the URL to the new site:

http://www.lb8.uscourts.gov/pubsandservices/histsociety/hist_society.html

Board of Directors Vacancy for South Dakota Branch

Judge Kopf announced that Mr. Donald P. Knudsen of Gunderson, Palmer, Goodsell & Nelson in Rapid City would replace Mark Marshall as the South Dakota representative on the Board of Directors. Ms. Fessenden said she would send him a welcome letter.

New Archeological Exhibit Planned for St. Louis

Joan Voelker reported that work was underway on a permanent exhibit for the Judicial Learning Center in the Thomas F. Eagleton U.S. Courthouse in St. Louis. The exhibit will feature artifacts unearthed during the construction of the Eagleton Courthouse which began in 1994.

She gave the following account of the artifacts. They are remains from the dwellings that stood on the ground currently occupied by the Courthouse. GSA owns the items but is happy to make them available for display in the building. As identified by the Archeological Research Center of St. Louis, Inc., they come from the Antebellum Period (1840-1860), Victorian Period (1860-1880), and Late Victorian Period (1880-1900), with the majority coming from the first two periods. Typical materials are ceramic dinnerware, tea sets, and glass bottles, but there also is a chamber pot, oil lamp, clay pipe stem, porcelain doll leg, derringer, and brooch.

Ms. Voelker said that the District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri was in the process of purchasing display cases, and that she, Laura Dreon, and Mary Kay Candido, both of District Court, would be putting the display together.

Judge Kopf expressed interest in seeing digital images of the derringer and brooch, and Mr. Lyford asked if the display might travel. Ms. Voelker said she would send Judge Kopf the images of the derringer and brooch, currently in Michael Gans' custody, and conveyed to Mr. Lyford that loaning the display would have to be approved by GSA.

Publicity

Ms. Fessenden recounted that last year the executive committee had decided to pursue the Eighth Circuit Bar Association newsletter as a means of publishing Historical Society news, though the restriction with this venue was that the newsletter only covered the Court of Appeals. As a follow up, she wanted Joan Voelker to convey which history related articles had appeared in the Bar newsletter during the course of the year.

Ms. Voelker said an article had appeared in each of the Bar's five issues in 2006. Ms. Ross submitted an article describing the Historical Society and summarizing the many projects undertaken by the parent organization and branches. Another article summarized the contents of the Historical Society's 2005 newsletter and provided a link to it. An article announced the Society's project to publish the history of the 8th Circuit, mentioning the 8th Circuit Bar Association's contribution of \$2000. There were also articles on the permanent and traveling displays honoring Judge Theodore McMillian and the temporary display placed in the St. Louis Courthouse's Judicial Learning Center.

It was pointed out that further publicity would be covered by the press on the publication of the circuit history.

Bibliography Project

Mr. Lyford suggested an idea for a bibliography project. He said that in conjunction with the Eighth Circuit history, each branch could suggest additional historical titles related to the circuit. Mr. Boyd noted that he had begun a bibliography of sources about the Appeals judges which was posted on the Appeals branch page of the Historical Society's web site (http://www.lb8.uscourts.gov/pubsandservices/histsociety/coa8_judicial-bibliography.html). It was agreed that the branches could submit their sources for the bibliography covering all the federal courts of the 8th Circuit to Mr. Boyd.

Southern District of Iowa

Judge Peterson indicated his plans to interview in the Spring to update the District's history, "No One is Above the Law: the Story of Southern Iowa's Federal Court."

Northern District of Iowa

Mr. Lyford, who serves as a board member for the Southern District of Iowa, reported that he was trying to invigorate the Northern District of Iowa branch. He said the Northern District's Chief Judge Reade had agreed to give the branch \$3,000 from the attorney admission fee fund for this purpose. Mr. Lyford said he would be meeting with members of the Iowa bar and requested the regulations of the Northern District.

Nebraska

Judge Kopf announced that the District of Nebraska branch would consider whether to make every member of the Nebraska bar a member of the branch since some funds are taken from the attorney admission fee fund. He requested the regulations of the Nebraska branch.

Next meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 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