

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
June 27, 2007, 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
Thomas H. Boyd, Past-President
Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian

Historical Society President Frances Ross was unable to participate in the call, so Board Chair Judge Kopf presided, calling 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 interest-bearing parent account had slightly risen to \$13,960.24, while the non-interest-bearing Court of Appeals account remained the same at \$4,686.31.

8th Circuit History

a) Publication progress

Mr. Boyd said that the copyedited manuscript of the 8th Circuit history was going to be reviewed by a professional proofreader and that publication is scheduled for fall, 2007. He said it should sell for \$39.95.

b) Publicity

Venues for publicizing the book were mentioned: an 8th Circuit symposium in the fall at the University of Iowa and a three-panel court week for the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in November in St. Louis. Ms. Fessenden noted that the Court currently is not sitting in the St. Paul courthouse due to construction of new space so that courthouse is not a likely venue. Mr. Boyd said that the Minnesota Press may be able to provide a poster or display to publicize the book and will supply 100 complimentary copies for donors.

c) Bibliography project

Mr. Lyford said he had two citations for the Iowa Supreme Court, and Mr. Boyd mentioned the bibliography he compiled a few years ago on the 8th Circuit judges. Judge Kopf suggested that

Ms. Voelker supply a list of 8th Circuit oral histories. Ms. Voelker said she had compiled a couple of variations on such a list and that she and her assistant were in the process of putting the information into an Excel spreadsheet.

Judge Lay's Memorial

Judge Peterson inquired as to when Judge Lay's memorial would be and offered his assistance as he and Judge Lay were roommates in college. Ms. Fessenden said that a date had not yet been set but that she would let the committee know when it was scheduled. Mr. Boyd said that the Minnesota chapter of the Federal Bar Association paid tribute to Circuit Judges Lay and Heaney, and Judge Heaney spoke at the event. Ms. Greenbaum and others pointed out that Judge Lay cared deeply about the preservation of court history and was instrumental in establishing the 8th Circuit Historical Society.

Branch Reports

Ms. Voelker said that she would send notice to the board that it was time to submit annual reports as of June 30. She noted that this included branch activities and financial reports and the parent financial report; she said that the parent activities report is completed in January for publication in the 8th Circuit Annual Report. Ms. Voelker reported that one report had already been received, and Mr. Lyford said he had just mailed the minutes from the Southern District of Iowa's meeting.

Nomination of Officers and 2007 Board Meeting

Judge Kopf suggested that the executive committee nominate the current officers for another term and that the board of directors hold a meeting via conference call in late September or early October. The executive committee approved the nomination of the current officers and tentatively set a date of October 3, 2007, at noon for the board meeting, pending approval from President Ross. Judge Kopf asked Ms. Voelker to confirm this date with Ms. Ross. He said that he and Ms. Ross would draft an agenda that he would send to Ms. Voelker for dissemination to the board with notice of the meeting. He offered to have his judicial assistant coordinate the call with Sprint. He also asked the committee for any agenda items, and the following was noted: Approval of Branch Regulations for Nebraska and Iowa.

Mr. Lyford let the committee know that in Iowa it is customary for the chief judge to represent his or her district court on the board of directors of the 8th Circuit Historical Society. As the Society currently has other judges listed as members of the board for Iowa, Judge Kopf suggested that Ms. Fessenden send a letter to the current chief judges of the Southern and Northern Districts of Iowa acknowledging their participation with a cc to the judges formerly representing the districts. Ms. Fessenden agreed to do so.

Proposed Change in Nebraska Branch Regulations

Judge Kopf reported that the judges of the Nebraska District Court, the Nebraska Federal Practice Committee, and the Nebraska branch all approved the change in regulations for the Nebraska branch. He said that the proposed regulations were pending approval of the parent Society's executive committee, at which point the executive committee approved the change in

regulations. Judge Kopf said the next step will be for the Federal Practice Committee to appoint the branch's officers. There was discussion of sharing the regulations with the other branches.

Judge John R. Gibson's Papers

Ms. Fessenden let the committee know that Judge Kopf's letter as Chair of the Historical Society encouraging the federal judges of the 8th Circuit to donate their chambers papers had proved fruitful: Circuit Judge John R. Gibson, in response, expressed interest in donating his papers. Ms. Fessenden said that the library provided Judge Gibson with a list of likely repositories, a listing Ms. Voelker compiled showing the locations of 8th Circuit judges' papers based on data from the FJC History Office as well as updates from 8th Circuit court staff. Judge Kopf asked Ms. Voelker to post this list on the Society's web site and inform the committee when it was available, and she agreed to do so.

Mr. Boyd shared that the University of Iowa, where Judge Lay's papers were recently donated, had a nice finding aid with biographical sketch available on their web site. [After the meeting he emailed the url: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/MsC858_laydonald.html.] Judge Kopf asked that Ms. Voelker share this information with Judge Gibson, and she said she would do so.

Other Business

Mr. Lyford suggested a possible project for the Society. He said that anecdotes from oral histories, such as the one he conducted of Iowa Supreme Court Justice McCormack, could provide a historical perspective on judicial independence.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary