

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
January 16, 2008, 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

Board Chair Judge Kopf welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the proceedings over to President Ross.

Minutes

The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Finances

Ms. Greenbaum reported that as of Dec. 30, 2007 the balance in the interest-bearing parent account was \$14,085.32, while the non-interest-bearing Court of Appeals account remained the same at \$4,686.31. She noted, however, that a check had recently been written from the Court of Appeals account in the amount of \$1,050.02 to the Chicago distribution center for the 8th Circuit history, leaving the Court of Appeals account at a current balance of \$3,636.29.

8th Circuit History

Thomas Boyd reported on the recent publication in December 2007 of the new full-length 8th Circuit history, *Establishing Justice in Middle America*. He said that he has received comments from the editor-in-chief and several of the judges, including Judge Webster who wrote the foreword, indicating they were pleased with the finished product. He also said that by agreement, the University of Minnesota Press supplied 100 complimentary copies. Twenty-five of these went to the author and the remaining 75 were sent to Circuit Executive Millie Adams for distribution to the 8th Circuit's active and senior status Article III judges. Mr. Boyd said he ordered 40 more for contributors and noted that he would send a copy to each person on the Executive Committee. He also noted the publisher will send copies to all 8th Circuit law reviews and state historical societies. In answer to a question, Mr. Boyd said he had written a couple of reviews for the book. He also confirmed for Ms. Fessenden that he had arranged for the author, Jeffrey Morris, to speak at the Judicial Conference on Thursday morning, Aug. 14. He concluded by thanking each person of the Executive Committee for their support in this project.

IRS Filing Requirement

a) New letter from IRS

Ms. Voelker indicated that the IRS had sent the Historical Society another letter in December regarding the new requirement for non-profit organizations to file a tax return in 2008 due to the elimination of the \$25,000 gross earnings ceiling for exemption. [The letter was included with the email outlining the meeting agenda.] She pointed out that the December letter differs from the previous one in that it outlines what information must be included in the electronic filing. Someone asked when the filing would be due, and Ms. Voelker said she believed it was in November, which would be five months after the close of the Historical Society fiscal year, and would confirm that.

b) Finding Professional to Advise the Executive Committee

It was suggested that the Historical Society use the services of either Treasurer Sheila Greenbaum or Vice President Richard Lyford's law firm for the purpose of advising the Executive Committee on the new annual electronic filing requirement. The question, as discussed in the October 2007 Board meeting, is whether the parent organization should file a joint return including all branches or whether the branches should file individually. It was determined that Sheila Greenbaum would consult her firm's resources. Chair Judge Kopf offered that the Historical Society could pay a fee, and Ms. Greenbaum suggested the fee be temporarily reserved, as it may be needed to pay the services of an accounting firm.

Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, Aug. 2008, Chicago

a) Program

Earlier in the meeting, it was confirmed that Prof. Morris would be speaking on the new 8th Circuit history.

b) Board meeting

Judge Kopf noted that it would be appropriate for the Board to meet to discuss whatever business lay at hand. Ms. Fessenden said she would contact Millie Adams to reserve a time slot for the meeting. It was pointed out that Wednesday afternoon this year is reserved for sessions for practicing attorneys, and Judge Kopf suggested that a breakfast meeting might avoid any potential conflicts with the conference schedule.

c) Display topics

Ms. Fessenden conveyed that the Historical Society typically prepares an exhibit for the conference. She related that the schedule indicates there would be a program on the Little Rock desegregation case and that the library's display committee created a display on this topic last September. She said the library will take this display to the conference and asked for ideas for an additional display. It was suggested there be a display related to the newly published 8th Circuit history, perhaps conveying an historical topic covered in the book or as Judge Kopf suggested, highlighting passages from the book, such as judges' quotes on other judges or text describing important cases.

Judges' Papers at JA Conference

Ms. Voelker shared with the Executive Committee that there was an hour-long presentation at the 8th Circuit Judicial Assistant Conference in October 2007 devoted to judges' papers. She said that Chief Historian Bruce Ragsdale of the Federal Judicial Center History Office generally conveyed the important and unique role that judicial papers have in documenting history.

Next Meeting

President Ross noted that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be Wed., April 9 at noon.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary