

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
April 9, 2008, 12:00 noon

Participants:

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

Treasurer Sheila Greenbaum was unable to participate in the call. 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

As Ms. Greenbaum was unavailable for the call, Judge Kopf asked that a request be made in the minutes for Ms. Greenbaum to submit, at her convenience, a report on finances.

IRS filing requirement: professional advice

Since Ms. Greenbaum was looking into whether her firm could provide assistance in this endeavor, the committee also asked that the minutes request a report from Ms. Greenbaum, at her convenience, on this topic.

Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference 2008, Chicago

a) Breakfast meeting

Archives Librarian Joan Voelker conveyed that arrangements had been made with the Circuit Executive's Office for a breakfast meeting of the Historical Society board of directors at the conference for Thursday, Aug. 14, at 7 a.m. She said that the Historical Society would cover the costs of the continental breakfast for invited persons at \$33.60 per person, including gratuity. With 27 invitees, the total could come to \$907.20. She noted that Professor Morris was being invited as a special guest. She explained how invitations and RSVPs would be handled by the Circuit Executive's Office. Paper invitations would be included in the Judicial Conference registration packets sent to Historical Society officers, board members, and invited guests. The judges' packets had already been mailed on March 24 and the non-judicial packets would be mailed the week of April 21. After the mailings are made, the Circuit Executive's Office would

follow up with an email invitation. RSVPs are due by July 20, at which time the Historical Society may be able to get an idea of how many plan to attend.

Ms. Voelker also stated that the library would send a meeting notice by June 19 (8 weeks out), along with a reminder to submit annual reports. She said the library would also draft an agenda, with the assistance of Judge Kopf and Ms. Ross, by July 17 (4 weeks out). After receiving input from the branches, a final agenda would be sent out by July 31 (2 weeks out).

b) Displays

Ms. Voelker said that the U.S. Courts Library was planning to put out two displays at the Conference: one, already completed, on the Little Rock Integration Crisis and a second on the first chapter of Prof. Morris' 8th Circuit history, covering the Circuit before 1891. She said she would send a message to the board in April offering the branches the opportunity to contribute to the display area at the conference. She will notify the Circuit Executive's Office of table and space needs by May 14, with a final update by July 17.

c) Copies of 8th Circuit history

The committee discussed how it might make copies of the newly published 8th Circuit history by Prof. Morris, *Establishing Justice in Middle America*, available at the conference. The possibility of selling it there was discussed, noting that it was unlikely the University of Minnesota Press would send someone to sell the copies and that in light of that, many details would have to be worked out, such as how to staff a table and collect money. Judge Kopf raised the question of the feasibility of the Circuit's attorney admission fee fund being used to buy copies for attorneys who are members of the 8th Circuit Bar. He added that it would be a very nice gesture by the Circuit to give attorneys paying the conference fees a free copy. Someone asked how much the book cost, and Mr. Boyd replied that the book sells for \$40 but that the Historical Society could purchase copies at a 40% discount provided it did not resell the discounted copies. It was noted that complimentary copies were given to the Article III judges and the Historical Society executive committee. By approved motion, the committee asked Mr. Boyd to contact Chief Judge Loken regarding the question of using attorney admission fee funds to purchase copies of the history for members of the 8th Circuit Bar attending the conference.

d) Program on *Establishing Justice in Middle America*

Mr. Boyd reported that the Thursday morning session on *Establishing Justice in Middle America* had been modified from a lecture format featuring author Jeffrey Morris to a panel discussion including Prof. Morris and Judges Morris Arnold, Bright, and Melloy, with himself as moderator. It was mentioned that buses would be leaving immediately following this session to attend a baseball game.

Annual reminder to preserve and donate judges' papers

Judge Kopf offered to send out the annual letter reminding the 8th Circuit judges of the importance in preserving and donating their papers.

Branch reports

Iowa

Mr. Lyford reported that there would be a kick off meeting of the Northern District of Iowa in Cedar Rapids on April 11 at 3:30. Mr. Lyford said he worked with Historical Society board members for Northern Iowa, Chief Judge Reade and Leo Strand, on this effort to reinvigorate the branch. Mr. Lyford also said there would be a meeting of the Southern District in Des Moines on June 20. Judge Peterson also reported that he would be interviewing judges to update his published history of the Southern District.

Eastern District of Arkansas

Ms. Ross reported that a manuscript of biographical sketches of the Arkansas federal judges had been sent to a publisher. She noted the efforts of Judge Morris Arnold on this endeavor.

Nebraska

Judge Kopf reported that new officers had been elected to the Nebraska branch and gave an update on the branch's project to publish a written history of the district. He said that because the author originally hired, Dr. John Wunder, had become sick, another professor at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln had been engaged to assist in the project. Judge Kopf said four chapters, or one half of the book, had been drafted. The book will cover the court from its inception to the Wounded Knee cases.

Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the executive committee would be Wed., July 2, 2008 at noon.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary