

**MINUTES**  
**Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
July 2, 2008, 12:00 noon

**Participants:**

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

Board Chair Judge Kopf announced that President Ross was unable to participate in the call and asked if any objected if he conducted the meeting. There were no objections.

Minutes

The minutes of the past conference call were approved.

Finances

Treasurer Greenbaum reported a balance of \$14,153.94 in the parent Society account and \$3,636.29 in the Court of Appeals branch account. She noted the interest-bearing parent account earns approximately \$10 per month.

IRS filing requirement: professional advice

Ms. Greenbaum said that she and firm colleague Amy Dunham had researched the IRS' new requirement that non-profit organizations file an e-postcard when their gross receipts are less than \$25,000, and in particular, whether the parent organization should file a group return including all branches or whether the branches should file individually. It was their conclusion that separate filings are required. Ms. Greenbaum reported that for the Parent Society, they had established an ID number and password with the IRS web site and registered and filed the e-postcard, but not yet for the subordinate branches by individual tax ID numbers. They will wait until the branch financial reports are received, due August 14, to actually file the 990 e-postcards for the subordinate branches.

Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference 2008, Chicago

a) Breakfast meeting

Ms. Voelker stated that the Board of Directors' breakfast meeting would be held Thurs., Aug. 14 at 7 a.m. She reported that notices were sent to the Board June 19 requesting agenda items, noting that RSVPs were due to the Circuit Executive's Office by July 20, and announcing the need to file branch annual reports on finances and activities as of June 30. She also noted that the agenda should be drafted by July 17 and sent to the Board by July 31. She offered to send a rough

draft agenda to Judge Kopf for his review and amendment. Judge Kopf said that with the Executive Committee's permission, he would work with Ms. Voelker on the agenda, and they agreed to this.

b) Displays

Ms. Voelker said that the U.S. Courts Library was planning to exhibit two displays at the Conference: one on the Little Rock Integration Crisis and a second on the first chapter of Prof. Morris' 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit history, covering the Circuit before 1891. She said she had sent a message to the Board in April offering the branches the opportunity to contribute to the display area at the conference and reported that the District of Minnesota plans to exhibit its Judge R.R. Nelson display and possibly a brochure summarizing the highlights of the court's 150 year history. Ms. Voelker said she had notified the Circuit Executive's Office of table and space needs in mid-May, and will need to give a final update by July 17.

c) 8th Circuit history

Mr. Boyd conveyed his efforts to arrange for registrants to receive free copies of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit history. He said that the University of Minnesota Press agreed to go beyond its usual 40 percent discount to a 50 percent discount on copies of the \$40 book. He also said that while Circuit Executive Millie Adams and Judge Kermit Bye enthusiastically supported the idea of the Circuit buying copies for conferees, sufficient funds were lacking. Ms. Adams had told him that as of last week, 150 persons had registered and that they hoped for 200 to 300 by the conference.

A discussion on how to fund sufficient copies resulted in the Executive Committee approving a motion to draw up to \$3,000 from the Court of Appeals account and up to \$4,000 from the parent account to cover the costs of books and their transportation to the conference, to be provided to the first X number of registering attorneys and Article I judges, as Article III judges had already received copies. It was suggested that it would be prudent to check with Ms. Adams on the number of registrants some time after the RSVP deadline of July 20. Mr. Boyd conveyed that according to Ms. Adams and Judge Bye, the book could be handed out as part of the registration materials as conferees register. All felt that this approved motion would support the Historical Society's mission as well as provide good publicity.

Mr. Boyd also indicated that he would still like to have a table available where copies of the history could be sold to interested persons. He said it was possible the University of Minnesota Press would send someone to collect checks, though they might be willing to allow someone else to do this. Another option was to have people fill out order forms rather than pay for copies at the conference.

d) Program on *Establishing Justice in Middle America*

It was mentioned that the Thursday morning session on *Establishing Justice in Middle America* was scheduled to begin at 11:00 and that buses were scheduled to leave for the baseball game at 11:45, leaving very little time for this session. Judge Kopf asked that Ms. Fessenden confer with

Ms. Adams and Judge Bye to see if some adjustment could be made to allow more time for this session.

#### Branch reports

##### Nebraska

Judge Kopf shared that the Nebraska branch met with Dr. Wunder and Dr. Sherer and that they were given copies of the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit history as an example of a history organized in a way other than solely chronological. He said that Dr. Wunder was originally hired to write the history of the District, but as his health was failing considerably, Dr. Sherer was brought on board. Judge Kopf added that Dr. Sherer was totally committed to the project.

##### Northern District of Iowa

Mr. Lyford reported that the second meeting of the newly revived branch was unfortunately canceled due to the major flooding in Cedar Rapids. He said the meeting was rescheduled for August.

#### Other Items

Ms. Fessenden brought to the Committee's attention some draft U.S. Judicial Conference guidelines for the attorney admission funds. The draft guidelines prohibit use of these funds for travel by judges and court staff (3.3) but retain donations to historical societies as a permitted use (2.8).

#### Next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the executive committee would be Wed., Oct. 8, 2008 at noon.

There being no other business, the conference call adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary