

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
April 17, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

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

Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian was unable to participate in the call.

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's January 9, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported that the parent account held \$8957.28 and the appeals branch account held \$577.95.

Letter to Judges Encouraging Preservation and Donation of Judicial Papers

Judge Kopf recently sent a letter to 8th Circuit judges reminding them of the importance of donating their papers (copy attached). He received an inquiry from Judge Piersol in response regarding what materials to keep. Judge Kopf recommended both documents relating to significant cases and to significant administrative matters, especially from the time Judge Piersol served as Chief. Ms. Ross inquired whether the papers include correspondence. Judge Kopf responded that it will vary by judge but that he also includes print copies of emails in his. He noted that there are no standards for archiving federal judges' emails.

Arkansas Western District Board Members

Ms. Fessenden reported that the Historical Society is currently without Board members for the Western District of Arkansas. Judge Hendren and his law clerk Kitty Gay were the members but both stepped down when the judge took senior status. So far the District Chief Judge P.K. Holmes has declined to appoint any new Board members for the District. The Society's governing documents call for a judge and non-judge for each Branch, so Judge Kopf agreed to talk to Chief Judge Holmes about the need for appointments. Ms. Ross suggested a state judge in Western Arkansas who has a strong interest in history. *[Note: After the meeting, the Secretary checked the bylaws, and a United States judge is needed for the judge position, but a state judge could fill the non-judge position.]*

Other matters

Discussion of a few other historic matters ensued.

Mr. Lyford indicated that the U.S. Attorney in Des Moines wants to donate some historic maps of Iowa, but it was unclear who would own them – Court, Southern Branch Historical Society,

Circuit Historical Society? There seems to be no clear answer to this. The District Court wants to frame and hang them in the courthouse, so perhaps the Court would be the owner. However the Branch Historical Society will be paying for an appraisal. There have also been questions about insurance, but Ms. Fessenden indicated that she had explored this previously and been told that the government is “self-insured” and does not purchase commercial insurance for historic artifacts.

Mr. Lyford also mentioned that he is trying to encourage magistrate judges in Southern Iowa to have portraits done and wondered if there were government funds available for this. Ms. Fessenden and Judge Kopf both responded that there were not. Mr. Boyd noted that he had visited the Sioux City courthouse recently and that the Court there has newly-hung portraits of their judges, so he suggested that perhaps someone in the Northern District of Iowa would have suggestions about funding.

Mr. Lyford asked Judge Kopf about progress on the Nebraska District history. He responded that progress is slow but continuing. Ms. Fessenden volunteered that the Eastern District of Missouri history is almost ready for publication and that Joan Voelker and her assistant have spent a great deal of time locating pictures and publication releases for the book.

Finally, Mr. Lyford mentioned that Magistrate Judge Walters recently gave an extremely well-received talk at the Polk County Bar Association in connection with the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg and the Emancipation Proclamation. Judge Walters had once worked for the National Park Service at Gettysburg. The talk was taped and Judge Kopf suggested that it be made available for the Historical Society website. Mr. Lyford responded that he would be happy to do that.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, July 10 at 1:30 p.m.**

There being no other business, the conference call meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary