

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
July 10, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

F. Richard Lyford, President
Frances Ross, Vice President
Ann Fessenden, Secretary
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer
Thomas H. Boyd, Past-President

Judge Kopf, Chairman of the Board, and Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian, were unable to participate in the call.

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's April 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported that the parent account held \$8,960.62 and the appeals branch account held \$577.93.

Secretary's Update

Ms. Fessenden noted that the Society's biennial corporate registration is due with the Missouri Secretary of State in August and that she or Joan Voelker will send the form to Treasurer Greenbaum in the next week or so. Ms. Fessenden further reported that Ms. Voelker has recently notified the branches that annual reports are due by August 23. She also reported that there is currently a problem with videos on the website. The software used to run them is no longer free. Library Digital Services Librarian Julia Seiter expects to be able to locate an alternate free program, but in the meantime the videos are not available and no new ones are being loaded. Finally, she reported that she and Ms. Voelker had spoken with two representatives of the 10th Circuit Historical Society recently. The 10th is holding a planning meeting in August and was seeking information about how other historical societies operate. Mr. Lyford expressed interest in learning more about this meeting, so Ms. Fessenden said she would send him the contact information for the 10th Circuit representatives.

Establish legal history clubs at the law schools in the 8th Circuit?

Mr. Lyford discussed the idea he had raised previously via email of promoting the formation of "history clubs" at Circuit law schools. He explained that some of the Inns of Court are interested in producing oral histories and have funding to do so but don't know how to locate students with an interest in history to help. He related his own positive experience working with a student who did an excellent job on the history of Iowa Judge Schnell. Mr. Boyd described some experience the Court of Appeals Branch has had with law school history essay contests, which was not successful, however he did agree that cultivating relationships with Inns of Courts could be productive. Since no members objected, Mr. Lyford indicated that he would pursue contacting legal history professors at the two Iowa law schools.

Who Should Own Judges' Papers (law review article)

Ms Fessenden discussed an article she had forwarded previously to the Committee, *Judges and Their Papers* by Kathryn Watts, 88 N.Y.U. Law Review (2013). The author is concerned about the inconsistent treatment of judges' papers, which are currently personal property of each judge. Much valuable historical information is lost, and for those judges who do donate their papers to repositories, practices vary greatly in when and how they can be accessed. The author traced the history of the concept of judges' papers as personal property, noting especially that a 1977 Congressional study concluded that the papers of members of all three branches of government should be public property. However, legislation was passed which required this only for presidential papers (Presidential Records Act of 1978.) Ms. Fessenden hopes to write a summary of the article for the 8th Circuit Library's newsletter, and will send a copy to committee members when she does so.

Other matters

Mr. Lyford noted that November 19 is the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and he is encouraging "mass recitation" of the Address.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, October 9 at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,


Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary