

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
October 9, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Participants:

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

Frances Ross, Vice-President, and Joan Voelker, Archives Librarian, were unable to participate in the call.

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's July 10, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported that the parent account held \$8,934 and the appeals branch account held \$577.93. She noted that the parent account had declined slightly due to renewal of the corporate registration with the Missouri Secretary of State.

Ms. Greenbaum then reported on research on 990E filing conducted by a tax attorney in her firm. The question had previously been raised as to whether it would be preferable for the society to file a single 990 on behalf of the parent and the branches rather than individual 990s for each. The attorney indicated that she thought this change would add to, rather than decrease complexity, as it would make the society subject to stricter regulation. Therefore, she recommended continuing the current practice with one change—that the society annually get formal approval from each branch giving authority to the parent to file the individual 990s on its behalf.

Discussion of how best to implement this recommendation ensued. One concern was that some branches might fail to respond. Judge Kopf suggested the possible solution of sending an email to each District Chief and to the last known Historical Society contacts, advising them of the parent society's intent to file on their behalf and providing a deadline for objection. All agreed that this seemed like a good solution. It was also suggested that perhaps in lieu of an annual approval, the Board at its next meeting (August 2014) could amend the bylaws to provide for this. After discussion it was determined that a resolution rather than a bylaws change would be the better approach.

Therefore, the following process was agreed upon: This year, President Lyford will send each branch a request for the 990 filing approval. The request will be drafted by Treasurer Greenbaum and Secretary Fessenden will provide him with a list of current Board members and Chief Judges. The group will plan to introduce a resolution at next summer's Board meeting to address the future approvals.

Secretary's Update

Secretary Fessenden reported that most branch reports have been received, with only Northern Iowa (financial and activity) and Court of Appeals and Minnesota (activity only) still outstanding. Tom Boyd promised to take care of the Appeals and Minnesota reports. Ms. Fessenden further noted that Ms. Voelker hopes to have the reports posted on the Historical Society's website in about a week. Ms. Fessenden also reported that the problem with videos on the website had been corrected.

Possible 8th Circuit Historical Society Workshop

The final item of business concerned President Lyford's ideas concerning a possible Historical Society workshop prior to next year's 8th Circuit Judicial Conference. This idea resulted from his conversations with Paul Hickey of the 10th Circuit, which held such a program in September. The 10th has a much different Historical Society structure, but some of the ideas seemed applicable to us. Basically, President Lyford suggests that we hold a workshop of about half a day immediately prior to the 8th Circuit Judicial Conference. The program could include speakers from the more active branches discussing some of their projects such as raising money, publishing a book, creating oral histories, presenting public educational programs, and developing exhibits. Breakouts might also be held so participants could further discuss ideas that interested them.

Judge Kopf suggested that he might be able to help ensure the programs' success by calling each District Chief to emphasize the importance of the District sending one or more representatives, and to encourage Districts to provide funding for their representatives. Various possible speakers and topics as well as scheduling questions were discussed. Ms. Fessenden agreed to contact Circuit Executive Millie Adams regarding Conference scheduling questions.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,


Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary