

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
January 7, 2015 at 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

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's October 8, 2014 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$9,090.41 and the balance of the appeals branch account as \$627.93. She noted that two checks have been deposited but not yet reflected in the balance of the parent account. The two checks are \$12,500 from the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas and \$7,500 from the Western District of Arkansas Library Fund.

E.D. Arkansas Publication of History

It had previously been agreed that the parent Society would act as agent for disbursing funds to the publisher of the history of the districts of Arkansas. This discussion involved how to handle the indemnity clause in the publisher's contract. President Lyford said that he was happy to sign for the Society but was hesitant due to the indemnity clause. It was noted that Judge Arnold was going to ask the publisher to strike the clause, but the committee did not know the outcome as of the call. After some discussion, a motion was passed authorizing President Lyford to sign the agreement in either its present form or in a form approved by him. Judge Kopf suggested that Lyford note on the signature line that he was signing in his capacity as president of the Historical Society and not as an individual.

Secretary's Report and Discussion of the Position of Secretary

Joan Voelker reported on several web site updates. She said that the homepage had been updated to announce publication of the history of the Eastern District of Missouri and Judge Bright's autobiography. As there are several judicial biographies and court histories featured on pages throughout the site, a "Recent Historical Publications" page was created to provide a central home listing the titles and linking to the books' individual pages. A link to this list was added to the menu on the homepage. In addition, Judge John Gibson's memorial video, program, and biographical display and brochure were added to the site, and several existing circuit judges' pages were further developed.

Position of Secretary

Since the last meeting of the executive committee, Ms. Fessenden announced her retirement in April 2015 as Circuit Librarian and consequently, Secretary of the Society. Prior to today's

conference call meeting, members of the committee came to a consensus that they would like Joan Voelker to act as Secretary upon Ann's departure, as long as Joan has access to the future Circuit Librarian, and Ms. Voelker agreed to assume the position. This was confirmed during the conference call.

Discussion ensued as to the nature of the position. It was agreed that the position of secretary provides continuity to the organization when the secretary is familiar with the workings of the Society and the Courts rather than just holding a titular role. It was suggested that consideration be given to somehow formalizing that the position of secretary be held by a court employee. Judge Kopf advised that, in order to comply with the Committee on Codes of Conduct's Advisory Opinion No. 104, a Bylaws amendment to this effect could only be approved at a board meeting in which the judges do not vote on the proposal and that this procedure would need to be made known.

Regardless of any potential changes made to this office, it was stated that the full board would have to approve Joan as secretary at its next meeting.

Other Items

Workshop at 2016 Judicial Conference

Mr. Lyford noted that there had been no response from those planning the Judicial Conference on getting a workshop on the agenda. He asked Ann and Joan to keep track of this and asked about the conference dates. *[After the call, Ms. Fessenden emailed the group that the next Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference would be May 3-6, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Convention Center in Rogers, Arkansas. She said that if the Historical Society has its usual Thursday morning board meeting, the date for that would be May 5.]*

Notecards

Mr. Lyford had emailed the committee prior to the meeting regarding a notecard his branch, the Southern District of Iowa, was creating to raise funds. The card features the seal of the original District of Iowa and a quote by Judge Richard Peterson from his history of the Southern District, *No One is Above the Law*. He proposed that other branches might want to contribute their own seals to produce notecards, and it was agreed that this was a good idea. He said that he would email the branches to determine their interest.

Judge Kopf suggested that the seal be posted on the web site, and Mr. Lyford said that he would email Joan a copy.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,


Ann T. Fessenden, Secretary