

**MINUTES**  
**Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit**  
Executive Committee Conference Call  
October 7, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

**Participants:**

Hon. Richard G. Kopf, Chairman of the Board  
F. Richard Lyford, President  
Frances Ross, Vice-President  
Joan Voelker, Secretary  
Sheila Greenbaum, Treasurer  
Thomas H. Boyd, Past-President  
Eric Brust, Circuit Librarian

Roll call was taken, and the minutes of the Executive Committee's July 8, 2015 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$19,981.44, after a disbursement of \$35 to the Missouri Secretary of State for the biennial renewal of the Historical Society's incorporation. She reported the balance of the appeals branch account as remaining steady at \$627.93.

Ms. Greenbaum said that the Historical Society's accounts with Enterprise Bank are now set up to receive electronic bank statements. The Society will no longer receive printed bank statements, but it also will not be charged fees.

Chair Judge Kopf suggested that a second person in the Historical Society, Secretary Joan Voelker, be given the website address, account numbers, and account passwords. Ms. Greenbaum said she would take care of it. [Ms. Voelker has since been granted electronic access to the accounts.]

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported on the status of the annual reports received from branches. She said that she had received activity reports from most of the branches and financial reports from all. She said that all reports received to date had been posted on the Historical Society website.

Ms. Voelker also said she was in the process of posting Judge Kopf's interview of Judge Bright to the Historical Society website. [Judge Kopf had sent Ms. Voelker a DVD of the interview in which Judge Bright recounts highlights from his recently published autobiography, *Hello Mike, Goodbye Judge*, in an interview conducted by Judge Kopf at the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Workshop for Federal Judges of the Eighth Circuit in Minneapolis on July 21, 2015. The video has since been posted to the website.]

President Lyford commented that he would soon send Ms. Voelker a DVD of Magistrate Judge Ross Walters at the Edwin Moore Inn of Courts. [Ms. Voelker has since received the DVD.]

2016 Judicial Conference, Rogers, AR, May 2-5 (M-Th)

Discussion then turned to the Historical Society's activities at the 2016 Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference.

*a) Board Meeting*

The first topic was whether to hold a meeting of the Society's Board of Directors in conjunction with the history workshop that the Executive Committee was planning to hold from 1-2:30, or separately. It was decided to hold a brief board meeting in the same time slot, just before the workshop.

Later in the meeting, Judge Kopf suggested that Ms. Voelker add a line between the agenda of the board and the agenda of the workshop, to keep the two functions separate. He further suggested that the board meeting consist of brief reports from President Lyford, Treasurer Greenbaum, and Secretary Voelker, and then proceed to the workshop.

*b) History Workshop*

Discussion then turned to the history workshop.

President Lyford described his vision for the workshop: informal groups discussing various topics of interest to the branches, led by persons knowledgeable on the respective topics. A whistle could be blown after a set amount of time so people could move on to a different topic or stay to learn more.

The group discussed possible topics and knowledgeable persons:

1. Oral histories and ceremonial events: Mr. Lyford
2. History and biography: Mr. Boyd, Judge Morris Arnold, Director of University of Arkansas Press Mike Bieker
3. Courthouse exhibits: open
4. Fund raising: Judge Kopf, Judge Morris Arnold
5. Educational events and programs: Judge Bremer

Mr. Boyd asked if there would be a way to get an idea of how many would be attending. He suggested that if there were only a few, the format might lend itself to the leaders speaking in sequence and then breaking into groups to address questions. Mr. Lyford said that if it were possible to make the session available remotely, this would also lend itself to collapsing the format. Ms. Voelker suggested that perhaps the conference registration form could include a way to indicate whether the registrant would be attending the workshop.

As the discussion continued, a number of tasks were laid out to prepare for the workshop:

- Mr. Lyford:
- Write a letter(s) inviting interested persons to attend the workshop: district court chief judges, lawyers, those interested in legal history but not necessarily a member of the Historical Society, each circuit university press
  - Invite Judge Bremer to attend and speak.

- Mr. Brust: - Create outline of how to oral history projects work.  
- Contact circuit IT regarding the possibility of creating a call on a link by which others may call in to hear the workshop. (Judge Kopf noted that this should be done at no cost to the courts, and if the issue of cost arises, to let him know.)
- Ms. Voelker: - Arrange to have copies of the FJC's 2004 book, *Initiating a Federal Court History Program*, available at the workshop.  
- Contact the Circuit Executive's office to ask them to include the history workshop on the conference registration so that the Historical Society can track how many persons will be attending the workshop. [This has been done, and the Circuit Executive's office has said it should be no problem to include this on the registration form.]
- Ms. Ross: - Invite Mr. Bieker to the workshop.  
- Ask Judge Morris Arnold if he would be willing to speak or lead a discussion on the topic of his choosing. It was noted he would be especially suited to speak on the steps involved in publishing books and the fund raising associated with such projects.

#### *c) Election of Officers*

It was noted that the board will need to elect the parent Society's officers for the 2016-2018 term. All current officers indicated they would be willing to serve again, but it was suggested that the Society again advertise the availability of the offices. Ms. Voelker said that she would post the information on the Historical Society's web site. [Notice has been posted on the web site.]

#### *d) Display Area*

Possible topics for the Historical Society to portraint in the display area were suggested: judicial biography, as one or more judges will have been covered in recent displays made by the U.S. Courts Library, and something on the order of baseball umpires, as Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, both baseball fans, will be present. When asked what the conference theme would be, Ms. Voelker said that she would find out from the Circuit Executive's office. [Ms. Voelker has since learned that there is no specific theme for the conference.]

#### Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, January 6, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary