

MINUTES
Historical Society of the United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
Executive Committee Conference Call
January 6, 2016 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 October 7, 2015 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Greenbaum reported the balance of the parent account as \$19,989 and the balance of the appeals branch account as remaining steady at \$627.93. It was noted that the amount in the parent account includes \$10,000 for publication of the Arkansas history.

Frances Ross commented that she had, just minutes prior to the call, received the most recent version of the Arkansas history. She said the anticipated release date is May 2, 2016, just before the meeting at the Judicial Conference. Referring to the \$10,000 set aside for publication of the history, she said that the University of Arkansas Press will likely wait until the book is done to issue an invoice.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Voelker reported that, pursuant to last meeting's suggestion, she now had access to the online accounts with Enterprise Bank, as arranged by Ms. Greenbaum. She also said that she had added notice of the upcoming election of officers and publication of the history of the Arkansas district courts on the Society's homepage.

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

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Voelker had emailed the Executive Committee a draft agenda for the board meeting and workshop and a screen shot of the draft page from the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference online registration form listing the Historical Society.

The Committee first commented on the draft registration listing, noting that it needed to reflect the date and mention of the board meeting, as the time slot was shown as the "Historical Society Workshop."

a) Draft Agenda, History Workshop

After some discussion, it was agreed that the workshop format be such that topic leaders would speak in sequence to the entire group for a period of six to seven minutes each, followed by a time for questions, also addressed to the group.

As the speaker for the courthouse exhibits portion of the workshop was listed as “open” on the draft agenda, President Lyford told the committee that he had found a leader for this topic. It would be led by Paul Donnelly, who represents the Western District of Missouri on the Board. It was agreed that President Lyford would invite Judge Webber of the Eastern District of Missouri to also speak on exhibits or other topic.

The discussion turned to registration and guests to invite.

Frances Ross asked if she, as someone who is not with the courts, nor an attorney, would receive the email providing the link to online registration. It was decided that Mr. Brust would see that both Ms. Ross and University of Arkansas Press Director Mike Bieker receive the email.

Mr. Boyd mentioned that William Domnarski, an esteemed lawyer, historian, and writer, was interested in attending the conference. Mr. Boyd said that Mr. Domnarski is about to publish his highly anticipated biography on Judge Posner. The Committee discussed how to get Mr. Domnarski an invitation, and it was decided that Mr. Brust would find out who the program chairs were and share this with Mr. Boyd. Judge Kopf commented that it would be worth 20 minutes of time to hear Mr. Domnarski speak. Mr. Lyford offered to also approach Mike Giudicessi about an invitation for Mr. Domnarski. [Mr. Brust learned that the program liaison is Michelle Braun, Assistant Circuit Executive.]

b) Display Area

Ms. Voelker had emailed PDFs of panels two and three of the *Baseball in the Eighth Circuit* display to the Committee prior to the call so they could consider whether to exhibit them at the conference. The Committee agreed to do so.

Circuit Oral Histories

Ms. Voelker shared that Circuit Executive Millie Adams had asked the library to convey to the Historical Society that Ms. Adams would like oral histories done for any senior circuit judges who have not yet been interviewed.

Ms. Voelker said that after doing an inventory, she found that the candidates include Judge Morris Arnold, Judge Pasco Bowman, Judge Kermit Bye, Judge David Hansen, and Judge Michael Melloy.

Ms. Voelker noted that Frances Ross had interviewed Judge Arnold as a district judge, and Ms. Ross reported that Judge Arnold had been interviewed more recently by the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. Ms. Ross agreed to see if the Eighth Circuit could receive a copy of the interview. [The 2009 interview is part of the University of Arkansas’ Pryor Center’s Arkansas Memories Project and is accessible at [this link](#).]

[The Committee is aware that Mr. Lyford has been trying for years to get Judge Hansen to agree to be interviewed, and that Mr. Lyford’s branch, the Southern District of Iowa, has also considered interviewing Judge Melloy.]

Judge Kopf asked Ms. Voelker to send him the addresses of the Chief District Judges of the judges' home chambers so that he could contact them regarding the oral history project.

It was discussed that the district courts should have the ability to record the interviews, and Judge Kopf asked that Ms. Voelker send information on the current technical standards for oral history recordings.

Fund Raising

Mr. Lyford shared his idea regarding note cards. [Some time ago, his branch tracked down a copy of the seal of the original District of Iowa at the National Archives, and had it captured digitally and put on notecards. To raise funds, his branch offered a set of the notecards to members joining at the \$50 level.] He proposed challenging the other branches to produce similar notecards. Judge Kopf advised that, because a judge could not write a letter proposing fund raising, Mr. Lyford could send a letter to the Chief District Judges to see if there is an attorney in each district who would be willing to carry out such an effort.

Ms. Voelker shared the idea of having a bobblehead made of some willing judge, and Judge Kopf suggested that Mr. Boyd propose this idea to the Eighth Circuit Bar Association.

Next meeting

The date of the next conference call meeting was discussed and agreed upon as **Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joan Voelker, Secretary