

MEMORANDUM



TO: Officers, Members, and Other Persons With Interest in the Eighth Circuit Historical Society - Minnesota Branch

FROM: Wendy Osterberg, Chief Deputy, U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota

DATE: October 13, 2006

CC: U.S. District Judges

RE: **Annual Meeting of the History Committee - June 26, 2006**

MEETING MINUTES

Tom Nelson, President, called the meeting to order. The committee members were asked to introduce themselves. Those in attendance included Tom Nelson, Judge Ericksen, Senior Judge Kyle, Senior Judge Alsop, Magistrate Judge Erickson, Rich Sletten, Kathleen Anderson, Boyd Ratchye, Tom Boyd, Jim Simonson, Margaret Chutich, Joyce Larson Schampel, Nancee Halling, and Wendy Osterberg. Tom then provided the committee with an overview of the annual election of officers.

1. Election of Officers

Tom stated that the nominating committee has recommended the following slate of officers for the coming year:

President	Tom Nelson
Vice President	Randy Tietjen
Secretary	Isabel Levinson
Treasurer	Isabel Levinson
Board of Directors -	Judge John R. Tunheim and Raymond L. Erickson
Eighth Circuit Historical Society	

The nominating committee also recommended Jim Simonson as a new committee member. Tom Nelson asked the group if they had any further recommendations or nominations. There were none, so Tom moved approval of the slate of officers for the Minnesota branch. Joyce Larson Schampel seconded the motion and all were in favor. Tom welcomed Jim Simonson to the committee.

2. Part of History - New District Judge Patrick J. Schiltz, New Magistrate Judge Jeanne J. Graham and new Federal Public Defender Katharine Roe

A handout describing the backgrounds of Judge Schiltz, Magistrate Judge Graham and Katharine Roe was distributed to the committee.

The committee discussed ideas of bringing the new judicial officers and agency heads into the fold. Judge Ericksen volunteered to talk with Judge Schiltz and Katherian Roe about the committee, Judge Kyle volunteered to talk with Mag. Judge Graham, and Tom said he would talk with Rachel Paulose.

3. Branch Projects

Joyce Larson Schampel provided the committee with an update on a new historical display for the Minneapolis Courthouse in the lobby display case. Joyce and Nancee offered their idea of profiling Judge Rensselaer Nelson, the first Judge for the Minnesota territory. They described his tenure as District Judge and some notable things about his character. The committee agreed that Judge Nelson would be a fine choice for the next display. Joyce inquired about funding for a professional display. Rich and Wendy explained that a bid would be necessary, including time and materials for preparation of a professional display, and could be presented to Chief Judge Rosenbaum for special funding by the court. This was done for the Judge Larson display, and should be pursued in the same manner for Judge Nelson's display.

4. Oral History Catch Up

Rich Sletten provided an overview of the Portraits of Justice video series that features each District Judge. Judges Ericksen and Schiltz need to be done. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of burning the current series from VHS into DVDs. Rich said he would look into it, and Wendy agreed to find the information on Nick Clark, who taped previous interviews.

5. Update on Fergus Falls

Rich Sletten provided a brief overview on the prospectus project of the Fergus Falls courthouse. He informed the group that the project is on hold.

6. Randy Tietjen's Book

Randy was unable to attend the meeting, so this item was tabled.

7. The "Blue Book" - History of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota

Various committee members talked about the Blue Book, which was printed in 1989. The book profiles on each district judge, including their notable decisions, and an overall section on significant cases for the district. The last district judge included is Judge Doty, who was appointed in 1987. The consensus of the group was to update the Blue Book, which serves as an excellent history of the district. Margaret Chutich described her own work on the book, and the overall leadership of the project by Judge Murphy. Margaret said that former law clerks worked on the profiles of their judges, and Judge Murphy provided the final editing to ensure

consistency. Funding, at that time, was provided by West Publishing, who printed the editions. In the front of the book, it states it is “Printed as a Public Service” by West Publishing. Margaret volunteered to assist with the book update, but did state that it’s a big endeavor, and many people will need to be involved.

8. Tour of Interim Courthouse and Warren E. Burger Building - led by Judge Richard H. Kyle

Photos of the tour are attached to the meeting minutes.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25 at 12:00, in the Minneapolis Courthouse.