



**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Minnesota**

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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: September 19, 2007

CC: U.S. District Judges

RE: **Annual Meeting of the History Committee - July 24, 2007**

MEETING MINUTES

Tom Boyd, incoming President, called the meeting to order. Outgoing President, Tom Nelson was unable to attend.

1. Welcome New Members

The committee members were asked to introduce themselves. Those in attendance included Tom Boyd, Judge Tunheim, Magistrate Judge Erickson, Rich Sletten, Kathleen Anderson, Susan Anderson, Melissa Erstad, Dulce Foster, Nancee Halling, Joe Hammell, Joan Humes, Isabel Levinson, Wendy Osterberg, Boyd Ratchye, Joyce Larson Schampel. Guyneisha Johnson, a District Court intern, was also in attendance. Tom then provided the committee with an overview of the annual elections of officers.

2. Election of Officers

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

President	Tom Boyd
Vice President	Cheryl Heilman
Secretary	Nancee Halling
Treasurer	Nancee Halling
Board of Directors	Judge John R. Tunheim and Magistrate Judge Raymond L. Erickson

Tom asked the group if they had any further recommendations of nominees. There were none, so he moved approval of the slate of officers for the Minnesota branch. It was seconded.

3. Thank you to Tom Nelson

President Tom Boyd thanked Past President Tom Nelson for his work and commitment to the committee.

4. Status of Branch Projects

Portraits of Justice (POJ). Wendy Osterberg reported the interviews of Judges Ericksen and Schiltz are the last of the series of Article III judges. Nick Clark [Clark Film and Video] will submit a bid for video production, but Wendy asked the committee members to submit names of other media production companies for additional bids. Committee members discussed making the POJ interviews available on the District Court web page. Judge Tunheim said the US Marshals have previously expressed concern about putting them online. The Judge asked if it's possible to edit out personal information or if future interviews can be scripted so they can be excerpted for online use and if the interviews can be protected from being downloaded or edited. Tom Boyd remarked that at one time excerpts from the first POJ interviews ran on public access TV in St. Paul. Wendy stated she would follow-up with the committee regarding funding.

Reflections from the Senior Judges. The "Reflection" interviews will be part of the POJ series. The interview will follow the format of the initial interview with the judge and will focus on how the judges' views have changed over twenty years. Judge Kyle is willing to participate so we can move forward. We can then make a more informed decision about how to continue. Judge Tunheim also suggested doing an interview with Judge Alsop as he is the most senior of the senior judges. A subcommittee was formed; members are Susan Anderson, Dulce Foster, Tom Nelson and Tom Boyd.

Judge Nelson Display in Minneapolis. Joyce Larson Schampel presented a short bio on Judge Rensselaer R. Nelson. The display is nearing completion and will be going to the printer soon. The display can remain up through 2008 since this is the sesquicentennial of Minnesota. Committee members suggested sources of publicity for the display. Suggestions included press releases, announcements on the FBA web page and at their monthly luncheons, announcements in Bench & Bar and Minnesota Lawyer and contacting the FBA to create a program about Judge Nelson. Isabel Levinson will contact the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Committee members for further information and to inquire about grants.

5. Dred Scott at Landmark Center and Local Display

Joyce Larson Schampel reported on the FBA luncheon held at the Landmark Center on June 13, 2007. The topic of the luncheon was "150th Anniversary of Dred Scott v. Sandford" and the main speaker was Professor Lea VanderVelde, University of Iowa College of Law. US Courts Library supplied a display of the Dred Scott decision which is currently on view on the 7th floor at the temporary St. Paul courthouse.

6. Nebraska Website

Tom Boyd reported on the Nebraska oral history project of the Klutznick Library at Creighton

Law School <http://law.creighton.edu/index.aspx?p=300>. The web site features full-length interviews with Nebraska federal and state judges.

7. Archivist visit to Minnesota

Nancee Halling discussed the upcoming visit of the 8th Circuit Archivist, Joan Voelker. Joan will be in Minneapolis on October 17-19, 2007 to study the materials housed in the history room, evaluate their condition and the methods used to store them. She will meet with Wendy and Rich to discuss their vision for the history room and follow-up with a report of storage and collection suggestions.

8. Announcements

Tom Boyd announced *Establishing Justice in Middle America: A History of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit*, authored by Jeffrey Brandon Morris, with a foreword by William H. Webster, will be available for purchase October 2007. You can find further information on the U of MN Press web page.

http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/M/morris_establishing.html

Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in Duluth will be renamed Gerald W. Heaney Federal Building and United States Courthouse and Customhouse in a ceremony held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

Fergus Falls Courthouse. Judge Tunheim discussed a possible future involvement of the History Committee in the remodeling of the Fergus Falls courthouse. Judge Tunheim wants the building to respect and retain its origins and the historical significance of the era within which it was built (1896-1901). The committee might be able to contribute by researching the era and working with other historical organizations, such as Otter Tail Historical Society, to accomplish this goal and still maintain the requirements of security in a U.S. courthouse.

9. Next Meeting

It was decided by the members present that the committee would meet quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2007 at 12:00 in the Minneapolis Courthouse.

The meeting was adjourned by President Tom Boyd.