

MINUTES

The Historical Society of the United States Courts
in the Eighth Circuit

Annual Meeting
July 7, 1999

Directors present:

Court of Appeals

Thomas H. Boyd

Eastern District of Arkansas

Judge William R. Wilson, Jr.

Western District of Arkansas

Judge Jimm Larry Hendren

Northern District of Iowa

Judge Mark W. Bennett

Southern District of Iowa

Magistrate Judge Richard W. Peterson

District of Minnesota

Judge John R. Tunheim

Eastern District of Missouri

Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh

Ms. Ann Buckley

Western District of Missouri

Judge Howard F. Sachs

Mr. F. Russell Millin

District of Nebraska

Judge Richard G. Kopf

Ms. Mary J. Hewitt

District of North Dakota

Judge Dwight C.H. Kautzmann

District of South Dakota

Judge Mark F. Marshall

Also participating was Secretary - Treasurer Ann Fessenden.

Guests were: Judge William Hungate, Mr. Mark Killenbeck, Judge Edward Filippine. [Note: Following the meeting, the Secretary was advised that Judge Filippine will be replacing Judge Limbaugh as Eastern District of Missouri representative.]

Absent were Judge Donald P. Lay, Dr. Frances Ross, Katherine C. Gay, Eric W. Lam, Duane W. Krohnke, M. Daniel Vogel, and Judge Lawrence L. Piersol.

President Richard W. Peterson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked each person attending to introduce him or herself.

Approval of New Director

Judge Peterson noted that a new Director, Judge Tunheim of Minnesota, needed to be approved by the Board. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Judge Tunheim as a member of the Board.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Ms. Fessenden distributed copies of minutes of the previous meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the September 9, 1998, conference call meeting.

Ms. Fessenden presented the Treasurer's report. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

Ms. Fessenden thanked the members for their patience while she had been learning her duties and acknowledged the assistance of Millie Adams, Charlet Krosbakken, Margaret Dostal-Fell, Judge Peterson, and Tom Boyd.

Ms. Fessenden requested that the members check their addresses and phone numbers on the Board listings and notify her of any changes in the branch representatives on the Board. She also reminded the members to send her branch annual reports.

Reports from Branches

North Dakota

Judge Kautzmann reported that a written history of North Dakota is being prepared by a law clerk and is nearing completion. Other items of interest are completion of the new Fargo Courthouse which includes the Burdick Educational Center and a remodeling project in Bismark.

Eastern Arkansas

Judge Wilson reported that Eastern and Western Arkansas have a joint project to prepare biographies on the district judges. Attorneys and judges have been commissioned to prepare essays on nineteenth and early twentieth century judges. Most essays have been submitted. Also, oral histories of most of the judges have been done, and the Eastern District is preparing brief biographical pieces to accompany the portrait of each judge which hangs in the courthouse.

Eastern Missouri

Ms. Buckley reported that the new courthouse in St. Louis is the main focus of activities. (More detailed report on this later in the meeting.) Also, a memorial service was held for Judge Gunn. There is an ongoing project to identify all Eastern District of Missouri judges with a view toward developing a written history.

Western Missouri

Judge Sachs reported that the district was conducting a fund-raising drive for development of a display in the new Kansas City "Bell Room" which contains the bell moved from the old building.

Minnesota

Judge Tunheim reported on a project to rewrite the court history. Also, the government has re-purchased the historic Fergus Falls Courthouse. He anticipates that the Historical Society will be involved in plans to restore it.

Nebraska

Ms. Hewitt reported that the Nebraska branch had contracted with Professor John Wunder to prepare a written history, with an estimated completion date of 2001. She also reported that a membership drive was held in 1997-98, with membership increasing from 65 to 286. Membership this year is 160.

Northern Iowa

Judge Bennett reported that judges' biographies are being updated and should be completed by the end of the year. Photos of all judges are to be hung in the Sioux City Courthouse. Also, his courthouse is being upgraded with the latest technology but the "old look" of the courtroom is being maintained.

South Dakota

Judge Marshall reported that they are upgrading judges' biographies. He also noted that the Sioux Falls Courthouse is a National Historic site and that a visiting judges' chambers is being added, but the integrity of the historic structure is being maintained.

Court of Appeals

Mr. Boyd reported that a written history is being prepared by Professor Jeffrey Morris. Completion is expected in about two years. There have been promising discussions with the University of Missouri Press and the University of Minnesota Press regarding possible

publication. He also reported that the University of Iowa essay contest on judicial history is being renewed. Mr. Boyd also announced that he had completed his article on Judge Sanborn, and that it had been published in William Mitchell Law Review.

Southern Iowa

Judge Peterson reported that Judge Richard Arnold had appeared as a distinguished visitor at the University of Iowa and the Historical Society had prepared a commemorative album of the visit. He also reported that the branch is involved in preparations for a visit by Justice Thomas and is also working on putting a display cabinet in the Des Moines Courthouse.

Western Arkansas

No report.

President's Report

Judge Peterson reported that development of a Director's Manual is in progress. It will include: Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, excerpts of minutes tracing policy changes, history of the society.

Reports on Ongoing Projects

Eighth Circuit History

Mr. Boyd reported further on the history project. Professor Morris has visited the circuit twice to interview judges. He has completed Chapter One and Chapter Two is expected soon. Original target date for completion was Fall, 2000. Somewhat later completion is now expected, but it is hoped the history will be done not too much later than Fall, 2000. Mr. Boyd also reported that he has been conducting fund-raising for the project among Twin Cities law firms.

Web Page

Mr. Boyd reported that this project is now "on hold" due to the departure of Anne Toulouse from the Court of Appeals Clerk's Office. However, it is anticipated that a Historical Society web page will be developed as part of the Court of Appeals web page through Washington University.

Judges' Papers

Mr. Boyd reported that the Minnesota District was interested in identifying appropriate repositories for judges' papers. Ms. Fessenden distributed some materials on this topic produced by the Federal Judicial Center and noted that the library could help judges locate colleges, historical societies and other institutions which might be appropriate.

New St. Louis Courthouse

Judge Filippine reported on the new St. Louis Courthouse, which should be completed in about a year. The courthouse will have 2,200 square feet of display space on the first floor of the building. A portion of the display will be dedicated to Senator Tom Eagleton, after whom the building is named. A design firm has been selected. The project is expected to cost

approximately \$750,000 and will be paid from non-appropriated funds. A fund-raising campaign will be conducted.

Nominations/Elections

Judge Kautzmann presented the report of the nominating committee. The nominees were: Tom Boyd, President; Judge Kopf, Vice-President; and Ann Fessenden, Secretary/Treasurer. There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was moved and seconded that the slate of nominees be accepted by acclamation. Motion carried.

Conclusion/Adjournment

Newly-elected President Boyd thanked Judge Peterson for his ten years of dedicated service as President of the Historical Society.

The meeting was adjourned.

Ann T. Fessenden
Secretary - Treasurer

Approved:

Thomas H. Boyd
President