

Association of the Bar of the Eighth Circuit

Board Minutes: October 4, 2010

1. **Called to Order:** D. Bratvold, President.
2. **Roll Call:** K. Robinson, Secretary.
Present: Diane Bratvold; Jeremiah Morgan; Karl Robinson; Julie Cullen; John Baker; Angela Campbell; Mary Vasaly; Larry Friedman; Matt Shepherd; Kevin Crass; Ellen Suni; Brian Walsh.
Not Present: Barry Pickens; Doug Bahr; Michael Gans; Dana Oxley; Mark Salter; Jennifer Gilg.
3. **Minutes of September Meeting:** Motion to approve September meeting minutes by J. Morgan. Second by J. Baker. Approved.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Cullen presented oral report, noting the Association's largest expense was \$10,000 for the Judicial Conference Reception. J. Cullen also noted that the membership renewal checks had been deposited. The checking account balance was reported to be \$10,490.58 and the Certificate of Deposit balance was reported to be \$27,220.76.
5. **Membership Renewal.** D. Bratvold noted the Association now has approximately 315 members, most members have renewed, but that we are looking to increase the number of members. Directors should have received a list of non-renewing members in their district and directors should follow-up with these individuals to encourage them to renew their membership. J. Morgan noted there were about 58 non-renewals. D. Bratvold explained that Doug Bahr sent letters to the Judges and law clerks regarding free membership and had received a good response, including some new members.
6. **New Rules on Electronic Filing at the 8th Circuit.** D. Bratvold explained that an email had recently been sent to all members regarding the Eighth Circuit's new rules on electronic filing, that this was a good method for sending information to all members, and noting that Newsletters could be sent in this manner.
7. **Special Session in Honor of Judge Gerald Heaney, Oct. 19 in St. Paul.** D. Bratvold noted that there was to be a special Memorial Session of the Court at the St. Paul federal courthouse on October 19 in Honor of Judge Gerald Heaney. D. Bratvold explained that the Association will be hosting a reception serving coffee, punch and cake at the courthouse after the Memorial Session. D. Bratvold reported that the cost of the reception was coming in under budget, with an estimated cost of \$700 and a budget of up to \$1,500.

- 8. Strategic Planning Committee Draft Report.** D. Bratvold lead a discussion regarding the Strategic Planning Committee's draft report, starting with page 4 concerning ways to enhance membership benefits. There were discussions regarding several of the items, including potential cost of subscription to *The Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* for members, and the idea raised by J. Morgan of having a calendar of CLE and court sessions and events. There was also discussion regarding the Newsletter, the need to start drafting and circulating a newsletter again, and potential ways to fill the position of newsletter editor. There was a discussion of having board members commit to writing a short article. Mary Vasaly proposed an amendment to Part C of the draft report concerning strategies to increase membership to include a statement about increasing the racial and gender diversity of the membership of the Association. There was also a discussion about improving the mentorship program, with Ellen Suni explaining her experiences with other mentorship programs and Angela Campbell explaining the mentorship program with the Federal Public Defenders Office in Des Moines. There was also a discussion about using Facebook and other social media, in particular to reach former judicial clerks. D. Bratvold stated she would circulate a revised strategic planning committee report before next month's board meeting.
- 9. Other Business.** D. Bratvold noted the Executive Committee will meet soon regarding nominating officers and board members to fill vacancies. E. Suni noted there was interest in hosting a CLE in Kansas City as discussed at the previous board meeting. J. Morgan indicated his willingness to assist with this effort. Next Board Meeting Monday, November 1, 2010, at 9:30 am.

*** Meeting Adjourned.