

## MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

June 6, 2006

(by conference call)

**Present:** Craig Eichstadt (president); Tom Weaver (president-elect); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Tom Boyd (at-large); Jeffrey Ellis (E.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Diane Bratvold (Minn.); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Jeremiah Morgan (W.D. Mo.); Bob Rossiter (Neb.); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.).

**Absent:** Barry Pickens (treasurer); Julie Cullen (at-large); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Mark Marshall (S. Dak.); Krista Kester (past president).

Association President Craig Eichstadt called the meeting to order shortly after 9:30 a.m.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May meeting, as previously circulated.

Craig noted that treasurer Barry Pickens was not available for the meeting but had made out the check for expenses relating to the Little Rock reception, in honor of Judge Morris Arnold, co-sponsored by the Association. Craig said he would sign and send out the check when received. Craig noted that the Association has adequate funds and has not spent much lately.

Craig reported that membership committee chair Mark Marshall, who also was not available for the meeting, had asked by e-mail for instructions regarding the membership renewal process and had expressed the opinion that use of e-mail renewal notices had worked reasonably

well in the past. Craig seconded Mark's opinion regarding the relative effectiveness of e-mail renewal notices and noted that use of e-mail would be cheaper than use of regular mail. He suggested that district directors could follow up with members from their districts who did not immediately renew.

Director Doug Bahr stated that he thought district directors had done such follow-up in the past. Director Jeffry Ellis noted, based on her experience as membership chair for the Arkansas Bar, that personal follow-up makes a significant difference in membership renewals. The Board discussed the issue of telephonic versus written follow-up by district directors and reached a general consensus that the choice should be left to the discretion of the individual district director.

Secretary Margaret Callahan noted that the Board last fall voted to send initial membership renewal notices by mail. She recalled that the context was a high number of non-renewals after the sending by e-mail of initial renewal notices for the July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 member year.

Doug stated that he favored an initial contact by e-mail because of the savings in time and expense. Craig, noting that the Association currently has about 300 members, estimated postage costs of \$100 to \$125 for sending initial renewal notices by regular mail. He suggested a follow-up by regular mail if a member did not respond to an e-mail renewal notice in either 30 or 60 days. Director Jeremiah Morgan noted that personal contact from district directors would still be an appropriate step after that.

It was moved and seconded that the Association send initial renewal notices by e-mail, with follow-up by letter to non-renewing members, and with subsequent further contact from district directors as appropriate. The motion passed.

Turning to the issue of possible changes to the Association web site, Craig noted that he had not yet been able to reach Melissa, the employee at web host University of Arkansas-Little Rock who handles changes to the web site for the Association. Margaret noted that the proposed bylaws amendment regarding member information had been submitted to and posted on the web site, as directed at the last Board meeting.

Jeremiah updated Board members on the potential mentoring program discussed at previous meetings. He said that he had talked to Eighth Circuit Clerk of Court Michael Gans and had received a positive response to the general concept. Gans suggested that Jeremiah submit a general letter of proposal for Gans to use to bring the idea before the Judges, with the goal of receiving the Judges' authorization to further explore the idea.

Margaret reported for the Communications Committee that Friday, June 9, 2006, was the copy deadline for the next newsletter issue.

Jeffrey noted the death of the husband of Arkansas U.S. district court judge Susan Wright and noted further the he also was a lawyer and an esteemed long-time member of the Arkansas bar. Jeffrey volunteered to send a sympathy card on behalf of the Association.

The next Association Board meeting will be July 11, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. by telephone.

The meeting adjourned just before 10:00 a.m.