

MINUTES

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

Meeting of Officers and Directors

September 27, 2005

(by conference call)

Present: Craig Eichstadt (president-elect); Margaret Callahan (secretary); Barry Pickens (treasurer); Tom Boyd (at-large); Lajuana Counts (at-large); Tom Weaver (at-large); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); David Herr (D. Minn.); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Mark Marshall (D. S. Dak.); Jim Layton (past president).

Absent: Krista Kester (president); Tom Sullivan (E.D. Ark.); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Diane Kutzko (N.D. Iowa); Bob Rossiter (D. Neb.); Doug Bahr (D. N. Dak.).

In the absence of Association President Krista Kester, President-elect Craig Eichstadt called the meeting to order shortly after 9:30 a.m.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular August meeting and of the September 7, 2005, special meeting.

Treasurer Barry Pickens reported that the Association had a checking account balance of \$24,591.61 as of the date of the last statement. He said the balance did not yet reflect the \$5,000 donation to the Federal Court Clerk's Association for Hurricane Katrina relief. He said the balance also did not reflect \$595 in recent membership renewals but that that income would be exactly cancelled out by the \$595 owing to the accountants for work on the Association tax return.

Craig noted that the Association's certificate of deposit will come due in November. Craig two years ago as treasurer obtained the certificate in South Dakota, and he reported that he had contacted the bank to obtain the "bump" in interest rate allowed under the terms of the certificate.

Membership chair Mark Marshall reported that 209 Association members now have renewed for the membership year beginning July 1, 2005. He said this figure includes two recent renewals, leaving 119 attorneys who have not renewed.

Director David Herr indicated that the number of non-renewing attorneys would be reduced by one because his check was literally "in the mail." He strongly urged that the Association consider using regular mail in soliciting membership renewals, noting that he had no recollection of ever receiving the e-mail renewal announcement sent out generally last June.

The suggestion was made to use regular mail to follow up now with non-renewing members. Past president Jim Layton commented that he thought district directors already had made individual contacts, by letter or phone, with non-renewing members in their districts.

David commented further that he thought a membership renewal form received by regular mail would be harder to ignore or lose than a form received by e-mail. He said he found it hard to believe that more than 100 attorneys were getting so little out of their memberships that they were not willing to pay the Association's modest dues amount.

A motion was made and passed that regular mail be used in soliciting membership renewals. Regular mail will be used to further contact attorneys who have not yet renewed for the 2005-06 membership year.

Craig noted that the \$5,000 donation for Hurricane Katrina relief, to the Federal Court Clerk's Association, had been sent out and that the Association had received both an

acknowledgment from the Clerk's Association and a handwritten thank you note from Eighth Circuit Judge Riley.

Discussion turned to the Association web site. Craig noted that Director Angela Campbell, upon being approached by Krista, had agreed to take a role in updating the web site. David suggested that consideration should be given to the content in general of the web site, because it is currently not very exciting. He said he thought the web page could be a bigger tool for the Association but that it currently is more of an archive.

Suggestions for improvement of the web site should be passed to Angela. A specific suggestion made at the meeting was that articles intended for the Association newsletter could be posted in advance if ready. A notice of the Association breakfast at the Judicial Conference needs to be posted, and the Hurricane Katrina donation also could be featured on the web site.

An RSVP form for the Association breakfast at the Judicial Conference has been sent out by regular mail to all Judicial Conference registrants. David Herr as programs committee chair said he had no details to add to the information contained in the RSVP form. He indicated he did not yet have a report from Krista, to whom RSVPs are to be sent, regarding the number of attorneys planning to attend the breakfast.

Craig reported that Krista had been able to enlist one of her associates to staff the registration table at the breakfast, but needed additional help. Board members who are available to help at the registration table or who have colleagues who might be available should contact Krista by e-mail. It was noted that it would be difficult to check attorneys' membership status at the door and that the "honor system" would be used in allowing admission for the reduced charge for members. Membership will be checked later, and non-members who claimed the lower rate will be "invited" to join the Association.

David said that the room at the Broadmoor for the breakfast would be centrally located in relation to other Conference activities. He said he thought only about 300 registrants were expected for the Judicial Conference as a whole.

Craig announced that the Association long-range planning meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Judicial Conference, will run from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday October 19. He said it would cost \$500 to reserve a meeting room at the Broadmoor, and it was agreed that those participating in the planning session could merely gather in a corner of, for example, the lobby or some other public area of the Broadmoor.

In response to Craig's question, directors David Herr, Lajuana Counts and Tom Boyd indicated they expected to arrive at the Judicial Conference in time to participate in the planning meeting. Craig said that he and Krista, plus inaugural Association president Eric Magnuson, also would be participating. Treasurer Barry Pickens noted that he might still be able to attend the planning meeting but most likely would not make it.

The next Association directors' meeting will be held Tuesday October 25, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. by telephone. Craig indicated there was some possibility the meeting might need to be moved up 30 minutes, but the consensus was that a consistent meeting day and time (9:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month) is desirable to the degree possible. Agenda items for the October meeting will include a report on the long-range planning session and a discussion of the process for filling the director and officer positions that will come open at the start of 2006. Membership chair Mark Marshall indicated he would not be able to participate in the October 25 meeting but would send a membership report in advance by e-mail.

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