

## MINUTES OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Eighth Circuit Bar Association

February 3, 2009

(by conference call)

**Present:** Barry Pickens (president); Diane Bratvold (president-elect); John Baker (Minn.); Larry Friedman (E.D. Mo.); Dana Oxley (N.D. Iowa); Mark Salter (S. Dak.); Dean Ellen Sunni (W.D. Mo.); and Tom Boyd (ad hoc).

**Absent:** Mark Marshall (past president); Jeremiah Morgan (secretary); Karl Robinson (treasurer); Doug Bahr (N. Dak.); Angela Campbell (S.D. Iowa); Julie Cullen (at-large); Michael Gans (at-large); Tom Kieklak (W.D. Ark.); Jeffrey McKinley (E.D. Ark.); and Roger Shiffermiller (Neb.).

Barry Pickens noted the board failed a quorum at approximately 9:45 a.m. Seven officers and directors were in attendance, plus ad hoc member Tom Boyd. The meeting continued for informational purposes.

Discussion of the minutes of the board of directors meeting held on January 20, 2009. Minutes had been previously circulated by email. Dana Oxley requested that the minutes be revised to reflect her attendance. Dean Sunni noted that the minutes should be revised under item #8 to reflect "E. Sunni."

Diane Bratvold provided the board with an update regarding the association's finances and circulated written treasurer's report covering the period January 20 to February 2, 2009. No changes since the board's last meeting.

Barry Pickens noted that Tom Boyd's status is *ex officio* or *ad hoc* member of the board. The board is in the unusual position of have two past presidents – Tom Boyd and Mark Marshall. The association by-laws provide for only one past president as officer. Tom has kindly agreed to provide continuity as an *ad hoc* and non-voting member of the board.

Tom Boyd shared his thoughts on continuing the Association's newsletter which was recently mailed to all members. To achieve regular circulation and provide a tangible membership benefit, the board needs a new editor or editors. Additionally, past editor Tiffany Brown has offered to assist in providing general informational items from the courts in the 8th Circuit. Also, the newsletter should recruit law student writers to prepare short case summaries. Further, Larry Friedman's firm ably assisted in formatting the recent newsletter and has offered to continue in that role. Discussion followed on several points including the possibility that the newsletter would be produced by a committee and the chief editor position would rotate.

There was no discussion on membership or the Association's CLE program and reception to be held in Omaha during the week of May 11, 2009. Barry Pickens noted the board should be prepared to authorize a budget at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Some discussion followed on whether the board needed to meet before March and the general consensus was that the March meeting would suffice.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.