

Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society
Board of Directors
January 22, 2009

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society was held pursuant to notice on January 22, 2009 in Room 230 of the Minnesota Judicial Center in St. Paul. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 o'clock p.m. by Chair Justice Sam Hanson.

Members present were Justice Sam Hanson, Robin Wolpert, Kate MacKinnon, John Stuart, Brian Sattler, Bill Hart, John Arnold, John D. Kelly, Doug Heidenreich, Chief Justice Eric Magnuson, Bruce Jones, Justice Helen Meyer, Annamarie Daley, Ken White, Patrick J. Kelly, Mary Vasaly, Justice G. Barry Anderson, Kate McBride, Bob Horton, Barbara Golden, James Simonson, Tom Fraser, David Herr, Tom Boyd, Bruce Beneke, Kent Gernander and Justice Esther Tomljanovich. Also present were Advisors Mark Cohen and Barb Golden.

The minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2008 were approved as submitted.

The Society's first year achievements were noted, among them: the book publication, the law clerk reunion, successful fund raising and web site development.

CORPORATE REGISTERED OFFICE

Upon motion made and seconded the following resolution was approved:

“RESOLVED that the registered office of the Company shall be Changed to 3300 Wells Fargo Center, 90 South Seventh Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

“RESOLVED FURTHER that the proper officers of the Company are hereby authorized and directed to prepare, execute and file with the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota a Notice of Change of Registered Office setting forth the foregoing change.”

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for a one year term: Chair, Thomas H. Boyd; Vice Chair, Esther M. Tomljanovich; Secretary, Thomas S. Fraser; Treasurer, David F. Herr; Immediate Past Chair, Sam Hanson. Upon motion the report was accepted, the nominations were closed and the officers were elected by acclamation.

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of members for new three year terms: Justice G. Barry Anderson, Bruce A. Beneke, Wilbur W. Fluegel, Kent A. Gernander, David F. Herr, Robert Horton, Patrick J. Kelly, Katherine A. McBride, Mark

B. Rotenberg, Marianne D. Short, Esther M. Tomljanovich and Robin M. Wolpert. Upon motion the report was accepted the nominations were closed and the submitted slate was elected unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF SAM HANSON

Newly elected Chair Tom Boyd assumed the chair. The first order of business of the new chair was to express appreciation to outgoing Chair Sam Hanson for his superb leadership of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society in our first year. Upon motion, which was seconded and unanimously adopted, Justice Hanson was thanked for his dedication and hard work that led us to a successful year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

David Herr presented the Treasure's Report which showed a balance of nearly \$38,000 as of the end of 2008. Upon motion the report was received.

FUND RAISING

Sam Hanson reported on fund raising through 2008. The Law Firm solicitations have been completed as have solicitation of former members of the Supreme Court and members of the Board. It was moved, seconded and carried that former law clerks be solicited and the period to qualify as a "Founding Member" of the Society be extended to the first quarter of the year 2009. It was suggested that the solicitation of founding members be coordinated with the activities of the Membership committee.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Robin Wolpert reported for the Events committee. The Publications Committee and the Events Committee will cooperate in the roll out of the Library project. Bill Hart will prepare a protocol to be followed at the roll out events. A sample press release will be prepared to be given to local media.

The committee will plan an annual dinner, perhaps in January of next year. Suggestions for activities for the dinner were the Chief Justice portrait unveiling, a video of Justice Simonett doing his "Casey" presentation or live performances by Justices Paul Anderson and Lori Gildea. The committee will meet to come up with firm plans.

The committee will proceed with oral histories of living Justices, past and present.

EDUCATION

Bob Horton presented the education committee report. He presented a copy of the entry in the prize Booklet for the History Day Project. It indicates that the Supreme Court Historical Society will recognize two entries on Minnesota's Laws and Courts.

It was also suggested that we could participate in teacher's workshops designed to enhance the understanding and experience of students who attend the arguments during the Supreme Court out-of-the-Capitol and Judicial Center visits.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee is meeting with the Executive Director of the Bar Association to determine the possibility of collecting our dues by means of a dues check off. It was noted that the Executive Council of the Bar seems negative to the idea at this time but that have not made a final determination. It would probably be possible to use their membership list, but have not determined the cost.

The consensus is that the membership committee continue their discussions with the Bar and to explore other ways to market and solicit members and to come back with a recommendation. The membership committee was also authorized to determine our Membership Year.

It was reported that Justice G. Barry Anderson indicated it was doubtful that we could get the Supreme Court list unless we were holding a CLE.

It was also suggested that we should explore the possibility of creating a Marketing Committee.

WEB SITE

Tom Boyd reported on the Web site. We are prepared to go on line at the end of the month and are under budget. We budgeted \$5,000 and have been billed \$2,200. Justice G. Barry Anderson reported that the web site committee would be working on further development of the site.

PUBLICATIONS

Bill Hart presented the report of the Publications committee. The book roll out is scheduled for 50 libraries on Law Day, May 1, 2009. They need local volunteers to develop contacts and to make the presentation. The committee will develop bullet points and provide a press release.

An annual report was discussed. The committee wants guidance on the report. The Executive Committee will meet with the Publications committee to provide direction.

COURT FUNDING

John Stuart reported on the dire consequences of inadequate funding of the courts.

The following Resolution was adopted unanimously:

Whereas: The rule of law is essential to an efficient and effective system of government, and

Whereas: The Rule of Law and access to justice and the Constitutional mandate of Minnesota's justice system, including the Courts, Prosecutors, Public Defends and Civil Legal Services are under immediate and imminent threat due to inadequate funding, and

Whereas: Because of the importance and urgency of the funding crisis the following organizations have formed the Coalition to Preserve the Justice System: Minnesota Sheriffs' Association, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, WATCH, Minnesota County Attorneys Association, Minnesota Urban County Attorneys Association, Ramsey

County Bar Association, Civil Legal Services, Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters and Captioners, Minnesota Judicial Branch, Minnesota District Judges Association, Minnesota Association for Court Management, and the Minnesota Board of Public Defense,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, That the Minnesota Legislature be urged to take immediate action to adequately fund the Judicial Branch of Government, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society support the Coalition to Preserve the Justice System and the Minnesota State Bar Association initiatives to secure adequate funding at the Minnesota State Legislature, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Tim Pawlenty, members of the Civil Justice, Finance and State Government Finance committees of the House of Representatives, to members of the Finance, the Finance and Judiciary Budget Division and the Judiciary Committees of the Senate, to Chief Justice Eric Magnuson and to members of the Coalition to Preserve the Justice System.

ADJOURNMENT

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on April 23 in Minneapolis.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther M. Tomljanovich
Secretary