

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 23, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Pursuant to notice, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society met on July 23, 2009 at the Minnesota Judicial Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. Chair Tom Boyd called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

The following members attended in person or by phone: Paul Anderson, John Arnold, Tom Boyd, Annamarie Daley, Tom Fraser, Jim Hale, Sam Hanson, Doug Heidenreich, Harriet Lansing, Don Lewis, Kate McBride, Brian Sattler, Marianne Short, Esther Tomljanovich, Ken White and Robin Wolpert. Honorary member Barbara Golden (see below) and Advisors Mark Cohen, Jeff Shorba and Dennis Skrade also attended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2009 were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was made by Tom Boyd. The Society is in good financial shape. We anticipate expenses for portraits, History Day, the November event (see below), and preserving audiotapes and videotapes (see below). Justice Anderson said that he was chagrined to find that he had forgotten to pay dues this year and Tom Boyd reminded board members (who will likely also receive an email reminder), to send in their dues either via check or the new PayPal section of our website.

ORAL HISTORIES

Tom Boyd provided an overview of the oral history project. Justice Anderson explained that thirteen oral histories from retired justices have been completed and six remain to be done of retired justices. (Three justices (post-1980) died before their oral histories could be done.) The board received and reviewed estimates provided in connection with a similar project in the federal district court from three vendors ranging from approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 per oral history for the videotaping and editing services. Tom Boyd commented that this project was a great way to involve the justices' former law clerks, both for financial support and participation in the interview itself. Don Lewis mentioned that he had done an oral history with Judge Ericksen at Hamline before a live audience and that it worked well. Based on the information available, the six additional oral histories would cost about \$9,000. The board provided preliminary direction to go ahead with the project as planned and come back at the next meeting with a specific plan, including a budget and plan for funding the costs of the project. Sam Hanson said that we should even consider getting oral histories from current judges. Dennis Skrade mentioned that the oral histories are in the state law library and are available for loan. We will try to put a bibliography on the Society website.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Tom Boyd mentioned that we have a new Preservation Committee that will oversee the space that we have been allocated in a retired judge's chambers in the Judicial Center. We will look into technology, costs and budget, including revenue sources, for collecting memorabilia. Justice Anderson relayed a caveat from the Minnesota Historical Society, which suggested that we emphasize quality instead of quantity -- that we avoid merely collecting "things." The sense of the Board was that this was a good plan and Tom Boyd volunteered to communicate this to Bruce Jones, chair of the Preservation Committee.

BARB GOLDEN'S SUCCESSOR

Tom Boyd and the Board welcomed Dennis Skrade, Barb Golden's successor, to his first meeting with the Board. He will serve as an advisor to the Society.

FALL RECEPTION

Robin Wolpert reported that she had received an estimate of \$4,000 from the Minneapolis Club for a reception for 100 people on November 17. General discussion ensued regarding the fact that this reception would be free to members, and was one of the enticements for membership. Don Lewis raised a question as to the purpose of the reception and it was generally agreed that it was designed to be an annual event to benefit existing members, recruit new members, and raise our visibility. It was agreed that a short substantive component was desirable. Tom Boyd suggested that we showcase what we are doing in terms of oral histories, History Day presentations, publications, etc. Harriet Lansing emphasized that the program should be short and catchy and wondered whether Justice Simonett would be willing to do "Casey at the Bat" live. Justice Anderson said Justice Simonett was willing to do so as of a month ago and that we would continue to check with him. There was further discussion about the concept of perhaps having a guest fee, or having members sponsor guests. There was a general discussion about content of the program and a suggestion that we should showcase any scholarship or research at a separate meeting. Several possible topics were discussed. It was emphasized that the fall event will be a reception, rather than a dinner.

PORTRAITS OF JUSTICES

Sam Hanson reported that portraits of four justices are underway for the \$20,000 allotted. The target date is the November event. Framing turned out to be more expensive than the budgeted \$5,000 so they are checking other sources but may have to come back for a supplemental allocation of funds.

LIBRARY PRESENTATIONS

Robin Wolpert reported on presentation of our publication, Testimony, to the new library in Stillwater. The presentation went very well. Justice Anderson suggested that perhaps we should set an objective of making presentations to libraries in the 20 largest cities in Minnesota, involving local lawyers in each presentation.

MEMBERSHIP

Tom Fraser reported that the membership committee intended to send out a mass mailing to the MSBA membership list that we had secured through the efforts of Annamarie Daley. We were waiting for details on the November event so that we could tout that in our membership solicitation. He also reported that although we were able to have a membership solicitation letter available at the MSBA convention, attendance of attorneys at the convention was light; we received only a few additional members since then. Justice Anderson suggested working out a relationship with organizations such as the Appellate Practice Committee to foster an influx of new members. Robin Wolpert also suggested that we could perhaps play a role in the "Nine Days in May" conventions around the state planned to replace the MSBA convention in 2010 and following years.

WEBSITE

Tom Boyd reported that the Website Committee was interested in any ideas from Board members about website content. Photos from the Stillwater Library presentation and History Day information were suggested as possible additions. Board members were encouraged to email suggestions to Tom Boyd or any other officer.

BYLAWS

Tom Boyd reported that the Executive Committee had decided to address possible bylaw changes, including changes in the mission statement, in 2010, once we are further underway and can consolidate any needed changes at that time.

BARB GOLDEN

Barb Golden was recognized by the Board, which expressed its appreciation for her hard work both for the State and for the Society. We made her an honorary member in perpetuity and gave her a more tangible gift certificate from the Board and the Society. She expressed her appreciation and willingness to attend in perpetuity.

RECOGNITION OF LEADERSHIP

Justice Anderson commented that he was astounded at the progress the Society had made under Sam Hanson and others and recommended that the leadership be recognized at the November event.

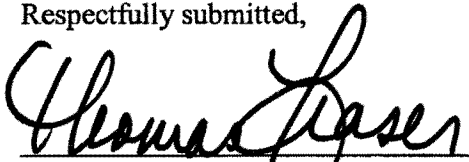
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is set for October 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Minneapolis at a location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m., after which we were treated to excerpts from the videotaped oral histories of Justices Sheran, Wahl, and Simonett (including "Casey At the Bat").

Respectfully submitted,


Thomas Fraser, Secretary

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