

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 22, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Pursuant to notice, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society met on October 22, 2009 at Winthrop & Weinstine, 225 South Sixth Street, #3500, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Chair Tom Boyd called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

The following members attended in person or by phone: G. Barry Anderson, Tom Boyd, Annamarie Daley, Wil Fluegel, Tom Fraser, Jon Garon, Bill Hart, Bob Horton, Don Lewis, Kate McBride, Helen Meyer, Jim Simonson, John Stuart, Esther Tomljanovich, Mary Vasaly and Robin Wolpert. Advisors Jeff Shorba and Dennis Skrade also attended.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report, made by Tom Boyd on behalf of David Herr, was received and approved unanimously.

NOVEMBER 17 MEMBERS' RECEPTION

Tom Boyd summarized the work done by Robin Wolpert and the Events Committee. Our first Members' Reception is scheduled for November 17, from 5-7 p.m., at the Minneapolis Club. The goal is to make this primarily a social event to show appreciation for our members. Accordingly, the program will be short. The estimated cost is \$3,500 to \$4,000 for about 100 people, depending on the menu ultimately selected. Our membership is at about 80 now and we hope to build it through this reception. Guests will be charged \$25 but will be allowed in free if they sign up as a member. We will have displays around the room regarding our work to date, including a listing of our History Day winners and perhaps the new portraits of four Chief Justices that are nearly done. Our publication, Testimony, will be available for sale.

Tom Boyd reported that he and Paul Anderson recently held a "conversation" with Justice Simonett, which was taped at the CLE Center. In addition to the lively discussion, Justice Simonett recited "Casey at the Bat" and then volunteered also to recite "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Excerpts from this performance may be available at the reception.

Leo Brisbois, MSBA President, had volunteered to have the MSBA publicize the November 17 reception a couple of weeks beforehand, perhaps in its weekly email updates, by including a link directly to our website, which now contains the details for our November 17 reception. Tom Fraser agreed to follow-up with Leo Brisbois.

PORTRAITS OF CHIEF JUSTICES

As noted above, we hope to have the four recently-painted portraits at the November 17 reception. We will separately present them to the Court in a formal ceremony, which will likely be early next year.

MSBA PROPOSAL REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Tom Boyd talked to Leo Brisbois regarding the new format for the MSBA convention next year. The MSBA plans to hold eight days of meetings in various judicial districts followed by larger meeting in the Twin Cities on the ninth day. The MSBA offered to involve our society in various ways, including (a) participation in proposed CLE offerings; (b) the opportunity to have some other form of presence, such as a table at the various meetings; and (c) participation in the President's Reception.

The MSBA plans to offer various CLE programs for the individual judicial districts to select from on a cafeteria basis. We are unclear as to whether the presenters must be the same for potentially all nine days or whether we would prepare the materials and program and allow local presenters to handle the presentation in each judicial district. We discussed various topics, including a possible lecture by Peter Knapp on significant Minnesota Supreme Court cases or possibly a focus on "homegrown justice" -- a presentation on a Justice from that particular judicial district, possibly including former law clerks and a discussion of significant decisions by that Justice.

These topics provoked a discussion of the mission of our Society and whether any of these activities were consistent with that mission or inadvisable for other reasons. The consensus was that we might have an interest in participating in the CLE program but needed more details.

On the ninth day of its meetings, the MSBA will hold the President's Reception, which could be designated as a fundraiser both for the MSBA Bar Foundation and for our Society. The quid pro quo would be that we would have to sell tickets for this reception. There was concern that our sponsorship would inevitably lead to a reduction in the funds available to the Bar Foundation, which makes grants to programs that provide legal services for low-income clients. The consensus was that we did not want or need to be a sponsor this year but that we should certainly express our gratitude to the MSBA and keep the door open in case our plans or strategy changes in the next few years.

The other possible involvement offered by the MSBA would be to run an art show in conjunction with the ninth day meetings. The purpose of this art show is to display the creative side of lawyers. We would have to find the lawyer-artists, make all of the arrangements, and handle the display and pricing. The consensus was that we should decline this opportunity as straying too far from our mission.

Tom Boyd and Tom Fraser agreed to follow up with Leo Brisbois to convey the sentiments of the Executive Committee and Board on these items and, in particular, to express our gratitude to the MSBA and to continue to foster a mutually beneficial relationship with the MSBA.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Tom Boyd reported that there are three aspects to the oral history project. The first is preservation. The intent is to help the Law Library and State Historical Society transfer old audiotapes to a digital format -- in other words, to preserve what exists. The second aspect is to develop new material, including oral histories of Justices. After the taping of Justice Simonett, we may interview Justice Yetka next. The third aspect is to take the existing material and publicize it, possibly using it for CLE's or other historical purposes. The first priority will be preserving what currently exists.

RETIRED JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

We have received a suggestion that we consider developing a directory of retired judicial administrative assistants and encourage both current and retired assistants to join our Society because they would be a valuable resource. The consensus of the Board was to support the creation of such a directory. The Board approved a motion to encourage that they join at the public-sector rate of \$25.00 per year.

RETIRED JUSTICE'S BOOKS

The State Law Library has a practice of preparing scrapbooks for retiring Justices. Dennis Skrade suggested that the retired judicial administrative assistants could be very helpful in preparing these books. We also discussed the fact that we might find volunteers, including potential interns, who might be willing to do this work. The consensus of the Board was that we should explore this further to determine ways in which the Society can assist with the preparation of these books.

WEBSITE UPDATES

Tom Boyd reported that updates have been made to our website. The November 17 reception is described in there and RSVP's can be made through that website. New members can also sign up and pay through this website.

OFFICER AND BOARD NOMINATIONS

We are soliciting nominations for both directors and officers. The Executive Committee will again serve as the Nominating Committee. About one-third of the Board members will have their terms expire at the end of this year. Any Board member can be re-elected. We will be contacting those Board members whose terms are expiring to see if they are interested in continuing. In our short history, we have had current officers move up the leadership track. If the Board decides to continue that approach, we will need a new secretary. Suggestions for new directors and officers should be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Helen Meyer suggested that we consider hiring a part-time Executive Director, perhaps along the lines of other organizations, such as the Academy of Certified Trial

Lawyers of Minnesota, which has Kristi Paulson handle their affairs on a part-time basis, as she does for other similar organizations. The Michigan and Florida Supreme Court Historical Societies have Executive Directors that we may look to as examples. An Executive Director could take steps to expand our membership and support us administratively. The consensus was that this was an idea that should be put on the Executive Committee agenda and discussed at the next Board meeting.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2010

This was the last meeting in 2009. The meetings scheduled for 2010 are tentatively set for 2:00 p.m. on the following dates:

January 28, 2010	St. Paul
April 22, 2010	Minneapolis
July 22, 2010	St. Paul
October 28, 2010	Minneapolis

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Fraser, Secretary

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