

**MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 28, 2011**

MINUTES

Pursuant to notice, the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Supreme Court Historical Society met on April 28, 2011 at Fredrikson and Byron. Chair Tom Fraser called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

The following board members attended in person:

Tom Fraser; Tom Boyd, Bill Hart, Bob Horton, Bruce Jones, Peter Knapp, John Stuart, David Herr, Robin Wolpert, Martin Ho, Gary Debele, Jim Simonson, Kate McBride, and Alan Saeks,

The following board members attended by conference telephone: Kate MacKinnon, Hon. Paul Anderson (joined at 4:00 p.m.).

Also attending: Adviser Barb Jones, Executive Director Renee Anderson, Guest Nancy Zalusky Berg,

MINUTES

After correction of a spelling error in the name of a board member, the minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2011 were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's quarterly report was received and filed.

David Herr presented information and a recommendation for placing some Society funds in interest-bearing CDs. Bruce Jones moved to authorize the placement of the recommended funds in interest-bearing CDs with staggered maturity dates from 19 months to 59 months. Sam Hanson, David Herr, and Tom Boyd will serve as signatories. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee:

Kate McBride reported that the Minnesota History project will take place on May 1 at the University of Minnesota. There were 11 submissions. Board member Bob Horton will be a judge.

Kate reported that the lesson plans the committee previously prepared are being used in many high school classrooms and have been well received.

Kate reported at length about the committee's new project, a scholarship essay contest for high school seniors. The committee wants the Society to sponsor an annual contest that focuses on topics affecting the third branch. The topic proposed for the first year is the judicial selection process.

Because the number of entrants is unpredictable, the committee plans to start by offering the contest in one judicial district per year. If the number of volunteer judges can support expansion, the committee will consider it. The committee will offer the contest in smaller judicial districts first.

The committee believes that it can secure \$1,500 - \$2,000 each from ABOTA (Committee member Hon. Jill Flaskamp Halbrooks is a member) and the MSBA Civil Litigation Committee. Kate wants the board's approval for an additional \$1,500. Barb Jones stated that Minnesota Lawyer would consider providing financial support. It would also consider publishing the winning essay.

Bruce Jones asked about anticipated scholarship amounts. Kate said the committee anticipates amounts between \$500 and \$1,000, but the number and amount of scholarship awards will be flexible depending on the number and quality of the entrants. Kate also mentioned a possible lunch with board members or justices for the winners.

To keep costs low, the committee proposes to promote the essay contest through emails to social studies and U.S. government teachers. Kate said the promotions will target seniors enrolled in AP classes.

Robin Wolpert asked what topical resources would be available to interested high school students. Kate said that the committee will make materials available. Board member Bruce Jones co-authored a white paper on judicial elections for the Quie Commission.

David Herr stated that \$1,500 is consistent with available Society funds and their purpose.

Alan Saeks moved to approve the essay contest concept. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Robin Wolpert moved for approval of the \$1,500 expenditure. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Events Committee:

Robin Wolpert reported on the venue for the November annual event. The two venues for the board to consider are the Minneapolis Club (\$3,300) and Windows on Minnesota (\$4,300). Robin stated that she narrowed the choices to these because a central location will boost attendance. She recommends the Minneapolis Club.

David Herr suggested that if we change venues in the future, we should consider the Judicial Center or the State Capitol.

Tom Boyd suggested that the board should review the venue annually and should consider formats like guest lectures and re-enactments for the annual event.

Tom Boyd moved to approve the Minneapolis Club as the venue for the Society's 2011 annual event. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Tom Boyd moved to approve a budget of \$3,300 (plus or minus a few hundred dollars) for the Society's 2011 annual event. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Robin reported that former Justice John Todd sat for an oral history in May. Alan Saeks inquired about the choice of Justice Todd for an oral history, and the board engaged in a discussion on the topic. Robin also reported that the committee plans to obtain the oral histories of former Justices Stringer and Yetka by the end of 2011.

Robin reported on the progress of the committee's proposed case-reenactment project for the fall. Bruce Jones moved to approve the concept and to move ahead with planning. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Justice Paul Anderson joined the meeting by telephone. The board interrupted the Events Committee report to discuss information he wanted to share. That discussion is reported below.

After Justice Anderson left the meeting, Tom Boyd reported on the Society's participation in the Nine Days in June event. There will be three CLE events for which the Society will give one-hour presentations.

The first is in Alexandria on June 7. Former court of appeals Judge Roger Nierengarten, former Justice Esther Tomljanovich, and attorney Dick Pemberton will present. The Supreme Court is hearing oral arguments that day, so none of the sitting justices are able to attend.

The second event is in Willmar on June 8. Justice Barry Anderson will deliver the opening for the Society's session.

The third event is in Bemidji on June 15. Former Chief Justice Russ Anderson will deliver the opening. The program will also include excerpts of video of former Justice John Simonett, a presentation by Justice David Stras on cases of historical interest, and a closing by former Justice Tomljanovich.

Publications Committee:

Justice Paul Anderson reported by telephone about developments in the preparation of former Justice Sandra Gardebring's career book. Judge Kalitowski and NFN Knuth will write about Justice Gardebring's agency career; former Judge Jim Randall about her court of appeals career; Justice Anderson about her Supreme Court career; and Amy Phenix about her University of Minnesota career. Former U of M Presidents Bruininks and Yudof will also provide written comments.

Justice Anderson also reported on the Society's possible involvement in the Civil War Sesquicentennial observance. There is a statewide organizing committee in place already. Legacy money might be available for planned events. Justice Anderson thinks the Society could become involved with a case-reenactment project.

Chair's report

Chair Tom Fraser reported that outgoing Chair Esther Tomljanovich preferred not to receive a plaque acknowledging her service to the Society. The Executive Committee decided instead to present Justice Tomljanovich with tickets for the Guthrie Theatre. She greatly appreciated the tickets as a showing of the Society's appreciation.

Tom also reported that former Justice Sam Hanson has presented some artifacts from the career of John McCarthy, longtime Minnesota Clerk of Courts. Tom passed these along to the Preservation Committee.

In the context of new artifacts, Kate McBride suggested changing the displays in the Judicial Center lobby.

Tom stated that the next scheduled board meeting is July 28 at the Judicial Center in St. Paul.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hart