

FCCA MEETING MINUTES

Board Meeting - Friday, October 19, 2001 (telephone)

The Board meeting was called to order by President Joe Haas at 11:00 AM (CST) on Friday, October 19, 2001, via telephone conference call.

Those present: Joe Haas, President; Jeff Apperson, President-Elect; Sam Hamrick, Immediate Past-President; Betty Jackson, Treasurer; Sheila Beauchene, Secretary; Circuit Representatives: James Starr-1st Circuit; Eileen Levine-2nd Circuit; John Zingo-3rd Circuit; Judy Shelton-4th Circuit; Linda Lee-5th Circuit; Sharon Howard-6th Circuit; Ian Key-9th Circuit; Jenine Wright-10th Circuit; June Phillips-11th Circuit; Val Pulley-National; Lance Wilson, Membership Committee Chair; Cris Beeman-Deputy Clerks' Council Chair; Cam Burke, Professional Development Chair.

President Haas presented the meeting agenda: Membership issues to be presented by Lance Wilson; Portland conference; and the Monies collected for the 911 relief fund.

Membership Drive:

Mr. Wilson inquired as to whether or not Board members and District Representatives received membership drive materials. Discussion held regarding various forms distributed and registration on the website. District and Circuit representatives will have access to the information for their circuit so they can verify the membership listings. Mr. Wilson will need a listing of all District Representatives from the Circuit Representatives as soon as possible, including e-mail addresses. The Circuit Representatives will have access to FCCA membership in their entire circuit, and the District Representatives will have access to membership in their district. Mr. Wilson expressed his appreciation to Matt Mullins from the District Court in Little Rock, Arkansas for preparing the on-line membership registration.

Mr. Wilson updated the Board on the membership efforts with Bankruptcy court offices and Clerks. Mr. Wilson set up meeting times with the Board members for a conference call with each circuit rep and their individual district reps. He will send out a follow-up memo to the Board members. He would like to touch base with as many district reps as possible. These conference calls will be held within three weeks and last approximately 30 minutes.

Betty Jackson requested the Circuit reps to please include on the membership forms the amount each member is paying.

President Haas requested information from each Board member to identify one person in each office who has been an active blood donor. He has only received information from one person. He would like to receive information on those who are blood donors as soon as possible.

Portland 2002 Conference:

President Haas briefed the Board on the FCCA Foundation recent events. A conference call was held with the Foundation, Sam Hamrick, Lance Wilson and himself. President Haas commented regarding an Ethics Opinion he forwarded to the Board members (July 8, 1994) via e-mail October 18. A letter was sent by a clerk about the procedure for the money that is received from the vendors. The Foundation conference call concluded with a decision to not deal with these issues until the Portland conference, when everyone would hopefully be together. This would give FCCA time to talk to the sponsors directly. The money donated could be directed to the host court, but they could not “buy” events. Since that conference call, however, this issue has come to a head. Rob Walsh called Mr. Haas after he reviewed a letter Sherri Carter had sent regarding the conferences, vendors, monies collected, etc. They called the AO and were given the 1994 ethics opinion.

The Portland conference has gone back to the hotel and has scaled down the events for the 2002 conference. No vendor fair to be held, \$250 for registration fee, and “a la cart” social events. No money would be accepted from the FCCA Foundation. Portland has a deadline of Friday, October 26 to get back to the hotel, so the Board needs to act quickly. We are at a real turning point in the organization. President Haas believes the Portland conference is right in their sentiments, and he has been troubled by this money issue from the very beginning. Portland will be the first conference to handle the monies in this manner. The Board has to decide if we approve the budget for the 2002 annual meeting. Inquiry was made as to what would become of the Foundation and what are their thoughts as to this decision. President Haas advised that this shouldn't concern the Board.

Cris Beeman advised she has discussed this same issue with Clerk Sherri Carter (host of the 2004 conference), and she intends to present a similar proposal to the Board at the January 2002 meeting. If the Board doesn't like it, they would understand and withdraw as the annual conference 2004 site. Ms. Carter will not allow a vendor fair or any FCCA Foundation money to pay for the conference. They will have fundraisers in their court to cover the costs.

Cam Burke noted that the Foundation was formed to solicit money, and they reviewed the 1994 Ethics Opinion at that time. FCCA inquired of the AO about setting up the Foundation and received acceptance from the AO. Discussion held regarding the “appearance of impropriety,” and this apparently was felt at the time the Foundation was organized, but never completely addressed.

President Haas advised the issue that faces the Board is Portland, and whether or not we go with their new plan for the 2002 conference. The Board needs to completely support the decision for Portland.

The vendor fair was discussed further. Portland does not want any vendors at the conference. The vendors, however, could pay the hotel to show their goods to those who attend the conference without any FCCA involvement. Ian Keye inquired as to whether or not we could still have a vendor fair, but not have it a part of fundraising. The vendor fair is a big draw for many attendees.

If this new procedure is put in place, information needs to go the general membership about the conferences, the Foundation, and all the other information discussed regarding vendor fair, etc.

Jenine Wright moved we support the Portland conference committee and go forward with their proposal for the 2002 Annual Conference. (No vendor fair, scaled back events, and increased registration fee). Cris Beeman seconded the motion. President Haas noted he wants to hear comments now at this meeting, and he doesn't want to hear later from any Board members regarding this issue. No comments made. Motion carried.

911 Money Fund:

President Haas requested Eileen Levine to advise the Board of several possible organizations to donate the 911 Relief Fund Monies collected by FCCA. The Board will vote by e-mail as to where the money will be donated.

Other Business:

Linda Lee requested Board members to advise her if they will be attending the Board Meeting in January and the arrival and departure dates. Deadline for this is December 1, 2001.

Next telephone board meeting has not been set.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM. (CST).

Sheila Beauchene, Secretary