

FCCA MEETING MINUTES

Telephone Conference Call - Tuesday, December 11, 2002

The telephonic Board meeting was called to order by President Joe Haas at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 11, 2002.

Those present: Joe Haas, President; Jeff Apperson, President-Elect; Sam Hamrick-Immediate Past President; David Stechmann, Historian; Sheila Beauchene, Secretary; Circuit Representatives: James Starr-1st Circuit; Maria Carpenter-2nd Circuit; Judy Shelton-4th Circuit; Linda Lee-5th Circuit; Sue Rigan-6th Circuit; Norb Jaworski-7th Circuit; Michell Valentine-8th Circuit; Ian Keye-9th Circuit; Jenine Wright-10th Circuit; June Philips-11th Circuit; Anne Styles-National; Sheryl Loesch, Clerks Council Chair; Cameron Burke-Professional Development Chair; Pam Twiford-Membership Chair; Anne Kuschel, District of North Dakota.

Portland Conference:

President Haas advised the Board that Portland will be submitting a check to FCCA for \$20,000, this includes seed money and the profit from the 2002 conference. The Marriott Hotel gave FCCA the benefit of the first hotel contract that was entered into, so FCCA saved approximately \$10,000.

Mid-Year Board Meeting:

Linda Lee requested the Board members advise her if they would be attending the mid-year meeting in Anaheim, as she needs to make room reservations. FCCA will be paying for the hotel costs for January 17 & 18, 2003. The room cost is \$95 plus tax, for up to four people in a room. Sheryl Loesch will not be able to attend, but she inquired of the Board if she should send a person from her court to present the budget for the 2003 conference. Pam Twiford, Membership chair, inquired about attending. Joe Haas advised Ms. Twiford she should be in attendance as membership chair, and FCCA would pay her hotel and airline expenses.

Membership Update:

Ms. Twiford provided a membership update. A written report for membership as of this date was sent to the Board via email. She expressed her appreciation to Maria Carpenter for her membership ideas and suggestions, and she has passed those along to the District Representatives. She should have the FCCA listings prepared by next week for the Board. Discussion as to how the Board members can have access to those who have joined in their circuit so that follow-ups can be completed. Joe Haas advised the on-line membership registration this year has been put on hold, and we will discuss this at our January mid-year meeting. The Board needs to spend more time on this issue and make decisions by late Spring or early Summer next year so the procedures can be implemented for the membership drive for next fall.

2005 Conference:

Jeff Apperson reported he received a proposed hotel contract from U.S. Bankruptcy Clerk Ken Gardner, for a joint NCBC/FCCA Conference in 2005, to be held in Chicago, Illinois. The Court in Providence, Rhode Island is interested in hosting the conference in 2006. Jeff will be discussing the 2005 conference with Ken in the near future. Jeff will forward a copy of the contract to the Board members. Discussion held regarding setting the annual conferences in the months of July and August.

Corporate Sponsorship Issues:

Jeff Apperson discussed the opinion letter received from the Administrative Office regarding the issue of vendor support for annual conferences, and FCCA's relationship with the Foundation. He presented three alternatives : 1. Opinion states that FCCA cannot solicit funds, directly or indirectly, through the Foundation. 2. Up to Host Clerk to decide on ethical decisions. 3. We could have a Foundation, but they would have to be independent from FCCA as an organization. Mr. Apperson is not ready, however, to finalize these options. He feels he needs more time on this to prepare. Jim Davey did indicate he would be willing to keep the Foundation's records and books.

Discussion held regarding all alternatives. The Chief Judge of the court where the conference is held becomes the chief ethics officer in the district. They are the major decision makers of what support can be given. Mr. Apperson feels there are many questions that could arise out of this and that it is difficult to address them unless we are faced with a particular situation. The Foundation can only have a relationship with FCCA as long as we aren't coordinating vendor support. Each experience would have to be filtered through the content of the opinion. The opinion from the AO doesn't exclude Bar Association help.

Ms. Loesch noted the registration fee for the Orlando 2003 conference is tentatively set at \$250; which is the bare minimum cost. The budget for the 2003 conference should be discussed at the mid-year meeting.

Bylaw Change:

Committee Chair Bob Heinemann drafted a bylaw change regarding the offices of president-elect and president. His proposal includes a special election to be held. The Board needs to approve an amendment at the mid-year meeting so that it can be presented to the membership for a vote. Two proposals will be presented at the mid-year.

Jury Summit Update:

Treasurer Betty Jackson presented a summary regarding the funds received for the jury summit held in August: Registration: \$22,400; disbursements: \$18,100. She will provide Treasurer's reports once she receives further information and the check from Portland. Joe Haas indicated we should send our thanks to Betsy Paret for all her work on making the Jury Summit such a huge success.

Web site:

Discussion held regarding the FCCA website. The District of Idaho will most likely not be able to host the site any longer. The Board will need to hire a private vendor to host the site. The issue of using government resources was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps a university could host the site, and Jeff Apperson will check into this option. Cam Burke noted a private entity hosts the NCBC website, and perhaps FCCA could utilize the same provider.

Linda Lee moved to adjourn. Michell Valentine seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Beauchene, Secretary

Handouts:

1. Membership reports as of 12/11/02
2. Proposed by-law changes