

**FCCA MEETING MINUTES**  
**Board Meeting - Wednesday, December 20, 2000**  
**Telephone Conference Call**

The Board meeting was called to order by President Sam Hamrick at 1:30 PM (EST), on Wednesday, December 20, 2000.

Those present: Sam Hamrick, President; Lance Wilson, Past President; Joe Haas, President-Elect; Betty Jackson, Treasurer; Corrine Szalay, Historian; Sheila Beauchene, Secretary; Circuit Representatives: David DiMarzio-1st Circuit; Eileen Levine-2nd Circuit; John Zingo-3rd Circuit; Judy Shelton-4th Circuit; Linda Lee-5th Circuit; Norb Jaworski-7th Circuit; Michell Smith-8th Circuit; Ian Keye-9th Circuit; Raymond Waguespack-11th Circuit; Nadine Smith-Deputy Clerks' Council Chair; Camille Hickman, District of Oregon, on behalf of Chief Deputy Robert Walch, and Anne Kuschel-FCCA Member.

President Sam Hamrick advised this meeting was scheduled for the purpose of reconsidering the dates of the Portland 2002 conference. Mr. Hamrick provided the Board with background information on the Portland Conference Committee's request to reconsider the dates of the 2002 Conference. He reviewed the November 20, 2000, letter from Rob Walch, Chief Deputy from Portland with the Board. In this letter, Mr. Walch requested the Board to reconsider their proposal for conference dates to: Sunday, July 28, 2002, through Thursday, August 1, 2002.

Ms. Hickman met with Mr. Walch on November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss extending the conference dates from the dates originally proposed. Mr. Haas questioned if the hotel in Portland was able to accommodate the extra day for the annual conference. Ms. Hickman was not certain, but presumed Mr. Walch contacted the hotel. The contract for the hotel needs to be finalized by the end of this month.

Lance Wilson questioned where the request came from to extend the conference by an extra day. Ms. Hickman wasn't certain, but thought that travel was one concern. Mr. Hamrick noted on November 14<sup>th</sup> the Portland conference committee met by telephone, and Joe Haas participated in that meeting on behalf of him. Mr. Haas noted there were three options that were discussed at the meeting: leave the dates as set; go back to the more traditional dates for the conference; or take a middle ground and plan for some optional events for that last day. Ms. Hickman noted the Portland committee wants to do what is best for the conference.

Raymond Waguespack expressed concern about changing the conference dates due to hotel costs and any financial assistance clerks may give to FCCA members to attend the annual conference. It is his feeling those attending who are in a grade level of 25 or lower, the costs savings would be very beneficial.

Linda Lee surveyed a few FCCA members in her circuit, and the response was mixed. It would save some money, but if you are already at the conference, this alone would not decide on weather or not

the member would attend. If the conference doesn't go the four days, and one day of that leave would be lost, and the member would have to return on a Thursday and work the next day, or take a day of annual leave. Several members concurred with this comment.

John Zingo advised even with a shorter conference, and the AO's letter regarding funding, his clerk will not put any money in the budget for their staff to attend the conferences. Mr. Zingo would like to have the Board survey the attendees at the Cleveland Conference to see how many are receiving financial assistance from their clerks. How many members will this really affect?

Michell Smith advised the shorter conference is a better route to go for the annual conferences and is a positive for their office.

Mr. Hamrick advised the Board that at the 2000 NCBC Conference in San Diego, two weeks prior to the conference, their registration numbers doubled. This was due in large part to the letter from the Administrative Office approving clerks to provide financial assistance to those attending these annual conferences.

David DiMarzio discussed the shorter conference with his staff, and he is offering partial reimbursement for attendance at FCCA conferences. He is paying the cost of registration and giving up to \$200 per person to use as needed. This will afford them the opportunity to find the most economical way to travel to these conferences.

Eileen Levine requested that a survey be done in the next issue of the Journal regarding the length of the annual conferences. Mr. Haas noted this would be difficult as the contract with the hotel in Portland needs to be finalized by the end of this month.

Mr. Haas stated that it comes down to whether or not people want to take an extra day of annual leave. However, Ms. Shelton noted that if there is a planned, organized event for one more day, it keeps the cohesiveness of the group. If the last day is an optional one, you will lose that connection and network. She prefers the four day conferences. Mr. Zingo noted the issue of airfares as well. If he is going to spend a certain amount of money on airfare to travel to a conference that is a great distance from his court, he wants to be able to spend as much time as possible with the FCCA attendees.

Ian Keye advised there is one other issue he has heard, and that is with a three day conference we may be trying to cram too much into the timeframe; assuming the educational sessions and meetings are kept at the same level as they have previously been. He doesn't think we have had a problem in the past attracting people to attend the conferences.

Betty Jackson commented there is no guarantee that members are going to receive reimbursement given the budget for the year. She pays for the conference expenses on her own and appreciates the Administrative Leave given by her clerk. She supports the four day conferences.

Mr. Wilson noted we should be giving great deference to the host courts as to the length of the

conferences. He also advised that there is a right way and a wrong way to present issues, and this issue probably wasn't presented the right way.

Linda Lee moved to amend the last vote of the Board to have the three day conference extended to a four day conference for 2002, to be held in Portland, pursuant to Robert Walch's written request. Eileen Levine seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: 12 votes in favor; 2 votes opposed. Mr. Hamrick will advise Robert Walch of the Board's decision. The Portland conference for 2002 will be extended by one day. He expressed his appreciation to Ms. Hickman for participating in the conference call.

Mr. Wilson commented regarding the membership drive, and advised 40 out of 94 districts have sent in their membership information to him. He telephoned several clerks in the various courts to encourage FCCA membership, and requested the Board to assist in the membership process.

Mr. Wilson also commented regarding the budget for the 2001 Conference in Cleveland. As soon as Mr. Hamrick receives the final budget from Geri Smith in Cleveland, he will get this information to the Board prior to the Mid-year meeting.

Recess 2:20 PM (EST).

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Beauchene, FCCA Secretary