

FCCA MINUTES
Teleconference Board Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Loesch. Those present: Sheryl Loesch, President; Jeff Apperson, Immediate Past President; Sue Rigan, Secretary; John Zingo, Treasurer; David Stechmann, Historian. Circuit Representatives: Deenah Levine, Second Circuit; Bob Barth, Third Circuit; Rob Walker, Fourth Circuit; Peggy Guernsey, Seventh Circuit; Sue Kern, Eighth Circuit; Yvonne Goodloe, Eleventh Circuit; Robin Tabora, Washington DC Federal Courts. Committee Chairs: Karen Mitchell, Clerk's Council; Jenine Wright, Deputy Clerk's Council; Pat McNutt, Journal Editor; Pam Twiford, Membership; Ian Keye, Professional Development; and, Maria Carpenter, Site Selection.

Reduction of Conference Registration Fee for Retirees

Sheryl Loesch reported having received a suggestion to offer reduced conference fees for retired FCCA members to encourage their attendance. Jenine Wright made a motion to offer "a la carte" registration fees to allow retirees to pick and choose the events they wish to attend. Bob Barth seconded the motion. The motion carried.

One-Time Reduced Membership Fee for the Remainder of the Current Period

Yvonne Goodloe made a motion to allow a one-time reduction in membership dues, from \$30 to \$20, for anyone wishing to join the FCCA between December 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. This will allow new members to attend the 2007 annual conference without having to pay the full 18-month membership fee. The motion was seconded by Rob Walker. The motion carried. Pam Twiford said if any member pays the full \$30 fee after December 1st, she will call them to see whether they would like to make a donation to the FCCA or have a refund mailed to them. Ms. Twiford and Ms. Goodloe agreed to prepare an announcement to the District Reps.

FCCA Website Suggestions

Sheryl Loesch circulated two suggestions to the FCCA's website that were submitted by one of our members. The first suggestion was to download Team Tempe's PowerPoint presentation shown at the Boston conference. Ms. Loesch said she would contact Deb Lucas to see if it is still available.

The second suggestion was to add a link to the Programs tab titled "Professional Development and Education," to provide information on the MSU program. Ms. Loesch said she would contact Joe Haas to develop what could be posted. Additionally, it was suggested this new link include information on the use of appropriated funds to offset FCCA training for court employees. Ms. Loesch suggested posting the letter from Phil McKinney. Ms. Loesch will ask Linda Wade-Bahr to put together a proposed link in a preview mode for the Board to review before it is added to the website.

Upcoming Membership Drive

Pam Twiford confirmed the next membership drive will begin June 1, 2007 for the membership year beginning July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Dues may also be renewed at the annual conference. Additionally, membership renewal information will be included in the conference packet.

Annual Conference Survey Results

Robin Tabora asked whether it was appropriate for the Board to distribute the survey results to all members and the Board agreed it would be OK to do so. Pat McNutt was concerned about the timeliness of the Journal publication and the amount of conference information available at the time the February issue is published. Although much is known following the mid-year conference, sometimes host courts aren't able to finalize certain details far in advance. Ms. McNutt said she would be certain to publish as much information as is available.

There was a general discussion as to whether or not it was appropriate for conference attendees to use their court identification card to obtain tax exempt status. Pat McNutt said she will check with the Office of the General Counsel and she will report her findings.

Robin Tabora said she will ask members of Team Tempe to join the Conference Advisory Committee. The Committee will draft an article for the Journal summarizing the survey results.

FCCA's Membership in Other Associations

Jeff Apperson asked whether the FCCA would be interested in joining other organizations such as the European Union Association. The cost to join as an observer would be \$1000. Many international courts have made technological and procedural advances that could be useful to our courts. Being involved in these organizations allows a level of information sharing that may not otherwise be available. For example, Mr. Apperson observed unique automation demonstrations by several European countries, and Austria had an archive system far better than ours in the federal courts. Karen Mitchell agreed that an association with our European colleagues can give us a valuable perspective. Mr. Apperson said he will write a report on his observations and the advantages of international affiliation.

Proposed Changes to the Blood for Life Program

The Deputy Clerk's Council submitted four proposed changes to the Blood for Life program. Due to time constraints, these matters were tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Deputy Clerk's Council Recommendation on the Purchase of Ink Pens

The Deputy Clerk's Council is proposing to order Patriot Pride Colorstick Pens to be

distributed during the membership drive. The pens are red, white and blue with bold stars and stripes design. They have blue ink and will be imprinted with “Federal Court Clerks’ Association Membership Matters! !!Thank You!!” The cost would be \$550 for 2000 pens and the funds would come from the Deputy Clerk’s Council Budget. As such, approval from the Board is not necessary for the purchase. Jenine Wright said she would try to have the pens shipped to the Mid-Year conference so that Circuit Representatives can take their share to distribute to their District Representatives.

Hotel and Logistical Information for the Mid-Year Meeting

Sheryl Loesch reminded everyone that we are required to stay at the Golden Nugget Hotel for two nights, and the FCCA will pay for one night only. Maria Carpenter will be collecting information for a rooming list and will distribute it to everyone upon completion. The meeting will be held on Saturday morning, January 13, 2007. Ms. Loesch asked whether the Board would like Joe Haas to attend and discuss the MSU program. The Board approved.

Other Business

Due to time constraints, the remaining items on the agenda will be discussed at a later date. Sheryl Loesch will schedule another teleconference meeting in December.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Rigan
FCCA Secretary