

FCCA MINUTES
Teleconference Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)

The meeting was called to order by President Sheryl Loesch on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time.

Those present: Sheryl Loesch, President; Bill McCool, President-Elect; 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; Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit; Susan Kern, Eighth Circuit, Michael Nagy, Ninth Circuit; Ralph DeLoach, Tenth 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; Maria Carpenter, Site Selection.

New Business - FERS Sick Leave Conversion Update

Sheryl Loesch reminded everyone that the FCCA was working with the Federal Management Coalition to get FERS sick leave converted into some sort of benefit to encourage federal employees to save sick leave. Ms. Loesch said she recently spoke with Jim De La Torre, Area Vice President of Gallagher Benefit Services, who informed her that NOVA (Nurses Organization of Veteran's Affairs) hired a professional lobbyist, Debra Beck, who was able to get Congress to convert NOVA employees' unused sick leave into credit for years of service. Ms. Loesch participated in a conference call with Mr. De La Torre and Ms. Beck and was very impressed with Ms. Beck's ideas and skills as a lobbyist. Among other things, they discussed joining with NCBC and approaching sick leave conversion for judiciary employees only, as opposed to all federal employees, since precedence for agency conversion has been set with NOVA. Karen Mitchell thought the judges would be in favor of any incentive to save sick leave, so she suggested we enlist the help of the Judges Coalition if we move forward. Ms. Loesch suggested the Board consider inviting Ms. Beck to give a presentation at the Mid-Year meeting. Rob Walker made a motion to invite Ms. Beck to attend our Mid-Year meeting, reimburse her for her airfare and hotel, and give a presentation to the Board. Bill McCool seconded. The motion carried.

Special Projects Update

Ms. Loesch announced that Jim De La Torre will be attending the Mid-Year meeting and will provide an update at that time.

Proposed FCCA Mission Statement

Maria Carpenter submitted three versions for the Board's consideration. A motion to

approve “version three” was made by Bob Barth and seconded by Rob Walker. The motion carried. The newly adopted mission statement is attached and will be added to the web site.

Deputy Clerk’s Council Survey

Jenine Wright circulated the draft survey. She suggested using Monkey.com to compile the data. A number of Board members provided suggestions, such as using the survey as a marketing tool, and having an incentive to complete the survey, such as a random prize drawing. Ms. Wright asked everyone to bring proposed changes to the Mid-Year meeting for further discussion.

MSU Program Update

Sheryl Loesch said Joe Haas will be attending the Mid-Year meeting and will provide an update to the Board at that time.

Site Selection Committee

Maria Carpenter asked whether she should make arrangements for a group dinner during the Mid-Year meeting on Friday and Saturday. Sheryl Loesch said she would ask Lance Wilson to recommend a restaurant and assist with those arrangements.

Ms. Carpenter said she received no responses to date from courts west of the Mississippi for the 2009 annual conference. Sheryl Loesch and Ralph DeLoach said they have ideas and would report back to the Board after making several contact calls.

FJC’s Suggestion for an Additional Day at the Annual Conference

Sheryl Loesch reported adding an extra day onto the Annual Conference for an FJC training program could allow for more staff to attend both the Annual Conference and the FJC’s training without extra expense. Ms. Loesch said she would work with her contacts at the FJC to see if this is possible. Bill McCool suggested adding the extra day at the end of the conference since it is usually a Friday. Jeff Apperson said the hotel contract for the 2007 conference will include extra rooms, if necessary.

Welcome New Circuit Representative

Sheryl Loesch introduced Mr. Michael Nagy as the new Circuit Representative for the Ninth Circuit. She said Mr. Nagy is a long time FCCA member and supporter and he will make a great addition to our team.

Old Business

Pat McNutt wanted to be sure everyone received her e-mail in which she reported

learning FCCA conference attendees can claim tax-exempt status provided their supervisor approved their attendance as court business.

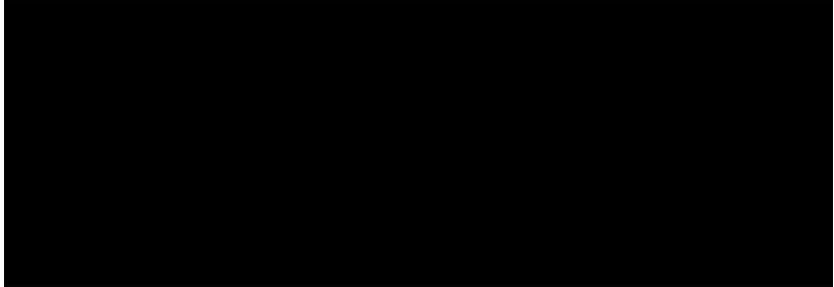
Jenine Wright reported the FCCA pens have been shipped to Lance Wilson's office and will be available for Circuit Representatives to pick up at the Mid-Year meeting. Circuit Representatives will distribute the pens to their District Representatives who will pass them along to their members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rigan
FCCA Secretary

Attachment



☆☆☆ MISSION STATEMENT ☆☆☆

Fulfilling Commitment to ExCellence Through EducAtion

The Federal Court Clerks' Association was established in 1922 to promote the professionalism and integrity of the federal judiciary. The Association is committed to increasing the proficiency of court employees by providing training at annual conferences; supporting the independence of the judiciary; fostering cooperation between courts and the community; and serving as a liaison between the clerks, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts.