

## FCCA TELEPHONIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Shery Loesch on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

Those present: Sheryl Loesch, President; Jeff Apperson, Immediate Past-President; John Zingo, Treasurer; and David Stechmann, Historian. Circuit Representatives: Ginny Hurley, First Circuit; Maria Carpenter, Second Circuit; Bob Barth, Third Circuit; Betsy Paret, Fourth Circuit; Jeanne Henderson, Fifth Circuit; Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit, Peggy Guernsey, Seventh Circuit; Peter Tagliaferri, Ninth Circuit, Ralph DeLoach, Tenth Circuit; Yvonne Goodloe, Eleventh Circuit; and Bettina Guerre, National Circuit. Committee Chairs: Karen Mitchell, Clerk's Council; Jenine Wright, Deputy Clerk's Council; Patricia McNutt, Journal Editor; Pam Twiford, Membership; Anne Stygles, Nominations; and Jim Murphy, Special Projects.

A motion was made by Maria Carpenter to accept the minutes of the Mid Year Board Meeting in Tempe, AZ as printed. Ginny Hurley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pam Twiford, Membership Chair, reported that as of last Friday (the week of February 5<sup>th</sup>), there were 651 paid members. She said that there were several big courts that still had not turned in their membership drive information. She was a little concerned. President Loesch asked the Circuit Reps to look at Pam's membership report and contact the district courts who have not turned in their membership information. John Zingo reported that at the same time last year, we had 1,000 memberships.

President Loesch reported that she sent letters to all Clerks of Courts, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and to the Appellate Circuit Court of Appeals Clerks encouraging them to promote membership in FCCA within their districts. President Loesch asked the Circuit Reps to contact and encourage those districts in their circuits who have not turned in their membership drive information to submit it as soon as possible.

Pat McNutt mentioned that perhaps people didn't realize that they could join FCCA at any time during the year. Perhaps it was thought that if they missed joining during the membership drive that they would have to wait until the next drive to join. People need to be reminded that they can still join.

There was discussion about the possible causes of the decrease in membership this year. Downsizing and the increase of dues may have affected the membership drive.

Bettina Guerre said that she would follow-up with the Clerk of the Supreme Court.

President Loesch asked the Board members to contact her as they had ideas on membership.

Follow up from the Mid-Year Board Meeting:

Storage Room at Administrative Office - President Loesch reported that she contacted the AO about possibly using some space there to store FCCA items. She was told that there wasn't

any space at the AO for such a project. Also, giving space to FCCA would be setting a precedent for other groups.

FCCA's Hurricane Relief Fund Articles - President Loesch reported that there will be articles about FCCA's Hurricane Relief Fund in the Third Branch and the DCAD monthly e-mail. This publicity should be great for FCCA's image.

Monthly Informational E-Mail to Membership - Pat McNutt volunteered to do "bullet points" on the monthly informational e-mails. These current events will be sent to President Loesch for approval before they are distributed. President Loesch will talk with Linda Wade about posting the bullets on FCCA's web site. The current events will be posted at the top of the website's home page around the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month. After the bullets are posted, these monthly current events should be distributed by the Circuit Reps to the District Reps who in turn should distribute them to their District members. Current events will be archived by the month.

International Relations Committee - Ralph DeLoach reported that he will be traveling to Russia on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He offered to bring back items from Russia to use in fund raising at the Annual Conference in Boston. He would like to raise \$1200.00 with 2/3 of the proceeds going towards internet access for the American Center in Russia and the remaining 1/3 of the proceeds going to FCCA. He said he was willing to set up a booth at the conference for this fund raising event. Peter Tagliaferri moved to allow Ralph to bring back items from his trip to Russia to be used as a fund raiser at the annual conference in order to create interest in the International Relations Committee. Ginny Hurley seconded the motion. The motion passed. Peter, Jeff, and President Loesch offered to assist him with the booth.

Update on fund raising items - Secretary Sue Rigan located in the minutes of the Board meeting held in Portland, Oregon on July 28, 2002, the motion and second to reimburse Ms. Beeman for the cost of the pins; she would return the revenue to the FCCA with one-half of the profits going to the host court of the next annual conference to be used to help offset conference expenses, and the other one-half going to the FCCA general fund. This 50 - 50 split will continue for all future fund raising.

Bylaw Amendment regarding the reference to the National Circuit - Ann Stygles, Nomination Chair, reported that she thought there should be consistency between the nomination packet information and the bylaws regarding the National Circuit. The bylaws uses DC Circuit, and the nomination packet information uses National Circuit or DC Circuit. After some discussion, Ann Stygles moved to recommend to the membership a bylaw change changing "National Circuit" to "Washington DC Federal Courts". The motion was seconded by Ginny Hurley. The motion passed.

Ann reminded the Board that nominations are due March 15, 2006.

Update on Benefits Program - Jim Murphy reported that he has a conference call on February 14, 2006, with Jim De La Torre of Gallagher. Jim said that he hasn't yet gotten a copy of NCBC's agreement with Gallagher to review, but he will. He did say that in order to generate

more revenue, NCBC does offer the Gallagher benefit package to the entire judiciary, not just NCBC members. After tomorrow's meeting, Jim will put together a draft letter of understanding and get it to President Loesch and Bill McCool by the end of the month. They can distribute it to the board members. For every subscription, Gallagher will provide a nominal fee to FCCA. Jim reported that he had contacted another company regarding benefits, but his calls had not been returned. He recommended that we work with Gallagher.

Turbo Tax Suggestion - Maria Carpenter reported that she learned that Turbo Tax offers free software for military service personnel. She suggested that we check into this offer to see if this is something that could be offered to FCCA members. Maria will work on contact information.

Arizona Conference - banquet - Rick Weare had reported that the conference banquet would be held in the hotel courtyard, and it would be casual dress. There were some concern expressed by board members regarding the heat, if the banquet was held outside. President Loesch will follow up with Rick and Deb Lucas regarding this issue.

Old Business - Jeff Apperson explained that the International Association of Court Administration and the International Relations Committee are two corporate entities. Jeff talked with Karen Mitchell about asking the Clerk's Council for a proportionate reimbursement of the \$4,000.00 that FCCA donated to the International Relations Committee. Karen said she would ask her Executive Committee and get back with him. Jeff said if anyone had any questions to let him know.

New Business - None

Other Business - President Loesch mentioned that the FJC Education Committee would be meeting in Denver October 3-4-and 5, 2006. She would like to have a FCCA membership drive table at the conference for District Court Clerks/Chief Deputies. Pam Twiford volunteered to assist Sheryl with the table.

Ralph DeLoach suggested that the proceeds from the International fund raising booth at the FCCA Annual Conference in Boston should be distributed as follows:

- 25% - FCCA General fund
- 25% - Pay down the debt of the seed money provided for the International Conference
- 50% - Internet Access

President Loesch said she will follow up with Circuit Reps regarding membership.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenine Wright  
Acting FCCA Secretary