

FCCA MEETING MINUTES
Teleconference Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 31, 2004, 3:00 EST

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM EST by President Jeff Apperson on Tuesday, August 31, 2004, via teleconference call. Those present were Jeff Apperson, President; Sheryl Loesch, President-Elect; Sue Rigan, Secretary; David Stechmann, Historian; Circuit Representatives: Ginny Hurley, First Circuit; Maria Carpenter, Second Circuit; Jim Murphy, Third Circuit; Betsy Paret, Fourth Circuit; Nancy Olansky, Fifth Circuit, Cheryl Sweat, Sixth Circuit; Steve Ludwig, Seventh Circuit; Susan Kern, Eighth Circuit, Marianne Matherly, Ninth Circuit; Ralph DeLoach, Tenth Circuit; Bettina Guerre, National Circuit; Bill McCool, Clerk's Council Chair; Cris Beeman, Deputy Clerk's Council Chair. Also present were Journal Editor, Pat McNutt and Membership Chair Pam Twiford.

President Jeff Apperson began by welcoming the new members to the Board. He reported the Annual Conference in Anaheim was very strong and he received a lot of very positive feedback as a result. He credited much of the success of the conference to the development and implementation of the MSU program which began its inaugural sessions in Anaheim.

Membership Drive

Jeff Apperson reported the membership drive will start earlier this year on September 1st, pursuant to the Board's recommendation. Pam Twiford reported preparations on the drive have already begun. The theme this year will be "Elect FCCA as Your Choice," in conjunction with the national Presidential election. Membership packets are almost ready to be distributed. Steve Ludwig reported more District Representatives are needed in the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Apperson indicated he will see what he can do to strengthen the representation in the Seventh Circuit and he would also like to strengthen the Retirees' section. A suggestion was made for all Circuit Representatives to distribute the minutes of Board meetings directly to their District Representatives as soon as they are approved, rather than waiting for them to be published.

Jim Murphy suggested the Board think of ways to energize the District Representatives. Ginny Hurley stated she was inspired by once receiving a call from Lance Wilson who also had every other District Representative on the line. Mr. Apperson stated he is strongly committed to the District Representatives and will conduct a conference call with Pam Twiford and every Circuit Representative and their respective District Representatives. He asked Circuit Representatives to alert their District Representatives and get their contact information to him as soon as possible. He also will be sending letters to all Clerks of Court once the *Journal* is distributed.

Board Membership

Jeff Apperson reported Linda Lee resigned as Site Selection Chair after years of dedicated service. In addition, the Finance Chair remains vacant following John Zingo's election to Treasurer. He asked Board members to consider volunteering for one of those positions. Any other ideas for nominations should be submitted to Mr. Apperson as soon as possible.

Mid Year Meeting - January 15, 2005 Boston, Massachusetts

Ginny Hurley reported the Radisson Hotel had no hotel rooms available for the mid-year conference due to many bookings over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. As an alternative, she suggested the Board stay at the Milner Hotel which is just across the street, at a lesser cost of \$85.00 per night. She said the Radisson may be able to give us a meeting room and she's hoping to arrange a tour of the Radisson facility along with having the group dinner there that evening. Sue Rigan asked whether Board members would consider holding the mid-year meeting on another weekend when the Radisson would be more accessible, but other members reported conflicts with alternate weekends. The Board agreed to have the mid-year meeting at the Milner Hotel on January 15th as planned. While there, we hope to be able to close the conference deal with the Radisson for the 2006 Annual Conference. Cris Beeman asked whether the Milner Hotel could accommodate our annual conference, given the reduced cost. Ms. Hurley said the Milner does not have enough meeting rooms and guest rooms for our needs. Ms. Hurley will prepare an e-mail to the Board with more specific information so plans can be made for the meeting.

Journal Update

Cheryl Sweat reported she sent a survey regarding members' preferences of receiving a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Journal*. The survey also asked the respondents' likes and dislikes about the current format. It was sent to all Circuit Representatives with a request to forward to all District Representatives and members. She received 145¹ responses, all of which were placed into a chart and sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. Ms. Sweat said most reported they liked the pictures, personal interest stories, and articles relating to work. The majority reported they liked getting a hard copy of the *Journal* in the mail, while some would agree to an electronic version. Some suggested more frequent issues could sent electronically as information became known. Pat McNutt indicated it would be too much work for just one person to put out more issues of the *Journal* than are currently distributed, even if in electronic format.

Jeff Apperson suggested using the FCCA membership form as a means of asking all members whether or not they would prefer to receive an electronic version of the *Journal*. David Stechmann suggested sending an electronic version to all those who wish to receive it

¹ This number is incorrect. While compiling articles for the Winter 2005 *Journal*, Cheryl noted the correct number of responses should be 126.

electronically, and sending a hard copy for only those who prefer it in hard copy. He noted saving even a few hard copies would be a cost savings measure. Mr. Apperson reminded everyone that the *Journal* is available on the website and we wouldn't have to send the *Journal* itself electronically. Instead an e-mail could be sent when the *Journal* is posted on the web site. Bill McCool questioned whether using e-mail in that manner would be an appropriate use of the Judiciary's network. Mr. Apperson said the educational content of the *Journal* is so high that it would be appropriate. Pam Twiford said she would put the question of whether one prefers receiving the *Journal* in hard copy versus electronic copy on the membership form for the 2005 drive, and those who wish to receive a hard copy of the *Journal* will continue to receive it that way. Those who agree to an electronic version will get a notice when the *Journal* is posted on the FCCA's web site.

International Conference

In advance of the meeting, Jeff Apperson distributed two attachments pertaining to the upcoming international conference in Slovenia (**see attachments**). He reported Committee members, Ralph DeLoach, Sheryl Loesch, Joe Haas and himself will be traveling to the meeting in Slovenia and will be asking for \$4000 seed money to help offset the costs of the meeting rooms and other necessities, not for the Committee members' travel or personal expenses - they are traveling at their own expense. In addition, the money would be repaid, if possible. Bill McCool made a motion to advance the Committee \$4000, stating he felt it was the most important thing the FCCA could do to help other countries. Ginny Hurley seconded the motion. Mr. Apperson opened the matter for discussion.

Jim Murphy felt the expenditure would not benefit the rank and file members of the FCCA. Cris Beeman felt the money could be better used to promote membership or provide benefits for members. Bettina Guerre asked whether the FCCA's participation would open the membership to the international arena and if so, the advancement of money could benefit the FCCA by bringing in additional members. Jeff Apperson said he would encourage the people attending the international conference to join our organization and he could foresee the FCCA gaining members worldwide. Ralph DeLoach believed it will bring credibility to the FCCA and also felt the motion should be amended to \$5000, noting that the money will be repaid if at all possible. Maria Carpenter thought it was our patriotic duty to help other countries who are asking for our help. She suggested someone write an article for the *Journal* to explain how the expenditure would help the FCCA, NCBC and NACM, all of which are donating seed money. Jeff Apperson said he would write an article. Betsy Paret suggested soliciting contributions from members to see if anyone would like to donate directly.

Jeff Apperson conducted a roll call vote on the motion to advance \$4000 seed money. The motion carried by a vote of 15 - 2.

MSU Program

Jeff Apperson reported on behalf of Joe Haas. He reported the committee has been meeting and a five-year curriculum plan is being developed and coordinated with NCBC and NACM. Sherry Carter also is continuing her involvement. There are currently 145 enrolled in the program and it is expected to grow. Mr. Apperson indicated he will send an e-mail to the members explaining the curriculum.

FY 2005 Budget

Jeff Apperson asked what people are hearing about the state of the budget for fiscal year 2005. Maria Carpenter reported she heard the outlook is not good for her court and they are studying various options. Betsy Paret suggested a national furlough day in which perhaps all courts could close on the same day to gain national attention to the Judiciary's budget crisis. Mr. Apperson reported a number of very good people are offering to help lobby on our behalf to get Congress's attention. The bottom line is that we still don't know for certain what will be the final outcome of the budget, and official information has not yet been advanced to the courts.

Sheryl Loesch made a motion to adjourn. Ginny Hurley seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rigan, FCCA Secretary
September 29, 2004

Attachments