

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Meeting was held in the conference room in the Clerk's Office and via phone conference

Attendees:

Kevin Collins, Tim Vavricek, Melissa Carrington, Paul De Young, Misti Michel, Rich Murphy, Hilary Naab, Emma Barden

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Motion to Approve January 25, 2023 Minutes**

Minutes were approved.

- 3. Membership/Treasurer Update**

Currently, there are 33 paid members (not including judges). Tim Vavricek is still working on the electronic payment system, but so far it seems to be a success. There is currently just over \$4,600 in the historical society account. Motion was made to give authority to Tim to use his best judgment to deposit all or most of the funds into a Certificate of Deposit or ladder funds into Certificates of Deposit. Motion passed.

- 4. Governing Documents Discussion (In 2020, the 8th Circuit Historical Society took two steps regarding the regulations that govern the districts' historical societies: (1) all branches' existing regulations were "grandfathered" in; and (2) if a branch wants to amend its regulations, the 8th Circuit approved "Boilerplate Regs" that a branch can modify and then seek approval from the 8th Circuit historical society.**

The Amended and Restated Regulations for the Northern District of Iowa have been in place since August of 2008. Overall, they are in good shape. The Eighth Circuit Amended its Articles of Incorporation and bi-laws in 2020. The Eighth Circuit also provided boilerplate language for the districts' historical societies to incorporate in their regulations. Currently, Judge Williams and Kevin Collins serve as the district's directors. Paul De Young will reach out to Millie Adams at the Eighth Circuit regarding the need to update our operating documents and will send proposed amendments out to the committee.

There was discussion regarding having an election soon so that officer positions rotate every so often. Members were asked to bring names of people to the next committee meeting who may possibly be interested in becoming officers. Current officers will plan to serve until they are replaced, and they will work on finding replacements and elect new officers at our next meeting. Members from the Sioux City area are encouraged to reach out to possible participants in the Western part of the state.

5. Oral Histories Update

Rich Murphy plans to meet with Evan Hultman in the next couple of weeks. An oral history script will be provided to Rich. Kevin will reach out to Fran Haas, and Paul De Young will coordinate dates for Judge Reade's oral history.

The History Center's curator, Tara Templeton, has expressed a willingness to assist with the district's oral history project. The History Center has offered to digitize the Court's old media. The historical society needs to locate all oral histories so that they can be digitized.

6. Newsletter Update

The inaugural edition is complete and is fantastic. The historical society's newsletter will be produced on a bi-annual basis. Information regarding how to become a member will be included in the newsletter. Once final edits are incorporated, the inaugural summer newsletter will be sent out to the bar and court family of approximately 3,000 people. An article about Wounded Knee will be in the next newsletter. If anyone has any ideas for articles or profiles, please contact Hilary.

7. Other Discussion

None

8. Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023 at 12:00 pm

Meeting was held via phone conference

Attendees:

The Honorable CJ Williams, Kevin Collins, Tim Hill, Tim Vavricek, Melissa Carrington, Paul De Young, Misti Michel, Rich Murphy, Hilary Naab, Emma Barden, Cathy May

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Motion to Approve June 1, 2022, Minutes**

Minutes were approved.

- 3. Membership Update (consider next solicitation and providing judges with honorary membership for meritorious service)**

Current membership is approximately 35 people. This number is appropriate for now, but if membership drops below thirty, then the committee should consider recruiting. The website accurately reflects the current members. It was suggested that if the committee wanted to increase membership, calls could be made to members who work at larger firms, and they could promote membership within their firm. It was noted that the current method of dues collection is not efficient. A motion was made to explore electronic payment methods. The motion was seconded and approved. The treasurer will explore electronic payment options. It was agreed that all district judges should be honorary members of the historical committee, with dues not required. A motion to make all IAND judges ex officio members for 2023 was made and approved. The bylaws will be reviewed to confirm if they need to be amended to reflect automatic judge honorary membership so that a motion does not need to be made every year.

- 4. Treasurer Update (report to Eighth Circuit provided by Tim)**

The treasury report reflects a current balance of about \$4,207.33. The report lists one returned check fee of \$15.90. The check was an annual dues payment that was over 60 days old and had become void.

- 5. Biannual Meetings (finalize the holding of scheduled biannual meetings, rather than scheduled quarterly meetings, and other meetings as needed)**

It was agreed that the committee will hold biannual meetings. Additional meetings may be scheduled if needed, on an ad hoc basis. A motion was made to accept the new meeting schedule and was passed.

6. Kidzibits History Center and Kiosk Update

The Cedar Rapids History Center and Sioux City kiosk are complete, functional, and paid in full.

7. Oral Histories Update

A status report has been sent to committee members. The most pressing oral history subjects remaining are Judge Reade, Judge Scoles, and Judge Edmunds. Rob Phelps is working on a couple of them, and Paul De Young will work with Judge Reade.

The History Center's curator, Tara Templeton, borrowed the Wounded Knee peace pipe for its current exhibit, and has expressed willingness to assist with the oral history project. The History Center has offered to digitize the Court's old media. It was suggested to add Evan Hultman to the oral history subject list. Rich Murphy will attempt to contact him and coordinate Evan Hultman's oral history.

8. Foundation 2 Renovation of Witwer Building (obtain photographs of old federal courthouse)

Photographs have been taken of the interior of the Witwer building. The History Center also maintains a collection of pictures of the building throughout its history. Those renovating the Witwer building intend to maintain, preserve and restore as much as possible.

9. Other Discussion

Rich Murphy suggested a newsletter for the historical society and the larger law community. Hilary noted that the Cedar Rapids branch library issues a regular newsletter to the courthouse, some former employees and interested courts within the circuit. Hilary will forward a recent library newsletter to the committee for its review. The committee may incorporate some of the library's newsletter articles into another newsletter for broader distribution. The committee may also solicit articles from members of the federal bar.

Additionally, the committee discussed putting together a reading list that could be listed on the court's external website or sent out in an email. Books written by judges or attorneys or others who have documented experiences pertaining to our court were mentioned.

10. Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM.

**Historical Society
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa
Meeting Minutes**

September 4, 2019, at 12:00 PM

Attendees:

Judge C.J. Williams, Timothy Hill, Rich Murphy, Hilary Naab, Pete Deegan, Kevin Collins, Robert Phelps, and Paul De Young

1. Motion to approve June minutes

The June 5, 2019 meeting minutes approved with the following amendments:

- Strike end of June estimated completion date for history book, leave open at this time
- \$2,648.23 bank balance
- Contacts to provide information for history book – Tim recommended John Gray and Rich Murphy recommended Judy Whetstine

2. Treasurer report

Rich Murphy reported \$2,648.23 in the bank.

3. NDIA History Book Updates

Tim mentioned Melissa Carrington's section is complete and he is expecting a write up from Jim Hodges by Friday, September 6.

Tim plans to conduct an oral history with Jim Hodges on September 19, to go along with the civil section of the book. Tim gave a target date of submission for the civil section of the history book by the week of September 19.

Hilary sent the history book to Chad Marzen and Shelby Mars for editing. Chad should be done in two to three weeks. Judge Williams added Shelby started a new job and he wants to allow time for her to get on her feet before following up.

Hilary additionally noted the flood chapter is complete, she is working on reformatting the appendices, and citations still need to be added. Hilary will do one final edit for formatting before the book is ready for print.

Hilary asked members if the book would cover historical information through the end of 2018. Judge Williams said this was correct with a goal to release the book in 2020.

4. Coordinating Fall CLE with NDIA Federal Practice Committee

Tim gave an update on the CLE event scheduled for October 17. Tim is leading off with statistics on civil practice and the decline in jury trials. Tim talked about focus being on effective jury trial presentation when there is a need for effective presentation to the bench. Judge Williams and Judge Strand will present on the bench perspective.

Tim announced there will be a social hour in both Cedar Rapids and Sioux City following the CLE event; Cedar Rapids location is the Black Sheep and Sioux City location is the casino restaurant of Main+Abbey. Rob sent out the CLE announcement to the federal NDIA bar on September 3, 2019

5. **USMS Request for Memorial Plaque Display**

Judge Williams explained the US Marshal's Office requested permission to display a plaque in the history center in the courthouse. Judge Williams brought up the potential of establishing precedence by granting this request and opening the door to display other plaques for any reason.

Rich added the plaque is in honor of a US Deputy Marshal who was killed in the 1970's after someone tried to rob him and a gunfight ensued. The plaque used to be on display in the old courthouse. Rich's preference is not to display the plaque in the historical center; the lobby of the Marshal's Office would be a more appropriate location.

Rob noted there is a display case in the front of the historical center that was meant to be a rotating case. One option would be to display the plaque in the case and return to the marshals after a one-year period.

Rob provided a second option to display the plaque on an easel in the jury assembly room.

Judge Williams suggested displaying the plaque in the historical center case for the time being. With the current redesign, it doesn't make sense to add anything in the space or on the walls. Rich Murphy added the plaque does not fit the intent of the historical center unless it is displayed in the case.

Rob will ask the US Marshal's Office to put together an index card to go along with the plaque.

Rich asked if anyone had other artifacts.

Hilary – federal bowl

Judge Williams – notary seal

Rob – peace pipe and noted a few other archives in the closet next to the history center

6. **Other Business**

Rich Murphy requested a subcommittee meeting for the historical center. Hilary, Judge Williams and Rich were named as current subcommittee members.

Judge Williams announced the court will fund renovations to the historical center. Rob mentioned the rough estimate cost for renovations is \$50,000.

Rich said a lot of the material can be moved to digital touch screen and artifacts on the walls need to be changed and moved.

Judge Williams suggested going back to Split Rock to get a bid/proposal to do the work.

Rob will contact Split Rock and get with Rich to find a time for them to come out to look at the space and give recommendations.

7. **Next meeting**

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 12:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.

**Historical Society
United States District Court, Northern District of Iowa
Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2019, at Noon

Attendees:

Judge C.J. Williams, Rich Murphy, Hilary Naab, Melissa Carrington, Rob Phelps, Paul DeYoung, Danielle Cripe

Kevin Collins and Timothy Hill were unable to attend, so Rich Murphy led the meeting.

1. Introductions were made

2. Motion to approve September minutes

The September 12, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer report

Rich Murphy reported \$3,004.83 in the bank.

4. Update on oral histories and Drake proposal

Tabled.

5. NDIA history book update

Hilary reported that they are waiting on the appendix with staff names from the United States Attorney's office, an appendix from the Clerk of Court on the Nature of Suits and a civil law chapter that Tim and Melissa are putting together.

Melissa reports they have provided an outline on the chapter and have a goal of Mid-May 2019 for completion.

Rich reports there is so much turnover in the staff in the United States Attorney's office they are just putting together a list of Assistant United States Attorneys. Rich reports he is using West Law to research the Assistant United States Attorneys dating back to the 1800s. He anticipates the list would be approximately 80-85 people. They have a draft list and are currently trying to get confirmation from the Department on the dates of service. They will also aim to have the list submitted by Mid-May 2019.

Judge Williams reports the book will be novel size (5 ½ x 8 ½) and his Law Clerk, Shelby Mars, has agreed to help edit the book.

6. Cedar Rapids history center update status/Sioux City historical display

Rob reports that his idea for the Sioux City display would be to take the extra materials from the Cedar Rapids display and turn them into a mobile display that can be placed in the hall in Sioux City because they don't have a designated space for a permanent display.

Rich reported he liked the mobile display that is currently set up in the Cedar Rapids history center. He reports the biographies need to be updated including Judge McManus, Judge O'Brien, Judge Bennett and Judge Reade. The 3D images of courthouses don't all include information on what courthouse is depicted, the location and the year the photo was taken. Rich suggested that more signage is needed to direct visitors to the interactive display for more information, as well as more instruction to indicate the display is interactive and how to use it.

Rob reported that there is a sound bar feature on the interactive display, however it is not currently enabled.

Rich also mentioned that while there is information on the flood, it appears to be underrepresented. There is nothing about the courtroom murals in the old Cedar Rapids courthouse or why they were covered up. The City of Cedar Rapids has pamphlets on the murals, and something like that could be incorporated into the history center. Information on the location building cost, the current use, the date it was demolished, etc... could also be included.

Judge Williams pointed out that a new chapter was added to the history book that includes the details on the court locations that can be incorporated into the history center display.

Rich pointed out that there are only a few cases included and it may be worthwhile to add a few more historically significant cases.

Rob reported the original cost of \$200,000 was covered by the Library Fund and the update will likely cost \$50,000 - \$100,000. Permission would have to be granted by the Chief Judge in order to designate the library funds to the History Center update. The next step would be hiring a consultant.

Judge Williams, Hilary and Melissa will join the sub-committee to update the History Center.

Rob will pull the original paperwork, so bids can be obtained. Rob will also send an e-mail out to the Historical Society membership to seek volunteers to assist or join the sub-committee.

7. Membership

Rich reported there are 32 paid members as of January.

8. Historical Society webpage on the new website

Rob reports the new Northern District of Iowa website is live and includes a page for the Historical Society, although the membership page needs to be updated.

9. New business

Judge Williams reports that he has reached out to Judge O'Brien's family to determine how many copies the family wants. However, he has not received a final count. The family received 4 copies gratis.

Rich reports that Judge Bremer has ordered a copy and has sent a check.

The committee agreed that the order should be whatever the O'Brien family wants plus 10. If the family wants more than 2 additional books they will be charged \$15 per book. If the family is only requesting 2 additional books they will be complimentary. If Judge Williams does not receive word from Judge O'Brien's family an order of 15 will be placed.

Beth Hansen, committee secretary, has not been replaced. Notice will be given that nominations are being sought and a new secretary will be elected at the next meeting.

Rich pointed out that other members of the court family, such as the Federal Public Defender and the United States Probation officer, are not included in the History Center even though they've been an integral part of the court functions.

Hilary suggested that the timeline might be converted to the interactive display because the physical one is so quickly outdated.

Rich mentioned that cases such as the Honken/Johnson case and the Victor Feguer case, the last federal inmate from Iowa put to death, may be noteworthy cases to be included in the display for their historical significance to the district.

Rob pointed out that the committee may need the court's blessing to include cases because there was previously a concern with including cases that are recent and have living participants.

10. Next meeting

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at Noon

Meeting Adjourned 12:49 PM

MEETING MINUTES
May 21, 2015

A meeting of the Historical Society of the USDCND Iowa was held on May, 21, 2015.

The meeting commenced at 12:05 p.m. and adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

President Paula Roby called the meeting to order and after introductions of the officers and staff in attendance, (Paula Roby President; Ray Scheetz Vice President; Rich Murphy Treasurer; Kevin Collins Secretary; Rob Phelps US District Court Clerk), a roll call was conducted.

Those in attendance in person in Cedar Rapids for the meeting were Chief Judge Linda Reade, Judge Jon Scoles, Hilary Naab, CJ Williams, Richard Lipman, John Lane, Timothy Hill and Stephen Swift.

Those in attendance by phone were Judge Leonard Strand, Tom Boyd and Mike Lahammer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

President's Report

The Presidents Report was deferred as the substance was covered later in the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Murphy reported that there are currently 42 members of the Northern District Historical Society and that the current bank balance is \$1,730.

Old Business

1. Updating History Book – Ray Sheetz and Hilary Naab reported the book has not been updated in the last 13 years. Roy Scheetz, Hilary Naab and Rob Phelps are working on updated drafts of the judicial biographies. The plan is to have updated drafts circulated to the judges for review and comment within 60 days.
2. Updating Cedar Rapids Historical Display – As indicated in the March 2015 Minutes the update of the historical display will be deferred for approximately 12 months.
3. Creating Sioux City Historical Display – As indicated in the March 2015 Minutes creation of the Sioux City historical display will be deferred for approximately 12 months in light of other priorities discussed later in the minutes.
4. ~~Increasing~~ Membership – No new members have been recruited since the last meeting.
5. Oral Histories – There was a lengthy discussion about the need to move forward with capturing the oral histories of our judges and lawyers. Contacts with various judges have

been made and it was agreed the following oral histories will be scheduled with the following interviewers:

Judge Bennett – to be interviewed by CJ Williams

Judge McManus – to be interviewed by Rich Murphy

Judge Melloy - to be interviewed by Michael Lahammer

Judge Kilburg – to be interviewed by Paula Roby

Hilary Naab previously circulated templates for oral interviews. Paula Roby will be meeting with the interviewers and ~~creating~~ developing a final template for the interviews. It is anticipated the interviews will be 2-3 hours with the final edited history to be no more than 60 minutes.

It was resolved to engage Wes Nygren, Court Reporter to handle the videography and editing in Cedar Rapids. A western Iowa videographer will be engaged for the Sioux City interviews.

A general discussion ensued about the mechanics of the interviews including the advisability of using multiple cameras in order to create a visually appealing final product and to allow the insertion of photographs and other memorabilia in the final edited version.

It was agreed the interviewee will be provided a copy of the interview outline in advance. The interviewee will have the opportunity to approve the final version before distribution.

New Business

1. **Priorities** – Establish the order for the remaining oral histories. Kevin Collins and Rob Phelps will prepare and distribute a spreadsheet with the names of remaining judges to be interviewed and proposed order based on years or service and age.
2. **Recruiting** – It was reported that the Federal Practice Committee has offered time at its seminars for a brief informational presentation of the Society and the benefits of membership. A local Bankruptcy Bar subcommittee was established with Dan Childers as chair and members include Wes Huisinga, Eric Lamb and Joe Peiffer. Paula Roby will make a brief presentation at the bankruptcy bar summer outing in July to recruit additional members. Rob Phelps reported the Court has materials including poster boards that can be borrowed for presentations.
3. **Cedar Rapids Historical Display** – Although a full scale renovation will not likely occur for at least 12 months, John Lane reported he is assembling materials and soliciting other

CJA attorneys for materials to create a CJA display.

Action items

Oral History Interviews to be scheduled.

Judge Bennett – to be interviewed by CJ Williams

Judge O'Brien – to be interviewed by CJ Williams

Judge McManus – to be interviewed by Rich Murphy

Judge Melloy – to be interviewed by Michael Lahammer

Judge Kilburg – to be interviewed by Paula Roby

Linda Reade/Jon Scoles

- a. Provide this committee the name of the requested interviewer for their respective oral history and possible dates for interview.

Paula Roby

- a. Meet with interviewers to prepare template/outline for oral history interviews.
- b. Meet with Beth Hansen, Chair of the Federal Practice Committee to discuss joint seminar and other projects.

CJ Williams

- a. Draft material for History Book relating to Judge Bennett and significant milestones.

John Lane

- a. Contact Wes Nygren about hourly rates for videotaping oral histories and hourly charge for editing;
- b. Contact Wes Nygren for name of videographer to record oral histories in Sioux City.

Kevin Collins/Rob Phelps

- a. Prepare and circulate spreadsheet of judges to be interviewed for oral history and proposed order of interviews.

Ray Scheetz/Hilary Naab

- a. Ray Scheetz and Hilary Naab will attempt to determine the cost to publish and print a new edition of the History Book.

- b. Ray Scheetz and Hilary Naab to work on drafting and circulating updated biographies to the judges.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July __, 2015 at Noon at the US District Courthouse in Cedar Rapids, IA.



**Historical Society of the
United States District Court
Northern District of Iowa
Executive Meeting**

October 30, 2014

Minutes

1. Paula Roby, President; Ray Scheetz, Vice President; Rich Murphy, Treasurer; and Kevin Collins, Secretary; were on the teleconference, as well as Robert Phelps, Clerk of Court.
2. Rich Murphy reported there were 42 paid memberships, including six members from the Sioux City area and two from out of state. Kevin Collins suggested that personal telephone calls to key individuals within the federal bar would go a long way towards increasing membership across the district. Paula Roby suggested everyone review the membership rules (bylaws) and consider a plan to reach out to influential members of the bar.
3. Paula Roby recommended the top priority of the Society should be obtaining and updating oral histories. We should also investigate the possibility of placing snippets of the histories on the interactive display in the Cedar Rapids History Center and on the court's website. A working group should be formed to pursue this project. Also seek approval to use snippets of documentary films that feature judges or attorneys from the district.
4. Ray Scheetz suggested posting pictures of the Society members on the Historical Society website to increase visibility and raise the profile of the Society.
5. Paula Roby recommended holding a social event, such as a ball, to raise the profile of the Historical Society and increase membership.
6. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should meet at least once a month and the entire membership should meet quarterly. The first meeting for the

entire membership will be Thursday, Nov 13, at noon in the Cedar Rapids Courthouse.

7. Possible Projects for the Historical Society

- a. Oral Histories
- b. Update the History Book (last updated in 2002)
- c. Increase Membership
- d. Update Website
- e. Update Cedar Rapids History Center
- f. Create a Sioux City Historical Display
- g. Annual Award for longevity/significant contributions to the federal bar