

CONNECTICUT SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting - September 10, 2012

President Wes Horton called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Supreme Court Lawyers' Lounge. Other Board members present were: Kit Collier, Chuck Howard, Michael Shea, Sheila Huddleston, Molly LeVan, Kathy Calibey, Mike Widener, Jon Weiner, Jeff White, and Judge Cohn.

Mr. White moved the approval of the minutes of the May 10, 2012 meeting. Mr. Shea seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Shea presented the attached treasurer's report, dated September 10, 2012, reflecting a positive account balance following the annual meeting. After discussion, Mr. Howard moved the approval of the treasurer's report. Judge Cohn seconded the motion, and the treasurer's report was approved.

Mr. Farley was not able to attend the meeting but had prepared and submitted the attached report of the Finance Committee, dated September 10, 2012, regarding new arrangements for the payment of dues through a Pay Pal account. Following discussion, Mr. Shea moved the approval of setting up a second bank account and Ms. Huddleston seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Horton asked Mr. Howard to coordinate with Mr. Farley concerning the Society's mailbox.

The Program Committee reported on a program planned for October on appointments to the Supreme Court. The hope is that former Governor Weicker would be asked to moderate the program and Mr. Shea indicated that he would follow up on this with Stan Twardy. The Committee is also making plans for the annual dinner.

Mr. Weiner reported for the Liaison Committee that he had enlisted David Freedman of Murtha Cullina and Mr. Widener to join this committee, which Mr. Weiner said he hopes can serve as a resource for the Board and the Program Committee. He said he was exploring possibility of a regional meeting of similar functions from both New York and Massachusetts. After discussion, he indicated that he would be reporting back to the Board with a proposal concerning Hartford and Litchfield.

Mr. Collier reported on further investigation he had done on a possible oral history project, and a copy of the report he prepared and submitted prior to the meeting is

attached. After discussion, there was a consensus not to proceed with an oral history project but that the Society could encourage articles for the Journal on particular justices.

Ms. Huddleston gave a brief report on the next edition of the Journal, and Mr. Widner had no report from the Archives Committee.

The next meeting of the board of directors was scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on January 14, 2013 in the Lawyers' Lounge at the Supreme Court in Hartford.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles L. Howard,
Secretary

Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society
2012 Financial Accounting

As of September 10, 2012

I. Revenue

Member Renewals:	\$	825.00
May Annual Meeting	\$	6,005.00
Interest:	\$	21.54
	\$	<u>6,851.54</u>

II. Events

May 2012 Annual Dinner:

Expenses:	<u>(\$ 4,526.58)</u>		
		Caterer	\$ 3,771.00
		Car Service	\$ 468.44
		Speakers' gift	\$ 287.14
			<u>\$ 4,526.58</u>

III. Other Expenses

P.O. Box	\$	120.00
Banking Fees	\$	113.39

Gross Revenue:	\$	6,851.54
Expenses:	<u>(\$ 4,759.97)</u>	

Account Balance (9/10/12): \$42,810.24

Previous Account Balance (4/30/12): \$40,718.67

To: CSCHS Board of Directors

From: John Farley

Date: September 10, 2012

Re: Finance Committee Report

We are preparing to implement the website dues payment option through PayPal, so that it will be operational in December when renewals begin. Our intention is to send dues payment notices by e-mail and include an option to make payment utilizing PayPal. We will also put a link on the CSCHS website, which will facilitate the payment of dues for both new and current members. I think it is likely that we will obtain new members simply by having this option available on the website. We will also continue to send dues invoices by regular mail and accept dues payments by check through the mail.

In preparing to implement this new process, I have come to the view that we can obtain an extra measure of security and also address some persistent logistical problems by establishing a new bank account for membership deposits and by directing dues payments to the Finance Chair, rather than the Treasurer. As new membership and renewal dues come in, either by mail to the Finance Chair or through PayPal, they would be deposited into the new account. The balance in the new account would periodically be transferred into the organization's main account, particularly during the early part of the year when payments are coming in. If possible, I would propose that the Finance Chair be authorized to accept and deposit dues payments and serve as the contact with PayPal.

The purpose for establishing a new account is twofold. First, although PayPal is a well-established and reputable service, we would retain separation between the account into which PayPal makes deposits and the balance of CSCHS funds. Second, it would bring some organization and efficiency to our efforts to keep track of memberships and renewals. Currently, membership invoices are sent out by the Finance Chair and dues payments are sent to the Treasurer. Consequently, the Finance Committee does not have firsthand access to the status of members and their dues payments. It is a perennial problem that we (the Finance Committee) have difficulty staying on top of what new members have joined, who has paid their dues and who has not. It makes sense to centralize the membership and renewal process through the Finance Chair, so we can maintain current and accurate membership information and be more proactive in seeking dues payments.

SHOULD CSCHS SPONSOR AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: CONSIDERATIONS

Informing all our decisions about an oral history project is the nature of the targeted audience. There are several – perhaps many – potential users of interviews with people who have observed or participated in significant public legal events. Our first task must be to identify who those users might be. An obvious target would be researchers and other individuals who have a serious interest in the legal and constitutional history of Connecticut, and ultimately the larger American judicial field. This note proceeds on that assumption.

Whose perspective and recollections would these legal scholars find most interesting and useful? Before addressing that question, we should aim to avoid including individuals who have already contributed interviews. At the moment interview projects completed or in process include: (1) Yale Law School deans; (2) prominent YLS faculty; (3) women graduates of YLS; (4) UConn Law School deans; (5) women lawyers prominent in Connecticut; (6) members of the General Assembly. (additional detail on next page). A notable omission from this group are retired members of the state bench, especially former members of the state appellate and supreme courts.

- (1) All YLS deans since c. 1950 and ten or twelve faculty conducted by Bonnie Collier, formerly Associate Librarian for Administration at YLS.
- (2) About a dozen YLS faculty interviewed by faculty colleagues on video done for the YLS Public Affairs Office.
- (3) About eighty-eight interviews of YLS women graduates conducted by Bonnie Collier and Mary Clark, now on the law faculty at American University.
- (4) Four interviews of UConn Law deans by Bruce Stave and Kent Newmyer both emeriti UConn history professors. Newmyer is also adjunct professor at UConn Law School and Stave is a nationally esteemed authority on oral history methodology and practice.
- (5) CBA/CBF sponsored

- (6) Twenty-five members of the 1995-96 General Assembly done in 1995-96 and twenty former members conducted by Bruce Stave.

Formats of these projects differ significantly, from the most elaborate project of Yale deans, published as small printed books, to eight-minute videos produced by the CBF. The most significant difference is whether typescripts have been made or the tapes or digital files have been merely archived on c.d.'s, thumb drives, or in computer files (perhaps as a link to our CSCHS website).

Another major difference lies between tapes (now old-fashioned) and digital modes on one hand and videos on another. Videos are much the more expensive to produce. They also suffer the disadvantage (experience shows) of inhibiting the free flow of conversation. However, there are obvious advantages to video interviews, such as displaying body language and facial expression. On balance, video production is not recommended.

Another element of any oral history project is the nature of the interviewer: Should they be professionals in the field of study – lawyers and judges in this case?; or should they be trained professional oral historians? The later would be expensive; the former involves the risk of amateurism. There is also the option of the Stave/Newmyer model of two interviewers. Stave has reservations about a duo of interlocutors, but thinks it can work if the right people are in place. It is not essential – though desirable - that all interviews be conducted by the same interviewer.

COSTS

A professional interviewer will charge \$60 or more per hour. A typical interview runs about one hour, and there is usually a series of two or three interviews. Travel time and mileage might be extra. A professional oral historian would be expected to provide a recorder, but the sponsoring entity (us) might have to provide one at a cost of \$300 to \$400. A major expense is the cost of transcription if paper copy becomes desirable. A one-hour interview yields about 30 pages of double-spaced typescript at \$3 to \$4 per page. (A rule of thumb is that every two minutes of interview yields one page of transcript).