

TASK FORCE ON THE HISTORY OF OHIO COURTS

April 20, 2016
Supreme Court of Ohio

Members on Phone Call: Richard Aynes (Chair); James Cissell; Ellen Connally; Barbara Powers; Ted Prasse; Nancy Recchie; Thomas Schuck; Fred Vierow; William Weisenberg (Absent)

Others on Phone Call: Alan Ohman (Supreme Court); Erin Waltz (Supreme Court Staff Liaison)

- 1) Chair Aynes called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: Chair Aynes called for approval of the March 3 minutes; hearing no objections the minutes were approved.
- 3) Discussion of Individual Visions: Messrs. Cissell and Aynes discussed their vision statements of mission for a possible historical society. Mr. Cissell walked the task force through various storage mediums for records and conversion to digital. He discussed the problems with each method and his vision for an organization that could offer best practices for large and small courts to preserve their records. Mr. Aynes discussed the need to consider papers from judges and the time and cost for all recommendations the task force makes.
- 4) Discussion of Best Practices for Records Storage: Ms. Powers discuss her conversation with the state archivist at the Ohio History Connection (OHC). Her email with links and some general best practices for records storage was shared with the entire task force. Ms. Powers told the committee that some state court records are sent to OHC but the decision is made locally and varies from entity to entity. The task force also discussed the creation of records centers in many counties and the storage of records with local universities. Mr. Cissell offered that these centers are a good start but there should be something to focus on court records. Ms. Powers offered the problem with all records storage is funding and there are grants available from OHC and the Ohio Records Advisory Board.
- 5) Discussion of Progress on Rubric for other Court Historical Societies: Mses. Connally and Recchie are currently working on the rubric and will share it with the task force when it is complete.
- 6) Creation of Committees: Chair Aynes suggested the creation of three committees: for the creation of a foundation/historical society, for preservation of court records, and for best practices for judges to preserve their personal records. The task force discussed the size of this project, a focus on education and the priority of records. Two committees were created:
 - *Organization and Funding of Entity*
Ellen Connally, Ted Prasse, Nancy Recchie, Fred Vierow, William Weisenberg
 - *Records Preservation*
Richard Aynes, James Cissell, Barbara Powers, Tom Schuck
- 10) Work Assignments for Task Force Member:
 - Mses. Connally and Recchie will continue to work on the rubric for task force members to analyze.
 - Ms. Waltz will contact members to schedule a date for the next meeting.
 - Ms. Waltz will contact the State Archivist and Director of the Archives at the Ohio History Connection to have them meet with task force members during the next meeting.

11) The next meeting of the Task Force will be at the Ohio History Connection. Ms. Waltz will circulate potential dates to members.

12) Having no additional matters before it, the Chair adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted,

Erin Waltz
April 28, 2016