

**Executive Committee
North Dakota Judicial Conference**

September 7, 2017
Supreme Court Front Conference Room
Bismarck, North Dakota

Present: Justice Daniel Crothers, Chair
Judge Cynthia Feland
Judge Bruce Haskell
Judge Stacy Louser
Justice Lisa Fair McEvers

Staff: Sally Holewa
Lee Ann Barnhardt

The Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference met on September 7, 2017. Chair Crothers called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Chair Crothers directed the member's attention to the minutes from the last meeting. Justice McEvers asked that Judge Haskell be added to the list of those present at the May meeting. **Judge Haskell moved to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2017 meeting, as corrected. Seconded by Justice McEvers. Motion carried.**

At the request of Chair Crothers, Lee Ann Barnhardt, Director of Judicial Education and Communication, reviewed the proposed agenda, speakers and location for the November 2017 Judicial Conference. She explained that the final session was a demonstration of a free software product, developed by a North Dakota attorney, which allows parties to collaborate on documents required under N.D.R.Ct. 8.3. **Justice McEvers moved that the Committee approve the Judicial Conference agenda. The motion was seconded by Judge Louser. Motion carried.**

Discussion followed regarding the agenda and length of time needed for the business meeting. Ms. Barnhardt stated that the timeframe for the business meeting was probably more time than is necessary for the agenda. She suggested that the extra time could be used to allow for more interaction between attendees. There was general agreement that allowing time for members to get better acquainted is an increasingly important function of the Conference due to the number of new judges. **Justice McEvers moved that the Committee approve the business meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Judge Feland. Motion carried.**

Justice McEvers asked that the new members of the judiciary who have been appointed but not yet taken the bench be invited to attend the Conference. It was the consensus of the Committee that anytime there are individuals who fall into that status, they should be invited to any upcoming conference.

Committee members were surveyed regarding the 8:15 a.m. timeframe for Executive Committee meetings. There was no objection to continuing to use this timeframe.

There was general discussion about the use of the Capitol Lunchroom for the North Dakota Judges Association breakfast meeting. Staff will monitor for complaints, and if there are issues, the North Dakota Judges Association may choose to meet in another location for future meetings. There being no further business to come before the Committee, **Chair Crothers adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Holewa
Executive Secretary to the Judicial Conference