



THE DOCKET

News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

Appellate Court Administrator Wears Many Hats A Tribute to Steve Lancaster

Steven F. Lancaster, known to many in the State as the Administrator of the Court of Appeals of Indiana, has another nomenclature to add to his resume: that of President of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. NCACC is a long-standing professional group initiated 35 years ago to improve the skill and knowledge required to perform the duties of appellate court clerk and administrator. The conference works - and under the astute leadership of Steve Lancaster - it is flourishing even more.

Bill Suter, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of The United States and an active member of the conference speaks highly of Steve. "Steve Lancaster and I served together as career Army Judge Advocates for many years. Steve was a superb officer and lawyer in every respect and was highly regarded in the military legal community. He had a sterling Army career. He retired several years after I did. I was delighted when I received a call from the Court of Appeals of Indiana asking me about Steve's abilities and potential. I was absolutely thrilled to report that I knew of no one better qualified to serve as a court administrator than Steve. He had every attribute needed for the job. My prediction was accurate. He is a fine administrator and has made significant and lasting contributions to the Indiana judiciary."

The United States Supreme Court Clerk sheds some light on why Steve Lancaster, along with so many other appellate court clerk/administrators, join the Conference: "When Steve was selected for the Court Administrator position, I told him that he should join the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. I had been an NCACC member for several years and I knew from experience that a new court administrator would benefit from membership in the organization. The NCACC was very helpful to me as I got started as Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States. My membership and participation in the NCACC continues to help me and my Court. I recommend NCACC membership to the clerk staffs of all state and federal appellate courts."

Steve took his mentor's suggestions to heart. Because there is only one intermediate appellate court administrator in Indiana, the NCACC and its members provided Steve with a resource for discussion and problem solving that proved beneficial to the Indiana Court of Appeals. Steve puts it this way "The NCACC is the only professional organization that I know of that addresses the problems and challenges of appellate court clerks and administrators. Its annual education program provides an opportunity for me to improve as an administrator and to share with other administrators and clerks the challenges and problems we all deal with every day. In addition we have a listserve that gives us the opportunity to share information in near time."

Steve's commitment to the Indiana Appellate Courts and his dedication to improving his skills and knowledge as an appellate court clerk, as well as promoting effective court administration in order to enhance the effective and impartial administration of justice, is mirrored in his commitment to the group he now leads. Steve confirms that he relies on the principle that you receive the most from an organization in which you actively participate. He has applied this theory to the NCACC by chairing the By-Laws committee for two years and the strategic planning committee for one year, being the program chairman for the educational program in Alaska in 2004, being a member of the executive committee from 2001 to 2003, and by serving one year as vice-president, one year as president-elect, and this year as president. "By being active I have made new friends who work

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THE DOCKET News of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks

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HELP KEEP US INFORMED!!

To Remit NCACC Membership Dues:
National Center of State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185



From The President

Steve Lancaster (IN)



I know spring has arrived in Indiana because my grass needs to be mowed, flowers are blooming, my nose is running, the temperature one day is 70 and the next day 35, and I have this enormous urge to play golf!

This issue of *The Docket* will arrive a little later than usual, because Diana was willing to delay publication to give me the opportunity to report on the education fund meeting and the spring executive committee meeting held on April 11 and 12 in Indianapolis. I hope you find what I have to say worth the wait.

Starting with Christie Cameron in the April 2003, *The Docket*, every president of the NCACC since then has addressed the need for an education fund and reported what was taking place to create the fund and to fund it. I am pleased to continue this tradition. A lot of people have participated in making the fund a reality and I thank them all and proudly announce for them that the education fund balance now exceeds \$96,000. However, more is needed to support our educational goals.

At the 2007 annual conference in New Orleans, the membership approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal to conduct a fund raising campaign for the education fund. The Request for Proposal was published on December 28, 2007. During the executive committee meeting in Sacramento on November 3, 2008, it was decided that the current officers and the chairperson of the education fund committee, Colette Bruggman, would be the selection committee to interview the companies who responded to the Request for Proposal and, if appropriate, select a fund raiser. The selection committee met on Friday, April 11, 2008, in Indianapolis and devoted a long day to discussing fund raising and its impact on the NCACC and its members, formulating questions, interviewing a potential fund raiser in person, interviewing another over the phone, weighing the pros and cons of each, and making a selection. It was a long, but useful process. The contract details are still being worked out so I will not make public who was selected, but the campaign will be formally kicked off in Pittsburgh at the 35th Annual Meeting and Conference.

In addition to selecting the fund raiser, the selection committee discussed organizing an Education Fund Campaign Committee and who should be on the committee. Based on this discussion I have asked Colette Bruggman to serve as the chair of the committee and Bill DeCicco, Marilyn May, Sherie Welch, and Diana Pratt-Wyatt to serve as members. I am happy to announce that all have accepted my invitation to serve.

This is a big step for our conference and will insure that we have a quality education program for years to come.

The members of the selection committee joined the other members of the executive committee on Saturday, April 12, for the spring executive committee meeting. Irene Bizzoso, our host in Pittsburgh, brought the committee up to date on the social and logistical planning for the annual meeting and conference and Rory Perry briefed the educational program. This is going to be a tremendous conference and I encourage you to attend.

The executive committee continues to wrestle with the definition of what constitutes a retired member and who should have access to the list serve. The Strategic Planning Committee and the Membership Committee submitted excellent reports on the topics. I am hopeful that the executive committee will be able to make a decision on these issues prior to the Pittsburgh conference.

The committee also approved the amended operational guidelines submitted by the Publication Committee. Under the new guidelines the Publication Committee will write the summaries of each educational program presented at the annual conference for publication in *The Docket*. In addition to many other issues, the Committee also reviewed the draft of new operational guidelines for the Program Committee prepared by Tom Hall and Marilyn May. It made suggestions for

(Continued on page 6)

2008 Education Program

August 3-8, 2008

Pittsburgh, PA

By Rory Perry (WV)

Under Construction

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Mancini Board Room

Executive Committee Meeting (Breakfast)

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Second Floor Balcony

Registration

Convention Assistance Committee
Deena Fawcett, Chair

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Second Floor Balcony

Registration

Convention Assistance Committee

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Silent Art Auction

(Proceeds Benefit Educational Fund)

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Welcome Meeting – New Members and First Time Attendees

Steve Lancaster, President, NCACC

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

**Roll Call of the States
Business Meeting (Part I)**

Steve Lancaster, President, NCACC

Irene Bizzoso, Host

Rory Perry, Program Chair

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location TBD

Orientation for Families

New Member & First Time Attendees' families encouraged to attend (children welcome)

(Continued on page 9)

Facts, Fiction, & Foolishness

By Leslie Steen (AR)



English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; no apple or pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? The plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? We say one goose but two geese, so why not one moose and two meese, and one index and two indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and you get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the lunacy of a language where your house burns up while it burns down. With all these unanswerable questions unanswered, let us proceed to proceed.

The bandage was wound around wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

The dump was so full it had to refuse the refuse.

We must polish the Polish furniture.

He could lead if he would get the lead out.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

When we shot, the dove dove into the bushes.

I did not object to the object.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

They were too close to the door to close it.

The buck does funny things when the does are present.

A seamstress and a sewer fell into a sewer line.

To help with the planting, the farmer taught his sow how to sow.

We didn't mean to be mean. English was invented by people and not by computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why when the stars are out, they are visible and when the lights are out, they are invisible. Makes perfect sense/scents/since, doesn't it??

(Lancaster, continued from page 1)

with the same issues as I do and have created with them a ready source for problem solving and idea development.”

Steve Lancaster will wear the dual hat of Indiana Appellate Court Administrator and NCACC President for awhile more. Throughout, he will lead NCACC through its annual conference and education program as well as monitor the listserv and the quarterly publication as a means to improve his expertise and the skills and knowledge of appellate court clerks throughout the nation.

By:

Vickie VanLith, Administrative Assistant Florida Supreme Court

Tee Barnes, Clerk Georgia Supreme Court

John Olivier, Clerk Louisiana Supreme Court

Rex Renk, Deputy Clerk Montana Supreme Court

Penny Miller, Clerk North Dakota Supreme Court

Ron Carpenter, Clerk Washington Supreme Court

Keep your eyes open for Web Registration coming to you soon via a link on the NCACC's homepage. Hard copies of registration materials will be mailed soon, as well. Join us for an exceptional educational program, and some fun social events, August 3, 2008 through August 8th 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Looking forward to seeing you there.
Clerks of the PA Courts.

(President's Page, continued from page 3)

additions to the draft to include guidance on the vendor show. A special thanks to Tom and Marilyn for taking on this additional task.

I represented our conference at the National Association of Court Managers (NACM) mid-year meeting in Charleston, South Carolina in March. Their president, Paul Burke, invited me to attend their Board of Directors meeting on the morning of March 8th. I quickly realized that they deal with the same organizational issues as our Executive Committee. The board meeting and the conference were well worth the time to attend.

A special thanks to all of you who participate and make our committee system work. You are a great group of people and I am proud to be a member of your conference.

Now is the time to firm up your plans to attend the 35th Annual Meeting and Conference in Pittsburgh from August 3 thru August 8. I plan to see you there.

Upcoming Annual Meetings

36th Annual Meeting	August, 2009	Sacramento, CA
37th Annual Meeting	August, 2010	Whitefish, MT

Bessie Decker Appointed Clerk of Maryland Court of Appeals



Bessie M. Decker has been appointed as Clerk of the Maryland Court of Appeals. Bessie will succeed Alexander L. Cummings, who is retiring after serving as the Clerk of the state's highest court since 1983. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell announced the appointment, made by the judges of the Court of Appeals. Decker was sworn in by Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Bessie has served in the Court of Appeals Clerk's Office since 1984 and as its chief deputy since 1999. She has served as the acting Clerk since May 2007. With this appointment, she will become the Maryland Court of Appeals' 26th Clerk since the position was authorized in 1780, and the first female Clerk.

"The Court is delighted with this appointment," Judge Bell said. "I know that Bessie will continue the outstanding work that Alex Cummings has done. He has been an invaluable part of the Court of Appeals, and we have been honored to have him serve here. Having benefitted from his example and tutelage, Bessie can be expected to bring the same level of dedication to the position, and deliver the same high quality work and provide the highest quality of service."

Decker is an associate member of the Maryland State Bar Association and serves as secretary of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. She has been a member of the conference since 1999 and has served on its board since 2004. In 2007, Decker was a faculty member with the Maryland Institute for the Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers (MICPEL).

"I have the highest respect for Mr. Cummings, for all his accomplishments and the service that he has provided for the Court of Appeals and the Judiciary," said Decker. "It has been an honor to work for him, and I hope to continue to meet the high standard that he established. I am thrilled to work with such a dedicated group of professionals in this office."

Bessie Decker and her family reside in Chester, MD.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PITTSBURGH

By Dan Shearouse (SC)

I trust that everyone is looking forward to our annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As you know, its value and character are dependent on the talent and experience that each member brings to the meeting. In order to make our conference as rewarding and beneficial as possible, it is critical that the meeting be well attended by individuals representing the full spectrum of our diverse membership.

If you are having trouble obtaining funding to attend the annual meeting, you may be eligible for a scholarship. **Please do not hesitate to apply.** In past years, the funds that have been available for scholarships have not been fully utilized.

If limited court funding may prevent you from attending our annual meeting, I strongly encourage you to apply for a scholarship. The Scholarship Assistance Guidelines and Selection Criteria may be found at pages 489-491 of the 2007 version of the NCACC Directory. If you plan to apply for a scholarship, please read the Guidelines and Selection Criteria and the following instructions:

DEADLINE: Mail or Fax the completed, signed application form by **June 1, 2008** to:

Ms. Brenda Williams
National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks
c/o National Center for State Courts
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185
FAX: 757-259-1520

The application form may be obtained from me or from Ms. Williams. Additionally, a copy has been posted on the NCACC Website. If you are uncertain as to whether you will receive funding from your court, you may still apply for a scholarship. Just note this on your application and update the Scholarship Committee with any changes to your funding status. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 803-734-1080 or at dshearouse@sccourts.org.

This year's Scholarship Committee members are Dan Shearouse (SC), Chair, Ashley Ahearn (MA), Danielle Schott (LA) and Jim Pelzer (NY), Executive Committee Liaison.

(Program continued from page 4)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 - Continued

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Second Floor Balcony

Welcome Reception
(Reception hosted by BNA and NCACC)

7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Morgan Thomas Slide Show

8:30 p.m.

Hospitality Suite Opens - Hotel

MONDAY AUGUST 4

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Continental Breakfast - Roundtable Discussions
1) Thinking About Hosting?
2) Handling Judicial Transitions

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Welcome to NCACC
Steve Lancaster, *President, NCACC*

8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Ethics & Technology
Honorable Daniel Crothers, *Justice, North Dakota Supreme Court*

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

DWIGHT D. OPPERMAN SPEAKER
Practical Responses to Attacks on the Judiciary
Bert Brandenburg, *Executive Director, Justice at Stake*

12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Appellate Performance Measures
Ingo Keilitz, *Of Counsel, Performance Measurement, National Center for State Courts*

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Role of Google in Searching the Law (title?)
Rick Klau, *Google*

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Reception and Buffet
Senator John Heinz History Museum
Hosted by Thomson West Publishing
Load Buses at 5:15 (?)(Bus Loading Location TBA)

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Wilson Boardroom

Past Presidents' Breakfast (*Past Presidents only*)

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

**Continental Breakfast – Roundtable Discussions
Implementing Scanning and/or E-filing**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

A Roadmap to New Appellate Statistical Reporting

John Olivier, *NCACC Special Committee*

Jim Pelzer, *NCACC Special Committee*

Richard Shauffler, *NCSC*; Shauna Strickland, *NCSC*

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Lessons Learned and Shared Successes

(f/k/a What's Bugging You?)

(This is a closed session) Tom Hall, Vice President, NCACC

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Ergonomics in the Appellate Court Workplace

Karl Marion, *Corporate Ergonomist*

1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Annual Golf Tournament

Quicksilver Golf Club

Midway, Pennsylvania

724-796-1594

Tournament Coordinated by Amy Ceraso, Director Judicial Automation, PA Supreme Court and Rex Renk, Deputy Clerk, Montana Supreme Court

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Continental Breakfast – Roundtable Discussions

1) Succession & Retirement

2) Surviving a Case Management System

Upgrade

8:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

Dealing Effectively with Angry and Emotional People

Honorable Scott Brownell

Circuit Judge, Bradenton, Florida

11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Break

(Program continued from page 10)

WEDNESDAY, August 6 - Continued

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Symphony Ballroom

**Vendor Introductions and
Opening of Vendor Expo**
Steve Kenyon, NCACC Vendor Chair
Joint Session with CATO, Andy Lee, Program Chair

12:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Second Floor Balcony

Vendor Lunch

12:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Symphony Ballroom C

Vendor Expo

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions and Showcase Presentations by Exhibitors

Locations TBD

Breakout & Showcase Schedule to be determined

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Time and Location TBD

Evening Event
To Be Announced

(Continued on page 12)

FEELING STRESSED?

Is the pressure of work getting to you?

Isaiah Zimmerman, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA, of the *Washington School of Psychiatry, Washington, D.C.* is on the way to help.

Yes, Dr. Zimmerman is back and on the PROGRAM Thursday, August 7.
So make your plans now to attend the

**35th annual NCACC Conference in
Pittsburgh, PA August 1-8, 2008.**
<http://www.appellatecourtclerks.org>

Dr. Zimmerman may be calling you soon!
In preparation for his session at the Annual Conference this August. Dr. Zimmerman will be interviewing members in advance, so keep your lines open!

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(Program continued from page 11)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

7:00 a.m.	NCACC Fun Run/Walk <i>North Shore Trail</i>
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. <i>Mary Cassatt Room, Third Level</i>	Past Hosts Breakfast <i>(Past Hosts Only)</i>
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. <i>Symphony Ballroom</i>	Continental Breakfast – Roundtable Discussions 1) Office Planning 2) Topic To Be Determined During “Lessons Learned & Shared Success”
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. <i>Symphony Ballroom</i>	Stress & Wellness Dr. Isaiah Zimmerman
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. <i>Locations TBD</i>	<u>Breakout Sessions – Part I</u> Record Retention in the Electronic Age Jim McMillan, <i>NCSC</i> ADA & Accessibility <i>Speaker TBD by Kristen Brown, NCACC (tentative)</i> Appellate Statistical Reporting Workshop Richard Shauffler, <i>NCSC</i> and Shauna Strickland, <i>NCSC</i>
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. <i>Locations TBD</i>	<u>Breakout Sessions – Part II</u> Record Retention in the Electronic Age Jim McMillan, <i>National Center for State Courts</i> ADA & Accessibility <i>Speaker TBD by Kristen Brown, NCACC (tentative)</i> Appellate Statistical Reporting Workshop Richard Shauffler, <i>NCSC</i> and Shauna Strickland, <i>NCSC</i>
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. <i>Symphony Ballroom</i>	Annual Business Meeting, Part 2
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., <i>Mancini Boardroom</i>	Executive Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. <i>Symphony Ballroom</i>	Banquet Reception and Annual Banquet

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. *George Benson Rm., 3rd* **Breakfast and Critique Session**

Fallingwater

Saturday, August 2, 2008

11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

“Fallingwater is recognized as one of Wright’s most acclaimed works, and in a 1991 poll of members of the American Institute of Architects, it was voted ‘the best all-time work of American architecture.’ It is a supreme example of Frank Lloyd Wright’s concept of organic architecture, which promotes harmony between man and nature through design so well integrated with its site that buildings, furnishings, and surroundings become part of a unified, interrelated composition. Wright embraced modern technology to achieve this, designing spaces for living which expressed architecturally the expansive freedom of the American frontier.” *PA Conservatory Website*



Photo by Robert Ruschak

The cost is \$50.00 per person, which includes a guided tour and transportation (1 1/2 hr drive each way). Box lunches are additional. More details to be announced. Space is limited.



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



Monday, August 4, 2008
6-9 p.m.

Sponsored by Thompson West

Buses Depart 5:15 pm; Dinner and Drinks provided.

The Senator John Heinz History Center is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in the state of Pennsylvania. Devoted to the history and heritage of Western Pennsylvania, the History Center is a 275,000-square-foot museum and research facility that is located in the city's historic Strip District. The History Center's home combines the former Chautauqua Lake Ice Company building with the five-story Smithsonian wing that opened November 13, 2004.

Original artifacts and interactive [exhibits](#) appeal to newcomers, long-time residents, and people of all ages, revealing the fascinating scope and impact of the region's past. The History Center is also a great place to explore family roots, including photographs, maps, books, and manuscripts relating to Western Pennsylvania history that are found in our [Library & Archives](#).

The History Center, operating in association with the Smithsonian Institution since 2000, also operates [Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Museum of Rural Life](#) in Avella, Washington County, Pa., and the [Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum](#), a museum-within-a-museum located on the History Center's second and third floors.



Annual Golf Tournament

Quicksilver Golf Course

Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Cost is \$55 per person and includes GPS enabled golf cart, greens fee, and prizes. (Details regarding boxed lunches will be announced soon.)

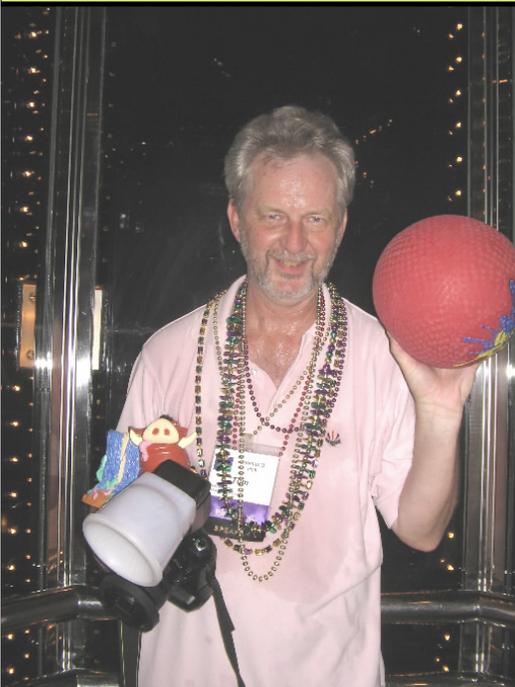


Were you this happy last year?

Probably not . . .

So plan on attending Dr. Zimmerman's session *STRESS and WELLNESS* at this year's conference.

And remember, if you're tired of being a hacker (golfer), a bum (tennis or other) or a walk/runner, Four Square is coming to a roof top near you.*



*That is if you attend the 35th annual NCACC Conference. Brought to you by your friendly NCACC Tailgate Association.



KENNYWOOD

DISCOUNTED TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR A VERY LIMITED TIME

By John Moyer (PA)

Greetings all - The 2008 NCACC Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh is fast approaching. One of the little-known gems of the Steel City is Kennywood Amusement Park, located on bluffs above the Monongahela River about 10 miles southeast of downtown Pittsburgh. Kennywood is one of the last remaining "traditional" trolley parks, which once existed in or near every city of any size through the country. For those with children (and those who are simply "young at heart"), Kennywood should not be missed.



Like other large parks today, Kennywood charges an all-inclusive gate fee. The normal "day pass" sells for \$32, which is less than most other large parks (\$19 for "mature citizens" over the age of 55 and "juniors" under 46 inches tall). However, tickets are heavily discounted if purchased early in the year through certain local schools as a fundraiser. If purchased **early**, tickets are available for **\$19 each for all**. **These discounted tickets are good any weekday (not weekends)** during the season. There is also an "after 5" sundown plan, which sells at the gate for \$17 per person all days.

Public transportation exists from downtown, but I can't vouch for its convenience. For the non-golfers in the crowd, Tuesday afternoon and evening would seem a perfect time - hopefully carpools can be arranged. If anyone is interested in the "early" discount tickets, please contact John Moyer, PA at John.Moyer@pacourts.us before **May 9** with the number of tickets needed.

For more information, visit http://www.kennywood.com/park_info/park_info.php



MEMBERS SPEAK

My feeling is that the conference is essential to the professional development of any appellate court clerk or staff. This is a conference designed for appellate clerks by appellate clerks, and the information and networking benefits received from my NCACC conference experiences cannot be matched by any other association. Furthermore the collegial nature of our membership has made my experience personally and well as professionally enriching.

Rex J. Renk, Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court State of Montana

I attended my first summer NCACC conference in August of 1998. Immediately, I was impressed with both the professionalism and the helpful and collegial attitudes of my fellow NCACC members. Except for the summer of 2003 when a family matter kept me from being able to attend, I have attended ever summer conference since that first one. NCACC is truly a unique organization in that it is structured to educate and address the specific needs of appellate court clerks so that they can better perform their daily duties. Moreover, the NCACC LISTSERV allows members throughout the year to share ideas and information, as well as make requests for assistance and information from their fellow clerks. On a daily basis, I find myself either receiving valuable information from or helping provide such to fellow members of the organization.

The benefits received from NCACC membership, and from attending the summer conferences, have been invaluable. I no longer go to any other training during the course of the year, having discovered that no seminar or Bar Association Continued Legal Education program I might attend could provide me with so much useful and practical information that directly relates to performing in a professional manner my duties as Clerk. Accordingly, I most highly recommend both membership in NCACC and attending the summer educational conferences.

Ron Carpenter, Clerk of the Washington State Supreme Court

The NCACC is the only professional organization that I know of that addresses the problems and challenges of appellate court clerks and administrators. Its annual education program provides an opportunity for me to improve as an administrator and to share with other administrators and clerks the challenges and problems we all deal with every day. In addition we have a listserv that gives us the opportunity to share information in near time.

Because there is only one intermediate appellate court administrator in Indiana, the NCACC and its members provide me a resource for discussion and problem solving. This is a benefit for me and the Indiana Court of Appeals.

I believe you receive the most from an organization in that you actively participate. I have applied this theory to the NCACC by chairing the By-Laws committee for two years and the strategic planning committee for one year, being the program chairman for the educational program in Alaska in 2004, being a member of the executive committee from 2001 to 2003, and by serving one year as vice-president, one year as president-elect, and this year as president. By being active I have made new friends who work with the same issues as I do and have created with them a ready source for problem solving and idea development.

A strongly believe that the NCACC, through its annual conference and education program, listserv, and quarterly publication, *The Docket*, improves the skills and knowledge of appellate court clerks, promotes and improves effective court administration, and facilitates the collection and dissemination of information about appellate court operations that enhance the effective and impartial administration of justice.

Steve Lancaster, Administrator, Court of Appeals of Indiana