

**Arkansas District Judges Council
Board Meeting – Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs
Thursday, September 27, 2007**

Present for the meeting of the Board of the Arkansas District Judges Council were: John Finley of Ashdown, President; Mike Robinson of Benton, Vice President; Mike Irwin of Heber Springs, Secretary-Treasurer; Milas "Butch" Hale of Sherwood, District Representative; Dan Stidham of Paragould, District Representative; Doug Schrantz of Rogers, District Representative; Jesse "Rusty" Porter of Helena, immediate past president; and Kay Palmer, District Court Coordinator. J.D. Gingerich and Keith Caviness of the Administrative Office of the Courts also were present.

As the secretary-treasurer, Judge Irwin asked the Board for direction as to appropriate expenditures of the Council. On a motion by Judge Hale, seconded by Judge Stidham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the payment of any ordinary and reasonable expenses necessary for the operation of the office of the district court coordinator.

Judge Robinson opened the discussion of an increase in the fees for the Council's lobbyist. The lobbyist, Roger Smith, asked for an increase from \$ 1,000 per month to \$ 1,500 per month. There was discussion concerning asking clerks if they wanted to share the cost of the lobbyist. Judge Robinson and Judge Irwin will approach the president of the clerks' association about such an arrangement. On a motion by Judge Hale, seconded by Judge Robinson, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a fee schedule (see attached) effective October 1, 2007.

On a motion by Judge Robinson, seconded by Judge Schrantz, the Board voted unanimously to raise the Council's dues to \$ 250 effective January 1, 2008.

Judge Irwin reported that plans for the treasury were to move a large portion of the funds into an ING business savings account that is currently paying 4.75%.

On a motion by Judge Robinson, seconded by Judge Stidham, the minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

On a motion by Judge Hale, seconded by Judge Robinson, the treasurer's report was approved.

Keith Caviness reported on the new Administrative Order #18 which sets the jurisdiction for pilot courts.

The website committee is meeting during the fall conference and reports of their actions will be made regularly to the Board.

The special projects committee has tentatively secured a grant from Arkansas Children's Hospital to publish brochures for teenage drivers.

On a motion by Judge Robinson, seconded by Judge Hale, the Board voted to establish a standing legislative committee composed of three judges per congressional district with one chair per district and one statewide chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by:

Kay S. Palmer
District Court Coordinator

Mike Irwin
Secretary-Treasurer
Arkansas District Judges Council

Date: _____