

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURT

The Association of the Clerks of District Court of Minnesota has been in existence for many years. The exact year of organization is not known, but according to information given to the Association a few years ago by Mr.S.C.Goff, a former Clerk of Steele County, association meetings were held in 1907 and earlier.

Three constitutions are recorded in the secretary's minutes. The first one is dated January 19, 1927. The second one is dated January 16, 1935. These two constitutions set out, among other things, that a meeting of the Association should be held every other year in the odd numbered years in the City of St.Paul. An amended constitution dated January 21, 1944 changes the constitution to provide for annual meetings and the place of meeting could be either St.Paul or Minneapolis.

The first secretary's minutes we have are for the January 25, 1927 convention.

Officers were elected for two-year terms and the president could not succeed himself in that office. The Clerks who have served as Association officers are as follows:

1925	President - J.P.Johnson, St.Louis County Secretary - Mr.Nelson Treasurer - B.Lichtenegger, Sibley County	
1927	Theo.A.E.Nelson, Anoka County Ernest A.Jensen, Olmsted County B.Lichttenegger	
1929	Jos.R.Witt, Scott County Ernest A.Jensen B.Lichttenegger	Worked on general marriage record bill..index
1931	Joseph Page, Winona County Ernest A.Jensen B.Lichttenegger	opposed new marriage license bill requiring 5-day waiting period. Bill was passed.
1933	Carl Eckdall, Mille Lacs County M.B.Severson, Cottonwood County David J.Jones,Wilkin County	Driver license law passed. Began handling applications in October, 1933.
1935	Wm.Mallgren, Nicollet County M.B.Severson David J.Jones	Mr.Mallgren died while president. Vice-President Goff finished term
1937	S.C.Goff, Steele County M.B.Severson Carl Eckdall, Mille Lacs County	
1939	Ernest A.Jensen, Olmsted County M.B.Severson Carl Eckdall	Worked on salary bill and repeal of marriage law
1941	Carl Witt, Brown County Grover C.Beatty, Sibley County F.P.Hughes, Nicollet County	
1943	Joseph Page, Winona County Grover C.Beatty F.P.Hughes	
1945	Grover C.Beatty	
1944	Paul Belau, Faribault County O.T.Johnson, Pipestone County	
1946-7	Joseph Page, Winona County Paul Belau O.T.Johnson	Revised fee schedule supported non-partisan election of county officials
1948-9	R.C.Peterson, Washington County Stanley E.Nelson, Nobles County O.T.Johnson	Worked on legislation on birth, death, marriage, torrens title actions and drivers licenses.

Mr.Nelson resigned as secretary-Evan K.Wulff was appointed.

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1950-51	Paul Belau Edsel J. Janovsky, LeSueur County O.T. Johnson	Worked on marriage application form, and uniform birth & death record forms - minimum guaranteed salaries
1952-53	Stan Ross, Meeker County Olive Peterson, Nicollet County O.T. Johnson	Continued work on primary registra- tion district. Vital statistics law made Clerks of Court local registrars
1954-55	Edwy O. Dibble, Yellow Medicine Co. Olive Peterson O.T. Johnson	Worked on destruction of certain old records; compensation for Justices for drawing jurors, consent of parents to marry in the case of divorced parents and drawing, summoning and convening Grand Juries; Saturday closing of courthouses
1956-57	E.C. Hull, Lac qui Parle County Ruth Eppeland, Watonwan County O.T. Johnson	new fee schedule and destruction of certain records bills passed; change in marriage license law regarding non-residents
1958-59	O.T. Johnson Ruth Eppeland	
1960-61	Douglas Johnson, Murray County Glen Agre, Renville County Clara Ronning, Chippewa County Douglas Johnson, Murray County	Work for change of time for filing note of issue
1962-63	Paul Belau, Faribault County Violet Zeien, Chisago County Hardy Silverberg, Meeker County	Salary vs. fee issue
1964-65	Ray Nilsson, Anoka County Violet Zeien, Hardy Silverberg, Meeker County	New marriage license law; salary bill passed
1966-67	Douglas Johnson, Violet Zeien Hardy Silverberg	Jury Commission law
1968-69	Robert Busse, Sibley County David Flatgard, Cottonwood County David Meyer, Wabasha County	Constitution and by-laws amended to include two vice-presidents. General term calendars- not mandatory that they be printed; increase in fees for c/c births, deaths, marriages and for marriage licenses

David Flatgard resigned as secretary;
Audrey Handahl, Blue Earth Co., appointed;
Audrey Handahl resigned as secretary;
Joyce Blindt, Yellow Medicine Co., appointed.

1970-71 Ruth Eppeland, Watonwan County
Joyce I. Blindt,
David Meyer

The Clerks' Association today is an active, well-organized and strong group because so many have given so much time, effort and talent.

Joseph Page worked continually for the Association in PERA, Paul Belau, Carl Eckdall, Stan Ross, Carl Witt, R.C. Peterson, Edwy O. Dibble, Ray Nilsson, Gerald Nelson, Robert Busse and many others have given endless hours of work to legislative matters.

- prepared by Joyce I. Blindt, Secretary
1970

Note to Members:

Anyone having in their Clerk's office, their own personal possession, or the knowledge as to whereabouts of items relative to the early history of the Clerks' Association as asked to relay that knowledge to the secretary to complete the earlier history.