

BENCHMARK

AJA

A Publication of the American Judges Association ■ Vol. 24, No. 2 ■ Summer 2001

AJA Meets in Hot Springs, Ark.

The beautiful resort community of Hot Springs provided a most pleasant setting for AJA's 2001 midyear meeting, March 29-31. The midyear meeting provided opportunities for the Board of Governors and committees to meet and conduct the necessary business of our organization. Education and recreation rounded out the program. The American Judges Foundation hosted a breakfast for the attendees and conducted a business meeting.



Arkansas Chief Justice W. H. "Dub" Arnold told attendees at the AJA midyear meeting that judges need to play a role in encouraging pro bono work by lawyers. "If we can unlock the doors to the courthouse so that all people can enter and achieve justice, then we'll all have achieved what we set out to do," he said.

Many members participated in two excellent educational programs. Judge Leslie Johnson, former president of AJA who now serves as Director of the Mississippi Judicial College, taught a session on hearsay evidence. This session was not only informative, but also extremely entertaining as Judge Johnson "volunteered" many in the audience to participate in his impromptu vignettes to illustrate the knotty problems judges deal with in applying rules of evidence to factual situations. Not to be outdone, Judge John Lineberger led a session on judicial ethics. The presentation was entertaining and informative as Judge Lineberger interspersed the substantive information with his impressive collection of very appropriate humorous material.

President Chris Williams presided over the business session of the Board of Governors. Those assembled learned that AJA is solvent, and things are moving nicely as plans are made for future conferences. Amendments were made to the bylaws of the organization (see page 3). Membership remains steady. AJA had 2,586 members at the time of the meeting. Judge Bonnie Sudderth and Judge Ira Raab received recognition and thanks when it was announced that each had sponsored 61 new members in AJA during the past year. The Board approved a resolution approving a modest increase in the annual dues for active judges, but kept the rate intact for retired judges.

Opportunities for recreation abounded. Some of us bathed in the hot springs and enjoyed a mas-

Continued on page 4

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the bylaws of the American Judges Association that the annual meeting will be held September 30 to October 5, 2001, at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The

annual membership meeting will be held Thursday, October 4, at 8:00 AM.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the American Judges Foundation will be held Monday, October 1, 2001, at noon at the Silver Legacy Hotel in Reno, Nevada. ■