

**Joint Council Board Meeting
November 7, 2007
Conference Call**

Attendees: R. Gibson, H. Stultz, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Schuemann, A. Schlicht, J. Ruben, R. Pearlman, K. Sacco, L. Wetterberg

Absent: J. Peterson, K. Wallace, P. Singer, N. Fox, J. Sciortino

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 3:06 PM EST

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

MOTION: To approve the minutes from September 26, 2007 as taken by Richard Gibson.

S. Cox MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

Fundraising

Tom and Joelle are heading up current fundraising efforts. Efforts are focused on obtaining 2008 conference sponsorships. An email will be sent shortly to approximately 5000 adoptive families with an update on Guatemala that will contain a light appeal. JCICS has received \$5,000 in unsolicited donations since the Guatemala 5000 initiative began.

Conferences Attended

Tom spoke at the CARA conference in India as well as the Adoption Ethics conference in the DC area. Tom also served on a panel at the Ethics conference with UNICEF representatives Manuel Manrique and Kelly Bunkers, as well as adoptive parent and journalist Elizabeth Larson. Joint Council has been invited to speak at the Ministry of Education Adoption Conference in Moscow during the first week of December.

International Relations Initiative

India

Joint Council is working with CARA & DOS on a few Hague pieces to be clarified. Joint Council will also be submitting written comments on the new regulations taking effect in 2008.

Africa

Joint Council is collaborating with Mark Moore, a specialist for Senator Landrieu who is well connected in Africa. The trip to Africa was cancelled due to logistical reasons and has been postponed until January or February of 2008.

Vietnam

Joint Council will be holding a mini-summit in DC during the last week in November. It will include caucus agencies, non-member agencies and representatives of DOS & USCIS. Mr. Dao from the DIA in Vietnam will be invited to come and address ongoing concerns with practice levels, corruption and the renewal of the bilateral agreement which expires in June 2008 and must be renewed in September 2008.

Russia

Joint Council is working with a few members of congress & CCAI to leverage the DOJ to pressure Interpol to issue clearances for agencies waiting for approval since July.

Columbia

During the trip, Tom visited several children's homes and reviewed new regulations with Bienestar. A meeting was also held with the Assistant Attorney General for Children's Rights. A Columbia caucus has been formed and will be having a conference call to discuss difficult provisions within the new regulations. (eg. Adoptions for Columbian nationals are to be free of charge)

Guatemala 5000

Joint Council was instrumental in having a letter from 203 members of Congress be sent to President Berger, UNICEF in Guatemala & NY. Joint Council is working with DOS to help them understand the proposal and support it along with the Hague Permanent Bureau. It should be officially introduced into Guatemalan Congress next week.

Staffing Update

Jennifer originally planned to come back from her maternity leave p/t in October and then f/t in November. Due to health complications with the baby she has returned very p/t and intends to return f/t; however the exact timeline is not yet known. Additional interns have been secured to help with manpower in the office during this time.

Membership Drive 2008: A. Schlicht

Membership applications will be available no later than two weeks from now. A copy will be sent to all current members with the newsletter. Membership fees will not change

this year. Efforts are underway to reach out to 40 new organizations that have never been recruited in the past. It is hoped that next month an additional outreach effort will be launched to identifying & collaborate with the licensing bureaus in all 50 states.

Financial Report: J. Rolsky, T. DiFilipo & J. Ruben

Jared has been in conversation with staff about the challenge of keeping track of the financials during Jennifer's absence.

Conference 2008: J. Ruben, A. Schlicht, T. DiFilipo

Speakers

Tom & Adam reviewed all workshop proposals. Letters were sent to all applicants to notify them whether or not they were selected. Contracts were due to the main office by November 1st and 95% were returned in time. The additional 5% are still coming in. Staff is satisfied with the diversity of speakers and topics. There will be a practitioner, management & policy track, similar to the Webinar series.

Keynote

There will be a dual keynot.

New Board Nominations

Lynn emailed the board last week with the list of committee volunteers.

MOTION: Accept slate with Susan Cox as a board alternate in the event Deb or Lynn are unable to serve.

R. Gibson MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED

PASSED Unanimously

Other News

Conference planning is ahead of schedule, staff is pursuing sponsors and a review of exhibit space has been planned to maximize the amount that can be held.

CIS Staffing Update: T. DiFilipo

CIS

Michael Valverde is the new Director of International Adoption. This is a first time position. Another three additional staff dedicated to International Adoption will also be added, one of which is Karen Eckert.

COA Update: J. Rolsky

COA is scheduled through December and continues to schedule review through March. All those who filed under the original deadline will have their site visits completed before the end of the calendar year unless they declare they are unready or self-cancel. Jared emailed the deadline definitions to the membership 4-6 weeks ago.

Education Committee: K. Sacco

A few volunteers have come forward to help start compiling an initial list, some resources will be coming from a JCICS intern and Jodi has some contacts coming forward as well.

Upcoming Board Meetings: R. Gibson

Next In-Person Board Meeting

January 7-9, 2008 at the River Inn hotel with meetings to be held at The Watergate.

Rooming List to Joelle by December 3rd

Rooming preferences should be submitted to Joelle as soon as possible, no later than December 3, 2007.

Flights

Need to be booked as soon as possible and submit receipts to Joelle.

Next Board Call

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 3:00 PM EST

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:40 PM EST.

L. Wetterberg MOVED/ K. Sacco SECONDED PASSED by Majority

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

Action Items:

1. BOD – book flights and send receipts to Joelle ASAP.
2. BOD – send rooming preferences for January BOD meeting to Joelle by 12/3.

Open Action Items from July 11, 2007:

1. R. Gibson, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Scheumann – examine the expansion of employee healthcare benefits.

Open Action Items from May 8, 2007:

1. T. DiFilipo, J. Peterson & R. Gibson – draft proposed language changes for by-law and policies/procedures that address the incorporation of the CEO title.

Open Action Items from April 13, 2007:

1. T. DiFilipo – email investment policy to the board for a vote.
2. BOD – acknowledge receipt, give comment and vote on proposed investment policy.

Open Action Items from January 23, 2007:

1. J. Rolsky, J. Sciortino & Staff – solicit members to work on SOP Committee and submit enhancements for board vote.

Open Action Items from September 19, 2006:

1. Staff and/or Education Committee – investigate post-adopt resources by state.