

JCICS Board Meeting
September 15, 2008
In Person

Attendees: A. Hayo (by phone), P.Singer, R. Pearlman (by phone), H. Stultz, S. Cox, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, A. Rough, K. Brownhill, R. Gibson, K. Sacco, K. Wallace, T. Fleeson, L. Brownlee, N. Fox, K. Altweis Nicholson, D. Johnson, R. Harris

Absent: J. Ruben

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 1:50 PM EST

2009 Meeting Dates

January 27-28, 2009 was selected for the next in-person board meeting.
Other in-person dates include June 2-3, 2009 and September 15-16, 2009.

Nominating Committee

MOTION: To nominate H. Stultz as committee chair and N. Fox as co-chair for the Nominating Committee.

P. Singer MOVED/ S. Cox SECONDED

Committee chairs will send timeline for action steps to the board.

Secretary's Report: H. Stultz

Action items were reviewed.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from August 13, 2008.

S. Cox MOVED/ N. Fox PASSED Unanimously

Financial Report: J. Rolsky & T. DiFilipo

There are not any budgetary issues of significance at this time. The audit is still not complete as JCICS has had difficulty generating a satisfactory management letter. J. Rolsky is now involved and JCICS may need to obtain a new auditing firm or account manager.

CEO Report: T. DiFilipo

Programs & Services

Discussion took place about following up DOS meetings with a letter reiterating major points covered and carbon copy other interested parties.

Child Advocacy

DOS

Rebecca Harris met with desk officers and the adoption unit co-chiefs to inquire how JCICS can better assist them in their work. DOS requested positive adoption stories regarding Russia and assisted a family in South America to receive their visa.

Guatemala & Vietnam Surveys

Staff will release total number of responses and information from commentary gathered within the next few weeks. The response has been overwhelming as over 1,000 surveys were returned to JCICS.

Conferences

Tom will be going to Belgium, SPAFA in North Carolina, the APC conference in NY in November, and the PRM conference in October.

I-600 Renewals

DOS & CIS understand the issue but feel it cannot be addressed until June of 2009. As a result plans are underway to organize a member and adoptive family campaign regarding this issue.

Education & Research

Conference

JCICS has received 40 proposals, 24 for conference, 11 for the medical institute and a few for the Adult Adoptee institute.

Everyone is welcome to attend the AAI, all presenters are adult adoptees. The hope is to have 100 or more attendees.

Staff are still trying to secure a keynote speaker.

Webinars

148 members signed up, generated \$10,000 in revenue.

Wikipedia

JCICS has returned to original concept of being open to adoptive parents. Everyone will have access by October but will go live in November.

Administration

Membership

New Targets

Recruiting 173 new members. The board will assist with strategic letters to potential recruits.

Survey Results

101 members responded. Approximately 20% indicated they either will not renew or are unsure that they will renew. It is estimated that there will be only 150 conference attendees next year as compared to the 300 that attended this year. Overall the response was positive and nothing fell below a 3, which was equal to “satisfactory”.

Firefly Acquisition

Firefly has decided not to be acquired at this time. Their programs are funded through 2010 so they are proceeding with those on their own for the time being. They have indicated that when they are ready to be acquired, they are interested in partnering with JCICS. JCICS will provide specific follow-up to continue to pursue the possibility of acquiring them in the future and having a more formal affiliation in the meantime.

MOTION: The JCICS board resolves to reconfirm our earlier resolution to enter into a union and working relationship with Firefly. The CEO, Board President and Committee Chair are authorized to enter into substantive discussion about how the association could be developed.

R. Pearlman MOVED/ K. Wallace SECONDED PASSED Unanimously

COA: J. Rolsky

Discussion was held regarding the patterns with denials and the lack of appeal process. The monitoring and oversight process has begun. In the first half of 2009 the one year organizations with temporary accreditation will be up for reaccreditation.

Budget Proposals: T. DiFilipo

Two budget proposals were reviewed.

A fund development plan was reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the solicitation of adoptive families through agencies, blogs and online support groups. A suggestion was made to proceed with the deficit budget but to closely monitor budget to actuals every three to six months.

Development Committee Report: S. Cox

Progress is being made towards identifying state adoption representatives and including them in JCICS. Funds previously earmarked towards domestic adoption may become available as the gap in perception between domestic and international adoption closes. It is important for JCICS to reach out to other child welfare organizations who may indirectly benefit from JCICS efforts and form collaborative partnerships.

MOTION: To recess the meeting at 5:15 PM EST.

J. Rolsky MOVED/ N. Fox

PASSED Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secry

Action Items:

1. H. Stultz & N. Fox – email board with nomination timeline.
2. R. Harris – email BOD with updated flow charts for government structure & contact information.
3. Staff – release Guatemala & Vietnam survey results.

Open Action Items from June 24, 2008:

1. R. Gibson & J. Rolsky – examine the expansion of employee healthcare benefits.
2. T. DiFilipo – send statement regarding members advertisement of pending Hague status to Executive Committee for review.
3. Staff – post finalized Hague status statement on JCICS website.

Open Action Items from April 23, 2008:

1. Staff – notify BOD 24-48 hours before new website goes live.

Open Action Items from January 9, 2008:

1. Ethics Committee – review current SOP to revise sub par standards to Hague language.