

JCICS Board Meeting
April 30, 2009
Conference Call

Attendees: R. Pearlman, J. Rolsky, R. Gibson, K. Sacco, L. Brownlee, K. Altwies, T. DiFilipo, S. Cox, D. Johnson, A. Hayo, S. Mitchell

Absent: P. Singer, K. Wallace, N. Fox

Call to Order & Agenda: R. Gibson at 3:03 PM EST

Minutes – March Meeting – Reviewed, approved.

Annual Conference Review/Wrap Up: T. DiFilipo

Discussion of conference budget. Questions from S. Cox regarding allocation of staff time for Adult Adoptee conference. T.DiFilipo agreed to look into staff time and get back to board. S. Cox noted importance of reporting to Kellogg. Brief discussion about next year's conference, and likely reduction in size, etc. S. Cox notes concern about how AAI was summarized in JCICS material. K.Sacco suggests involving adoptive families with weekend family activities next year.

Webinar: J. Ruben

JCICS plans to offer series of webinars of most popular conference presentations during May. Webinars have been very successful to date.

International Relations Initiative: T. DiFilipo

Adoptipedia – K.Sacco is working to revamp using Ed Committee and then JCICS members and parent groups. T. DiFilipo notes that all grant money has been used up for Adoptipedia.

Countries – T. DiFilipo reviews country work – Ethiopia – just back from visit and 22 member agencies showed up at meeting; met President; event hosted by CHS was successful. May 11, 09. T.D. going to Guatemala with Caucus Chair L. Armistead. Vietnam delegation went exceptionally well, and VN delegation requested that U.S. delegation visit VN in May. No MOU anytime soon. Russia, on-going challenges.

Families For Orphans Act – T. DiFilipo – Noted that FFO proponents have been told that JCICS will put FFO on website but not Part Two (F.A.C.E?) S. Cox asks for clarification on whether parts one and two of the bill are 100% split – T. DiFilipo states yes.

Vaccinations – T. DiFilipo notes that discrepancies between Hague and Non Hague cases causing problems, likely to be dealt with under the radar.

Outgoing cases – T. DiFilipo – JCICS formed an Outgoing Cases listserv group, non JCICS members are invited to join this. Discussion on whether to have SOP for these cases.

Development: T. DiFilipo

Be The Answer Campaign – ready to launch, hope to launch soon, committee forming.

Future of JCICS – R. Gibson

T. DiFilipo notes that of the \$8,000 pledged at the director's lunch, \$7,000 already collected. Many volunteers who stepped forward are already helping, esp. with the Be The Answer campaign.

J. Rolsky – Soon we will have 1/3 the staff and ½ the budget – still drawing off reserves and cannot continue that.

S. Mitchell suggests raising money.

S. Cox notes that NACAC model for annual conference should be considered as it uses volunteers, members and board and not paid staff time to organize.

T. DiFilipo notes increased use of staff at JCICS – attorney in Denver is helping and drafted an MOU for all volunteers. Notes that biggest challenge is bookkeeping and accounting with current reduced staff. Admits that neither he nor Rebecca have easy time of bookkeeping. Notes that due to time constraints, he has cut out participation in the monthly Quad A and Evan B. Donaldson conference calls. Developing fundraising mechanisms for easier time of bringing in money.

R. Gibson notes that T. DiFilipo has successfully reduced time spent on membership questions.

K. Altwies suggests writing a reminder note to membership regarding this.

Child Welfare and Advocacy or International Adoption? T. DiFilipo notes that a number of potential donors are unable/unwilling to donate as long as JCICS focus is unclear. Board discussion on topic – T. DiFilipo notes that JCICS is a membership based advocacy group and primary function is not to serve members but to serve children. Following lengthy discussion, R. Gibson suggests an action step of bullet points on the issue and offers to summarize and write up something on the topic in advance of the next board meeting.

Next board meeting: May 20, 3:00 PM Eastern Time.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 5:04 PM EST.

J. Rolsky MOVED/ K. Sacco SECONDED

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Altwies, Secretary