

JCICS Board Meeting  
March 14, 2007  
Conference Call

**Attendees:** R. Gibson, J. Sciortino, S. Pitkowsky, H. Stultz, L. Vollman, L. Wetterberg, J. Peterson, T. DiFilipo, J. Rolsky, D. Murphy-Schuemann, R. Pearlman, S. Wu, A. Schlicht

**Absent:** K. Wallace (e), J. Ruben (e)

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

**CEO Report:** T. DiFilipo

International Relations Initiative

*Guatemala*

Legislation continues to be worked on. Two drafts have been completed and commented on with a third draft in progress. JCICS has helped arrange meetings in Guatemala with UNICEF and the Hague Permanent Bureau. The Ortega legislation will be coming back the beginning of next week to be reviewed by Congress.

There will be an upcoming piece done by an investigative news show regarding a case that involved Guatemalan children who were abducted from their home. In addition posts were sent to the membership regarding five children kidnapped from an orphanage. Three of them have been returned. DOS is issuing a harsher statement regarding Guatemalan adoptions that will be released this afternoon.

*International Relations Initiative/Global Awareness Campaign*

JCICS will be meeting with the new director of CIS next week. In addition JCICS has already met with the new legislative director in Senator Landrieu's office as well as attended an adoption 101 congressional briefing. Meetings with CCAI and DOS continue to take place on a regular basis.

The Haiti initiative began about a month ago. JCICS is conducting a survey with members and the NGOs they partner with to complete an orphan status report. UNICEF did one about a year ago that reported international adoption there was hand in hand with child trafficking, calling for increased protections. JCICS is working to prove this is an inaccurate representation and reflect what agencies are doing to support orphanages, run humanitarian aid programs as well as the numbers of children that are presently in orphanages there. JCICS is also working with the Haiti caucus on the Adjudicate Orphans First program to help it be more successful this time around. JCICS will be meeting with USCICS next week to continue to work on the outline for that program.

Deb shared that she knows of a photographer who has done work for Oprah that may be willing to do a project for the Global Awareness Campaign.

**Executive Director Report: J. Peterson**

Resolution – Organization Name Change

The auditing team came last week. The auditor read through all the board minutes and caught the name change that resulted from the bylaw passage. He needs a resolution from the board stating that it did pass. The secretary needs to sign that copy of the minutes and submit to the main office as soon as possible.

**MOTION: The board recognizes that the approved bylaw change at the April 2006 conference removed “of North America” from the legal JCICS name.**

**S. Pitkowsky MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

Membership Drive

The membership drive is over, though the office continues to process applications. Currently there are 212 members. After the annual conference staff will send out exit surveys.

**Secretary’s Report: H. Stultz**

Action items were reviewed.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from February 14, 2007.**

**L. Vollman MOVED/ J. Rolsky SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

**Financial Report: L. Vollman**

The budget to actuals are reflective of finances through February 28. Membership dues, conference fees and general donations are up. Under budget income is the IRI at \$5,000 which should be \$12,000. The one IRI expense noted was Tom’s trip to Minnesota. Employee benefits are higher because some checks cut for parking, insurance and other benefits were prepaid. JCICS is currently exploring the possibility of shifting all insurance policies to ISG as well as obtaining some professional liability. The last board meeting came in underbudget due to in-kind donations. Linda will be working with Bank of America to switch over all accounts.

On May 19, 2007, JCICS will be working with Build-A-Bear workshops to do a fundraiser. BAB has 300 US and 40 UK stores. Over the past four years BAB has held an annual event where people can build a bear for free and they donate any proceeds to a designated charity. They have selected JCICS this year by referral from CCAI. The minimum amount to be donated is \$50,000. BAB will also give JCICS 50,000 bears to distribute to children. Staff are putting together a plan and announcement to reach out to all member organizations to help distribute those. The JCICS logo will be displayed in the stores and on the bears.

**2007 Conference: J. Peterson**

To date \$3500 of the \$15,000 pledged in sponsorship monies has been received. All past

sponsors are participating again this year. ISG is sponsoring the Welcome Reception, Adoption.com is providing red tote bags and donating any money leftover after the cost of creating and shipping them, DHL is sponsoring the handouts, COA is a conference sponsor, and Hague Accreditation is sponsoring the Keynote Speaker. A bookseller has been identified, Twig Book Shop, and they will be donating 15% of their sales back to JCICS. The exhibit hall will be full, the goal for journal messages has been received, and 150% of the room block has been sold. The hotel is technically sold out; however a few members have indicated they reserved a few extra rooms early that they may be giving back. The Drury hotel is the next closest hotel for spillover at a rate of \$189/night. To date only 280 registrations have been received. Tom posted to the membership about this and Jennifer has also been working with the caucus chairs to encourage members to register as soon as possible. The main office needs to finish processing them to begin focusing on shipping all conference materials to TX ahead of time.

Many thanks to Jennifer for her tireless, wonderfully successful efforts in obtaining DHL reimbursements for the membership!

Executive Session of the Whole

**Hague Update:** T. DiFilipo, J. Peterson & J. Rolsky

Jarod has posted several COA updates to the members. COA will hold their first dual review on April 2. Discussion was held with COA whether or not peer reviewers and directors who are already professionally affiliated in some other area would constitute a conflict of interest. It was deemed that it was not conflict of interest but rather a choice based on comfort levels.

COA has begun their phone interviews with agencies to get a sense of how far along in the process they are.

There is some concern that given the 90 day remediation window after a given agency's site visit, assuming ratification will take place in December 2007, agencies with site visits in November or December 2007 will not have enough time to appear on the accredited list. DOS has indicated that whenever an agency is accredited, their name will be added to the list the following day.

JCICS originally predicted that 187 members would apply for full accreditation. Of the 91% of JCICS members that could apply, 91% did. Currently there are 163 agencies that are working on the second level of their accreditation agreements.

**Bylaw Change:** S. Pitkowsky

Three concerns were raised regarding the current bylaw proposal. The first is that the language seems to suggest that four board members at large must be appointed at the first board meeting after the conference. The second is that the language only stipulates that these four slots cannot be filled by a member, as opposed to anyone who may qualify for JCICS membership. The third concern is that no criteria have been specified that designate the purpose of the board expansion.

Discussion was held that the language does not require all additional slots to be filled immediately. The two additional concerns could be addressed in policy and procedure. The language of the current bylaw proposal cannot be edited because some members have already cast their vote. Tom will obtain a legal opinion on the proposed bylaw and report back to the board.

**2010 Conference: J. Peterson**

Currently the Baltimore Sheraton is the first choice. Tom and Jennifer are planning to see it this Friday and provide more detailed information after their visit.

**Romania: L. Wetterberg**

The book "Romania for Export Only: The Untold Story of Romania is making its way around Europe and is cause for concern.

**August Board Meeting Date: BOD**

The dates selected for the August board meeting are August 27-29, 2007. The 27<sup>th</sup> will be comprised of DOS & USCIS meetings. The location will most likely remain as the Hampton Inn.

**Next Board Meeting:** Annual Conference, Wednesday April 11, 4:00PM Crowne Plaza Riverwalk, Executive Salon 5

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 4:48PM EST.**

**L. Wetterberg MOVED/ S. Wu SECONDED PASSED Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Stultz, Secy

**Action Items:**

1. H. Stultz – send signed copy of these minutes to the main office.
2. T. DiFilipo – email necessary documents to Linda so Bank of America accounts can be transferred.
3. T. DiFilipo – will obtain a legal opinion on the proposed bylaw.

**Open Action Items from February 14, 2007:**

1. J. Peterson – examine the amount of income that non-renewals represent and email the BOD.
2. J. Peterson – email proposed 2010 conference information from Jean Marie to the board.

**Open Action Items from January 24, 2007:**

1. BOD – book hotel and airfare accommodations for the 2007 Annual Conference as soon as possible.
2. Staff – investigate feedback on Morris & McDaniel and report back to the board.

**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.

**Open Action Items Edited from June 28, 2006:**

1. BOD – assess whether or not JCICS should draft bullet points for regional training proposal for USCIS.