

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
General Membership Meeting, June 21, 2008
Emporia, Kansas

Board Members Present: President Dennis Finch, Secretary Sandra Hiller, Treasurer Tracie Wyatt, Region 3 Vice President Eltanis Volen

Members Present: Janice Snyder, Joyce DeBolt

President Dennis Finch called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Denise Gibson and Joyce DeBolt were asked by President Finch to count the ballots that were turned over by the Secretary. The election rules were reviewed to be sure that ballots were correctly counted. Ballots were sealed at the time they were turned over.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance	\$1601.92
Deposits: Walk Me Home	\$ 165.00
Plane Ticket Reimbursement	\$ 394.00
Membership Dues	\$ 270.00
Total Deposits	\$ 829.00
Expenses: Will Enterprise for t-shirts	\$ 82.47
Staples: name tags, receipt	
Book, treasurer supplies	\$ 63.08
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 145.55
ENDING BALANCE	\$2285.37

Two new membership checks were just handed over by the secretary for \$110, and Tracie reported that she still has \$190 of Walk Me Home money that she would like to get sent in but has not received the information from the statewide coordinator. There was discussion about the Walk Me Home money, and Tracie reported that she deposited money made out directly to the KFAPA. She needs a clarification as to how to handle that money. There was also some discussion about the plane ticket reimbursement, as it was thought that the ticket cost \$264 and the other \$30 of that check was Walk Me Home donations. Tracie stated she will verify the cost of the plane ticket. Membership fees for the 2009 fiscal year are now due, and those dues will boost our balance as well. Eltanis Volen moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, Janice Snyder seconded, and the motion was approved.

President's Report: Dennis Finch reported that he has not acted on some things, preferring to have the new president make those decisions. He did report that Sheila Peterman has resigned as Vice President of Region 4, and the new president can appoint someone to fill that vacancy. Greg Jaquis resigned as Chairman of the Membership Committee, as he and his wife were a kinship family and the children have been reintegrated and Greg and Peggy will no longer be licensed at this time.

Dennis reported that we have received a contract from SRS in response to our budget request, and there was some discussion about how to handle that. SRS did fund a previous association; the contract is a standard contract. Sandra Hiller had questioned SRS about the concern that SRS would "own" our manuals, website, etc. and the reply from SRS indicated that should we develop a specific website for SRS, or if we should write a book or manual that someone would want to publish, we would need SRS's permission. Funding would be available via a quarterly "billing" to SRS with an accounting of expenses and justification for the expenses. After discussion, Tracie Wyatt moved and Eltanis Volen seconded a motion that we accept the SRS contract. The motion was approved.

Dennis reported that NFPA sent information regarding a mini-grant opportunity to start a respite care program for post-adoption support. Up to \$5000 would be available. During discussion about whether KFAPA should apply for this, Dennis did state that he has some experience in setting up strategies for families with therapeutic kids about to disrupt and questioned whether that could be adapted to use for adoptive parents. We would like to promote respite as a healthy part of the process. Tracie Wyatt moved and Sandra Hiller seconded a motion that KFAPA apply for the grant, with Dennis Finch to write the grant proposal. The motion was approved.

Walk Me Home report: Bruce is not present so there is no update. Eltanis Volen expressed concerns about how the Walk Me Home program has been handled to date, as very little information has been provided to KFAPA from the statewide coordinator, and the treasurer can't even get information on what to do with the money raised at the May 3 informal event. Janice Snyder voiced that the presentation at the April meeting came across as very confusing. Eltanis asked that we consider having the regional vice presidents be in charge so that events can be properly planned and followed through on, as she doesn't feel that one person should be in charge.

Secretary's Report: Sandra Hiller reported that minutes from the previous meeting were distributed via email and are on the website. Eltanis Volen moved and Janice Snyder seconded that the minutes be approved, and the motion passed.

Sandra reported that she has two estimates for Directors and Officers Insurance. This is something that we need to have, and after discussion, Sandra was asked to check with Children's Alliance, Ruth Heitsman, and NFPA to see what kind of coverage they have and what company they use.

There is a JJA Conference in Topeka in July; we should be visible either as an exhibitor or as conference attendees. Tracie moved that Sandra Hiller attend the conference, as an exhibitor if space is still available, and Eltanis Volen seconded the motion. Janice Snyder volunteered to attend as well if we have an exhibitor booth. It was requested that any time board members attend conferences, they give a report at the next board meeting.

Dennis presented a brochure about a therapeutic foster care conference at Woodlands, Texas in July. No one is available to attend at this time.

Sandra presented information about an adoptive couples retreat in September, and it was agreed that we will post that on our website. Janice Snyder reported that she and her husband attended one of the past retreats and were very impressed. Denise Gibson asked that we email the information to her and she will put it out as well.

Sandra reported on the Best Practices in Child Welfare Law conference that she attended in Hays in May and explained about the stakeholders meetings that will be set up in the judicial districts across the state to further strengthen the understanding of the child welfare team from all perspectives from the judges down to the families.

KDHE is working on the child placement agency regulations at this time and we have been invited to have one board member attend the BEST meetings. Several board members had previously volunteered to attend, and after discussion, Janice Snyder agreed to be our representative. The first meeting is scheduled for July 14. The meetings will be in Topeka and generally last from 9 am to 4 pm. If Janice is unable to attend a meeting, another board member can fill in, but Joyce DeBolt voiced how important it is that whoever fills in is up to speed on what is going on. Joyce said that the foster parent presence is very important. Sandra stated that KFAPA needs to raise the level of importance of foster parents in this state. Foster parents need to be professional and speak up, and KFAPA needs to work to help raise the self esteem of foster parents, and we need to work to improve the public image of foster parents.

The election results were given to Dennis Finch, who reported them as follows:

President: Sandra Hiller

Treasurer: Tracie Wyatt

Vice President, Region 1: Richard Basham

Vice President, Region 3: Eltanis Volen

Vice President, Region 5: Nancy Weigant

Dennis congratulated the newly elected board. Everyone was reminded that membership dues are now being received for fiscal year 2009 which begins July 1, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm so that the medication administration/universal precautions training could begin at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hiller, LMSW
Executive Board Secretary