

Los Ninos de Chapala y Ajijic, A.C.

Board Minutes of 1.17.08

DRAFT FOR REVIEW BY PAT MOIR

Directors/officers in attendance: Pat Moir, Bill Friend, Pat Percival, John de Waal, Lori Skoda, Mac Whyte

Audience: Pat Laplant, sponsor, Mary Leyda, sponsor, David & Darlene Pike, sponsors, Jim Garrow, Doug Friend, web designer, Pam Steed

I. Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Pat Moir, President at the Ajijic office.

II. Minutes approved from meeting in December. No Additions or corrections.

III. Treasurer's report. Tabled until February meeting.

IV. Special Reports

1. Report by Eliberto & Susana tabled. Specific issues that need to be addressed.

- a. Hacienda, lack of link on notarized documents, need POA
- b. IMSS, need system access, then make changes for staff
- c. Swintek Funds, need to get IJAS to give the \$30,000.00 to Los Ninos

V. Old Business

1. Web Site. Members noted the progress that Doug is making with the site in terms of updates. Doug will install a software feature on the web site that aids in tracking email requests. Members provided Doug with their email addresses which he will use for the forwarding of email requests from visitors when they want to send a member an email. At the web site member emails will reflect the organizational address. Members noted that we need to continue to develop the site so that sponsor's have secure access to the records of the individual child they sponsor.
2. Distribution of Christmas food baskets, changing of procedures, tabled.
3. Construction progress at Chapala site. Bill Friend noted that the sidewalk has been repaired, inside rooms are nearly finished. It still looks like a construction site. No set date on completion. Back wall has not been started.
4. Chili Cook off. Bill Friend is working with the donut man in preparation for the event, February 15, 16, 17. Projected donut sale is 1000 to 1500. Bill will be emailing members to set up work schedule for running the table. It was agreed that we should have information on Los Ninos available as well. A minimum of two people per shift are needed. Money earned from the sale of donuts is then turned into the Chili Cook off committee who after expenses divides the money between the participating charities.

VI. New Business

1. Concerns of sponsors. The sponsors in attendance brought to the board these concerns;
 - a. Lack of communications in notifying sponsors of renewal dates, progress of students, changes in policy, follow up by office staff and members.
 - b. Policies in these areas are unclear: dropping of students due to not maintaining grades, lack of sponsorship.
 - c. Financial reports need to be published on a consistent basis.
 - d. What is the follow up when a student loses their sponsorship, but wants to stay in the program?
 - e. How are funds distributed? How is the dispensary money given to parents? Is that money tied to academic progress?
 - f. Lack of follow to those who want to volunteer with the organization.
 - g. What is the source of funding for operational costs? How is that secured?
 - h. How do we track the progress of students in relation to performance and attendance?
 - i. Can sponsors still support students who fall below the academic standard?
 - j. Why were a large number of students dropped in the last year?

Members were in agreement that these concerns needed to be addressed in a timely manner. Pat Moir noted that there needs to be a procedures manual in place. The expansion of the web site can aide in addressing some of these concerns as well. Discussion to follow.

2. Jim Garrow proposed the development of a theater program for students in the Ajijic area. Jim has a background in theater, primarily on the business side, but is willing to help develop the program. He will contact Pat Moir for further discussions on the topic.

Members later noted that the organization is stretched beyond its resources at the present time in terms of having enough people to take charge of existing programs. We need a volunteer coordinator and more volunteers.

3. Presentation at LCS Open Circle is at 10 a.m., February 3rd by Pat Percival. Pat requested members give her ideas on how to structure the presentation. The need for sponsors, volunteers and the purpose of the organization were noted. Asking one of our sponsors to give some remarks as to the benefit of the program was recommended as well. Mac Whyte will assist Pat at the presentation.
4. Thrift Shop report from Lori Skoda. A total of \$59330 has been deposited in the last 3 months.

Lori noted that the landlord wants to increase the rent from \$3000 to \$3500. This is considered a fair price in the area, provided that items needing repair in the facility are completed.

5. Nominating committee report by Pam Steed. A full nomination slate is being submitted to the membership at the annual meeting in February. List is attached. Members were asked to confirm their nomination.
6. English program report by Pam Steed. Resources are being gathered. It was noted that we need to firm up teachers, location, schedule and have a program coordinator.
7. Consolidation of Ajjic office into the LCS Wilkes Education Center was tabled.
8. Fund raising. It was recommended that we work with other organizations in putting on a large fund raiser, i.e Las Vegas night.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by Pat Moir.

Next regular board meeting is at 10 a.m., February 21st at the Chapala site.

Annual membership meeting and election of officers/directors is at 10 a.m., February 28th at the Chapala site.

Submitted by Mac Whyte, Secretary
1.17.08