

2009 OUCH Convention Report  
July 24 – 25, 2009

Crown Plaza Hotel  
St Louis, MO

Friday, July 24, 2009

9 am Session - Orientation to Nonprofits

Jim Welch presented an orientation and led a Q & A session on nonprofits and their Boards of Directors. Attendance varied between 9 and 23. The discussions dealt first in generic terms and then applied them to OUCH. While the group was small in attendance, the questions and comments were well thought out and showed interest.

1:30 Session – Annual Meeting OUCH

(See separate Report)

3:00 Session – Discussion on the Future of OUCH

Jim Welch presided and began with a short promo for Linde Life Gas. Linde is providing this year's O<sub>2</sub> for the second year. Their grant to support last year's convention had some left to assist this year's.

Website was the first topic – This is a very important topic and drew lots of attention. Questions ranged from: Will there be a message board? and, Should dues be required to access some areas? There was lots of interest in making the website easier to navigate and find things. Jim expressed that a Web Team was being formed to address the issues and that they would take all of the issues into their approach for the website. Someone commented that ch.com is the warm and fuzzy site and OUCH is the business site.

OUCH is a volunteer organization and as such needs a good many volunteers. The comments and discussion reviewed what jobs needed to be filled and what was expected. Many suggestions were made as to what OUCH should do. The first of what was to be many countering remarks from the attendees over the two days - were fired back – “Don't just say what needs to be done – volunteer to do it”.

While some opportunities were identified, others will need to time to be developed. There was concern that OUCH could spread itself too thin and that it needs to narrow its scope. In addressing requirements for applying for the Board of Directors, Jim Welch stated that the individuals interested in submitting their names must be aware that they will be asked to agree to a background check, criminal and financial. This is a logical next step for protecting the organization.

Saturday, July 25, 2009

9 am Session – What should OUCH be doing?

Ideas came from many people. “Educating the general public, doctors, hospitals, emergency rooms, etc.” “OUCH needs to get a grant writer.” “Advertise in the newspapers, radio, on the web, etc” and many more were given and countered. “An AMA approved educational presentation.” “Educate dentists and EMTs as first point of contact.”

It was also asked that a survey of the “Members” skill set be taken. OUCH may have skilled individuals available already. Maybe a mass email could be sent to survey the skills in OUCH.

An idea was floated to consider charging dues. This was brought up several times during the day with different concepts of implementation. It was suggested that a committee to coordinate volunteers be created. Also, it was suggested to keep an up to date list of doctors.

Break

Jim Welch called the members back with a reminder that this meeting is about a regrouping. It doesn't have to be bigger or better, it has to be more consistent. The website has to stabilize and so does the leadership.

Discussion continued with talk about the members skills, hiring a professional fundraiser and could we be listed with United Way – to that Jim stated ‘currently – No’.

Also suggested was to set short-term and long-term goals. OUCH could still make available options for individuals to continue in drug trials. OUCH could review offers for legitimacy or provide disclosures.

Finances – questions about the reason only 2007 and newer were posted and questions about the rumors about what may have happened in the past were brought up. Jim explained that while previous Treasurers may have forwarded all their records – what came to him was only partials of the most recent years and little to none of the years past. He had audited the most recent years and had posted those to the accuracy of the records provided. There are virtually no receipts or documentation available before 2007. Hiring an auditor to audit what is not available has no value. It was suggested by a member that maybe the past should be left alone and we move on – stop rumors and stop innuendos. Jim reported that the BoD and the OUCH attorney were addressing a portion of the past and actively closing the gap.

Jim was asked if a Board Member could be removed from office. He stated yes, as well as officers for non-performance. Accountability of the BoD is very important.

Break

Jim provided his email [jlw-44@live.com](mailto:jlw-44@live.com). He will help questions get answered. It was suggested that new features be added to the website that might encourage more individuals to visit it more often. It was asked if the OUCH webmaster had to be a member? Jim answered the question on the cost for hosting OUCH – about \$73/yr. He also reviewed how to volunteer on the OUCH website.

Discussion returned to the membership dues and various options. It was also asked if there would be a web committee. It was explained that 'Committees' focus on policy and direction while 'Staff' work on tasks and projects. We were putting together a web-staff at this time.

In closing – Jim stated that Karl Johnston was heading the OUCH Store and could use a couple of individuals to assist in reviewing potential product items.

Session adjourned about 3:15 pm.

6:00 pm – Dinner

7:00 pm – Auction

Ruthie Harper – Auctioneer

Thank you –

Thank you to all that helped make this a very successful event. Many hours were put in by many people. I would like to say special thanks to some:

Linda – she was my first reviewer and helped me keep straight what was right. She helped on the prep for the auction, posted to ch.com and kept the Convention in your focus, and me on track. You may think she is the best – I know it.

Patrick – great back up, got the Auction items flowing and was first to volunteer on what was needed.

Louise – She worked in the background. Doing follow up calls to the hotel to secure some good rates for us. Then she took on the 'Goodie Bags' and did a great job, adding candy and homemade cookies. She finished by making the name tags for everyone. – now that is being a volunteer.

Bill (Racer) – Thanks for making that first trip to view the hotel and get us started. He came back to pick up loose ends and finish with handling the registration table. He and I say thanks to those that took a turn at the table – it all helps. On top of it all – he kept you all in pictures.

Beth & Liz – you got the auction items in great organization for a great auction – Ruthie appreciated it – that is for sure. It helped make the evening fly. Our team that walked the floor showing the products – you all were terrific – and Jasper and Caleb – you guys were cute.

Brew – Thank you for taking minutes and providing projection of topics during the meeting and of course – “Whatcha gonna do when they come for you” – COPS (Surprise DVD of Guiseppi – 20+ years ago).

Stats:

Registered Attendees: 44 Adults (33 Full and 11 Guests); 4 Children