

## **USCHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

CONFERENCE CALL

Thursday March 24, 2016

The USCHI Board of Directors held a teleconference meeting on Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2016. President Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:00 AM CST. Board members present were President Taff Hughes, Vice President Greg Thurman, JC Schemper, Mark Anderson, Glen Jantzen, Morgan Crabtree, Advisor Jon Orr and Operations Manager Mandi Sieren. Monty Dunn was absent. USCHI regular members present were Tom Ginther, Theresa Ginther, and Dave Hermesch.

### **AGENDA**

Was reviewed by all. It was requested that CDL training/Proposed rules, Omaha Hilton, and National Ag in the Classroom be added to new business. Fuel Tank will be added to unfinished business. Morgan Crabtree moves to approve the agenda and seconded by Greg Thurman. Motion carries unanimously.

### **MINUTES**

March 10, 2016 minutes had an addition with a heading named Country TACS bill for services. Glen Jantzen moves to approve minutes and seconded by Mark Anderson. Motion carries.

### **OPERATIONS MANAGERS REPORT**

Mandi reports one unpaid balance of \$75 for convention auction and asked Taff to call them for her since she is getting no response. There is a \$35,010 outstanding on a lease. All associate member certificates have been sent out. There are 23 new member packages since convention that are going out soon. There is a safety day coming up on Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> in Colby, Ks at the convention center at 9 AM to around 3 PM. Mandi will be attending to represent USCHI. She has been organizing the trailer and the things in Greg's shop to get ready to go. She has been taking photos of all things to sell and states we need to be charging sales tax on all items sold in the state of Kansas. We should have been charging sales tax in Omaha at convention and she will proceed accordingly. She has to take care of some bills at Omaha that are still outstanding from the 2016 convention. Advertising budget is \$35,000 and she has spent \$14,000 so far this year and Taff suggest to hold some back if possible. Taff ask if she could email anything that comes up and the board will discuss them at the next meeting.

### **OPERATIONS MANAGERS POSITION**

After discussion on current evaluation Greg Thurman makes a motion to hire Mandi Sieren as a full time employee as Operations Manager for USCHI and to continue paying her the same wages that we are currently paying. Mark Anderson seconds and the motion carries unanimously.

### **OFFICE FURNITURE**

Greg states that the remaining things at Dave Hermesch's house should remain there and be officially donated to him for helping USCHI gather and move things around. After discussion Taff says to just leave the 6 chairs and corner desk there for Dave to use as that is more than fair.

## **TRAILER**

Greg states that he's only received 1 bid out of 6 and it was way over our intended budget. There is a bid of \$38,000 and we will keep within our budget of \$30,000 as he will keep making calls.

## **KANSAS SAFETY DAY**

Morgan states he and his crew plan to attend on April 29th. Mandi will also attend to represent USCHI.

## **FUEL TANK**

Glen ask if anyone has been keeping up with the legislative side of this at the state level. There was response to the question and Taff says that he did include in the last newsletter of USCHI some reports for each state.

## **AG DAY REPORT**

Taff states that he, Morgan, and JC were in attendance. Taff tells the board who all they saw and visited with while they were there in Washington DC. Morgan states that he was impressed and thought that it was a great business trip as we did get to sit down to lunch with the President of Wheat Growers. JC states that they met with their state representation from Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska. Taff adds that as a USCHI board that we need to keep taking our new guys elected to board down to Washington DC and educate them on how things work in Washington as Morgan was very impressed on how things worked being there for his first time as it can be very valuable time spent to the organization.

## **WEBSITE**

Mandi states she wants to redesign the website as many members are confused on how it all works. It would take \$1400 to totally redesign it by a company that she has spoken to. After discussion, JC makes a motion to allow Mandi \$1400 to use to redesign the website. Morgan seconds and the motion carries unanimously.

## **MICROSOFT ACCESS**

Mandi reports that we need to upgrade USCHI's database to make it easier for her to do her job. She states that it would take \$150 per month to get some changes and support and this would save her a lot of time. The board thinks they would table this for now and have Mandi report back to them after some more research. The board also thinks Mandi should go buy herself a screen that has a split screen as some board members are already using this for their own personal computers. Mandi agrees and will go buy one for the office computer.

## **AG MEDIA SUMMIT**

Mandi states that she received an e-mail from them and wonders if we want to register. Mark comments on his attendance last year and states this is worth our while being there. We have to be registered by May 10<sup>th</sup>. The board elects to table this till the April meeting.

## **GREAT AMERICAN WHEAT HARVESTER FFA DVD PROJECT**

Discussion on sponsorship to help put this in front of every FFA class in America. John Deere has taken \$12,500 which is half of a sponsorship and USCHI was asked by producer Conrad Weaver to take the other half as one sponsorship is \$25,000. The board wants to table this to the April meeting and discuss it then.

## **CDL TRAINING/PROPOSED RULES**

49 CFR Parts 380, 383, 384. These rules are saying that as employers we can no longer train our employees in three years. We need to voice our opinions on this right away. This will require that our drivers get training a minimum of 30 hrs and 10 hrs on a driving range under a certified trainer. This is a very serious issue for our industry. This may cost a \$4000 to \$6000 fee to get a class A CDL with this proposed rule. Taff says he will reach out to John Sampson with the ATA. Greg wants to get a letter writing campaign out to all members to contact their state representatives.

## **OMAHA HILTON**

Mandi states that the Hilton wants to charge our organization a fee of \$8,000 for not filling up our required amount of rooms that were reserved under the USCHI block. Taff and CJ Hughes did counter offer and they took \$6,000 instead. Mandi asked what to do for next year to keep this from happening again? The board thinks we should go to a deposit for 1 night under the USCHI name to get an accurate count of rooms for our block to save USCHI money next year. There was a vote and passed unanimously to go ahead with a 1 night deposit per reservation for next years convention to get an accurate count for our block.

## **NATIONAL AG IN THE CLASSROOM**

Mark states he will go to the conference June 21, 22, and 23<sup>rd</sup> to attend in Phoenix, AZ. The board votes to send Mark on behalf of USCHI. All other board members are too busy to attend. Discussion leads to sending Mark for representation.

## **BOARD LEADERSHIP**

There will be some business meeting changes and changes in handling the ballots. Discussion on Board members resigning. Talked about a survey that was signed about some suggestions on what the board needs to do for changes. The board is glad to hear from the membership, but there are some issues that just can't be resolved according to the bylaws. There have been issues looked at and talked about as a board and resolved in the best way possible.

## **GRIEVANCE POLICY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee members Taff Hughes, Glen Jantzen, and Morgan Crabtree were in Kearney, Ne for this meeting. JC Schemper attended as a guest and they all met with Melody Dobson and Jody Lamp. There was a policy written up and hope to put this in place at the next annual meeting when voted on by the members. There was discussion on leadership training that should be pursued by the board. Discussion lead to talking to some of our major sponsors to be a part of their leadership training and use them to help this organization move forward. The board will contact these leaders to see if we could get some training through them. Our local COOPs and NAWG offer leadership training. Talk about just reading some of the provided books for board members to help find some leadership for themselves. Board Members all need a little training in parliamentary procedure also to help.

## **BYLAW UPDATES**

Dave Hermesch states that he would like changes made called into him asap. He states that he would like to call on some people to his committee to help with these changes as he is the chairman.

Next meeting will be April 12th 2016 at 7 AM CDT

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 AM by JC Schemper, second by Morgan Crabtree.

JC Schemper, Secretary