

St. Louis Jaycees
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2011

Members in Attendance: Bret Kuhlman, Dani Strong, Suzanne McSwain, Stephanie Kuhlman, Kristen Fishero, Justyn Kozikowski, Jen Knox, Ryan O'Toole, Jack Dabrowski

Members with Dues up for Renewal:

1. Bret Kuhlman
2. Dani Strong
3. Suzanne McSwain – paid at tonight's meeting
4. Randi Hasselfeld

Call to Order.

Welcome.

Introductions.

President's Report, Bret Kuhlman.

- Bret is starting his second term as president (first was 2009). He served as District Director in Region 5 last year but has chosen to re-focus on the St. Louis Chapter. He encourages all members to get involved in existing events and to bring fresh ideas to the table. He says, "YOU are what make the Jaycees. Make the organization what you want it to be."
- Bret will be meeting with our legal counsel (Ed Fehlig) to discuss our chapter's tax exempt status and LLC status with the State of Missouri. The LLC status in association with the St. Louis Jaycee Foundation's 501C3 status renewals somehow fell through the cracks about 5 or 6 years ago. Bret and Ed will be working to get our status good with the state and implement a system to keep this from happening again.

VP of Management's Report. (None.)

VP of Community Development's Report, Suzanne McSwain.

- Suzanne is starting her first term as a board member for the St. Louis Jaycees. She works for the Girl Scouts, helping to support/coordinate troops/membership and various events (she is also our source for Girl Scout Cookies!!).
- Our chapter has done some great projects in the past, including Rebuilding Together and Mardi Gras, but most events tend to happen in the first half of the year. Suzanne has a goal to have a minimum of one event per quarter to keep us active in the community all year long. She encourages members to come to her with ideas for new projects, and she can help with research and logistics. All board members want members to be actively involved with projects –

if you have an idea, plan on being chair (or co-chair with Suzanne or another board member) of the event.

- Upcoming events with Girl Scouts where volunteers would be welcome: Taste of the World Friendship Day – a weekday event where girls gather to learn and participate in self-esteem building. Need volunteers for presentations, crowd control, etc. Also, a dance for mothers and daughters on March 12th at the JCC in Creve Coeur needs chaperones.
- Other events: Mardi Gras on March 5th (see below). We've done Rebuilding Together for the last few years, usually the beginning of May (details to come). Bret took a class through Rebuilding, learned how to safely deal with lead paint. We will be looking for volunteers of all skill types to help us make repairs to older homes on Rebuilding Day! It's also a great event to bring in Jaycees from other area chapters, making it a more regional event.
- Ideas presented for events: New Ronald McDonald House at St. John's Mercy Medical Center is looking for groups to volunteer to make dinner for the families that are staying there.
- Christmas/Holiday event. The last couple of years, we haven't been able to make a holiday event happen. This year, be thinking about a holiday event to help needy families/kids at Christmastime. We want to start planning by mid-summer so the event will be a well-coordinated success by December!

VP of Membership's Report, Dani Strong.

- Dani has been a member of the St. Louis Jaycees for about 7 years. As the 2010 President, she is also Chairman of the Board for 2011.
- The upper level Jaycees have a focus on membership numbers. Bret and Dani both expressed that we want the focus of our local St. Louis chapter to be on Quality of Members instead of simple quantity of members. Bret made a fabulous reference to the classic movie Field of Dreams, "If we build it, they will come." If we cultivate active members and continue to participate in strong community projects, we will naturally attract more Quality Members who will be attracted by the Quality of our organization. Our goal is not to simply have members on paper, rather have active members doing good for our community. But we do need to have at least 20 members to retain our chapter's charter with the Missouri State Jaycees.
- Membership Ideas: Dani would like to coordinate an social event with the "30 under 30" and "40 under 40" from the St. Louis Business Journal. Social networking needs to be an area of growth in our chapter. Dani is continuing to work with Facebook to get access to the St. Louis Jaycees FB page. Linked In is another good resource to use.
- "Bring a Friend." Bret talked about this last year, and we will continue to encourage all members to bring a friend to any Jaycees event. Happy hours, membership meetings, community projects, etc. If we all brought one friend, we'd have twice as many members!

Chairman of the Board's Report, Dani Strong. (see above)

Additional Business/Reports.

- Stephanie Kuhlman has been appointed Secretary. She also maintains our website. All meeting minutes will be posted online and emailed to members.

Past Events

- **Elections of 2011 Board in November 2010.** See list on website www.stljaycees.org. There are a couple of positions that have not yet been filled, so if anyone is interested in taking on a limited role on the board, let Bret know!
- **State Meeting @ Tan-tar-a, January 15th.** No one from St. Louis made it to the winter meeting this year, for the first time in several years. No upcoming meetings are posted on the State's or Region's websites yet, but we'll be sure to be represented from now on. Anyone interested in attending State or Region meetings, contact Dani or Bret.

Upcoming Events:

- **Happy hour – February 2nd** @ Nick's Pub. 6PM to 8PM, 6001 Manchester Ave. It's Groundhog Day, so it's a great day for Happy Hour!! Nick's has great drink specials all week long. And delightful chicken wings. Don't forget to Bring a Friend!
- **Super Bowl Party – February 6th** @ Bret and Stephanie's house. Our 4th Annual Super Bowl Party. All are welcome! See the evite for more details, or contact Bret.
- **General Membership Meeting – February 16th** @ Llywellyn's CWE, 6 PM.
- **Mardi Gras! – March 5th.** Jack has received a letter from Mardi Gras Inc to attend a meeting re: beer booths on February 3rd @ the South Broadway Athletic Club. We need at least 2 or 3 members to attend. This is great news – we have a booth! Save the Date – we need A LOT of volunteers for the day, beginning early in the morning before the parade all the way until possibly 8 PM. We will more than likely be selling beer and hurricanes, hopefully in the same spot we had last year, right on the parade route. For all volunteers, we'll have our own stash of food and beer and (more importantly) our own port-a-potty!! There will be a TIPS training at Anheuser Busch in February. Anyone who will be taking money must be TIPS trained (for checking IDs, etc). Otherwise it's okay to pour beer without being TIPS certified.
- **Soapbox Derby – June 12th.** Bret, Dani, and Joe Faber will be meeting with executives from Charter Communications to work on the advertising campaign that Charter is sponsoring for the Soapbox Derby this year.

Adjourn.

See you at the Happy Hour on Feb 2nd or the General Membership Meeting on Feb 16th.