



Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council
10 a.m., April 8, 2013
Minutes

Participants: Mary Gallagher, Joyce Garver Keller, Jim Aschenhurst, David Ball, Brad Bebout, Jason Dominguez, Jennifer Eschbach, Janet Greenlee, Monica Moloney, Kip Morse, Jennifer Odenweller, Others present included Erika Lehman of the Cincinnati BBB and Beth Short.

- I. Meeting was called to order by Ms. Gallagher, chair.
- II. On a motion by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Morse, minutes of the January meeting were approved.
- III. Council members shared views on a number of emerging trends within the sector. Concerns about fiscal sponsorships and allowing the use of an organization's EIN for grant purposes were discussed and it was suggested the topic might be suitable for a newsletter article. Other topics of broad discussion included nonprofit LLCs, L3Cs and social entrepreneurship. Since the concept of social entrepreneurship, which is defined in multiple ways, has become an industry buzz term, the Council expressed an interest in learning more about the topic and asked if a presentation could be arranged on the topic at the next meeting.
- IV. Ms. Short shared with the group some preliminary findings gathered from the first year of data from the online charitable registration system. She advised that there have been some computer issues lately that seem to center on browser compatibility. If council members hear concerns from groups about this issue, they should contact Ms. Short to see if the issue can be easily resolved.

She also discussed efforts the staff is making at using the data to develop a listing of organizations that merit possible study or examination because of the information provided in the charitable filings. Ms. Greenlee said that the Ohio data would be valuable for the research community interested in nonprofits because electronic data is not readily available from the IRS. Ms. Short said the Section will post the raw data online for public use by researchers or others.

She also discussed some of the difficulties in trying to ensure filing compliance because of challenges in merging the IRS data, Secretary of State incorporation information, and charity filings together. On motion of Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Dominguez, it was suggested that in order to provide efficiency and oversight in the charitable sector, that the Section request the

Ohio Secretary of State to collect the EIN and results of its request for tax exemption with the IRS on the continued existence filings for all nonprofit organizations.

- V. Various outreach strategies were discussed aimed at enhancing board governance and ensuring compliance with registration requirements among charitable organizations. Ms. Short said it would also be helpful if state and local offices that contract with and provide grants to charitable organizations would check the AGO website's Research Charities page to ensure a group was complying with registration requirements. It was suggested that the Section should check in with the new leadership of the Governor's Office on Faith-based and Community Services so that message could be shared among all Cabinet departments. Mr. Dominguez said he would arrange a meeting.
- VI. Ms. Short updated the group on legislative activity since the last meeting and noted that the General Assembly continues to discuss internet cafes. She advised members if they work with groups that hold bingo licenses, those organizations should consider tracking the progress of those proposals since many have suggested that the recent years' decline in bingo revenues is linked, at least in part, to the growth of internet cafes. Ms. Keller suggested that at some point, the Council may want to discuss bingo regulations in more detail and determine if allowing paid workers to manage bingo might assist charitable organizations.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m., July 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Short