

Minutes
Spring Meeting of the Membership
of the Association of Small Business Development Centers
March 4, 2003

ASBDC Chair's Report

The ASBDC Chair, Clinton Tymes began the meeting at 8:15 and had all present introduce themselves. The Chair provided an overview of his goals to move the ASBDC forward. These include inclusion of all members, counselor certification, rural entrepreneurship, and improving the SBA relationship.

ASBDC President's Report

Don Wilson, President of the ASBDC provided a written and oral report on the progress of the Association for the past year. These are:

1. to restoring the Association to profitability
2. to produce a 2002 Annual Conference that was both responsive to the professional development needs of the network personnel and profitable.
3. to preserve and grow, if possible, the national program's annual federal appropriation, in the face of a sharply deteriorating federal budget situation.

All were accomplished.

The President provided updates on the funding picture for this year's appropriation and the goals for reauthorization including funding levels and client confidentiality. The commented on the OMB Report on the SBA that the SBA is collecting the wrong kind of information on the SBDC and OMB does not understand the program. Updates on the status of the NFL program, Forest Service, and AIG were provided.

The President reported the relations with the Administrator were good and that Clinton Tymes had a very positive relationship with Kaaren Johnson-Street.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Hogge provided the Treasurers report due to Mike York's illness. There were questions about the timeliness and detail of the report especially in reporting the annual conference revenues and expenses. A new bookkeeper has been hired and should solve these issues.

SBA Report

Johnnie Albertson provided an update to the membership on the issues in California and the development of new regulations. California will no longer have state funding after June 2003. The SBA will make a decision by April 1, 2003 to determine how many RFPs will be released in California. There could be one to six lead centers. The new regulations relating to the SBDC are moving slowly through the SBA.

Committee Reports

1. The Legislative Committee lead by Mary Collins provided the strategy for the visits with the Congressional delegations.
2. Technology Interest Group—Scott Daugherty. There are now three states that are SBTDCs—North Carolina, Michigan, and Ohio. There is continuing training to improve skills in the development of technology businesses.
3. Minority Outreach—Brenda Hopper. The committee is reaching out to other minority business providers to develop partnerships. They are also developing a list of best practices.
4. Operation—Greg Higgins. The major issues facing the Operations Committee are the negotiations with the SBA on the Program Announcement and developing client and consulting definitions.
5. Strategic Plan—Erica Kauten. Erica discussed the possibility of changing the strategic planning process to allow more interaction via electronic conferencing over the Internet. This would allow more individuals to participate.
6. PBS Project—Liz Klimback. Liz provided an update on the PBS project. The video taping is complete. SBDCs will have to work with the local PBS stations to get the program on the air.
7. Conference Committee—Steve Jacoby. The conference planning is moving along with the Committee adding new content areas. There are currently 119 proposals from 51 SBDCs. There will be a meeting conducted by the Regulatory Assistance and Technology interest groups.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 EST, March 4, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hogge