

## **September 2012 Board Memo**

October 14, 2012

### **Congratulations and a warm welcome to our newly accredited Breastfeeding USA Counselors!**

From Illinois we have *Colleen Sherman, Tara Buchanan, Aimee Teslaw and Tracy Torgerson*. Hailing from Indiana is *Jillian Pierce*.

**Board Meeting:** The Fall meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30 at 9 pm Eastern time. Board officers will be introduced and election results ratified with the introduction of two new members, Carol Delaney of Connecticut and Lisa Wilkins of Ohio. Carol Kelly of South Carolina is returning to the board for a second term. The meeting will provide a second reading of the proposed bylaws changes that were approved during the August 21 meeting. The meeting agenda will be posted and all voting members are invited to audit the meeting. We will have an open period at the meeting's end for questions from members. We are posting minutes of all official meetings on the Board Communications Page.

**Website Upgrade:** The website upgrade team put out an RFP (Request for Proposal) to receive bids on website development. They are presently interviewing and consulting with prospective developers.

Last month the website technical team was required to update our security certificate. During this process our website experienced a temporary shutdown, which required Cathy Theys to work with our hosting company's technical support team. Following this incident Cathy decided to move our website to another hosting company and is looking into how to avoid problems like these in the future. We are all looking forward to having an upgraded website which better meets the needs of our paperless organization. We regret the inconvenience this may have caused committee members during this time.

**Comprehensive BC Course:** Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated and ever changing group of course writers, the online training and education course is near completion. Candidates are moving along at their own pace, and we expect to welcome the first graduating BCs by the end of the year. Writing and implementing an online course has been a greater undertaking than anyone first conceived.

**BC Guide:** The much anticipated Breastfeeding Counselor Guide is nearly completed. Cris Duenas, BC Support Manager, and a workgroup of writers and editors have been working to bring us a well-rounded resource that will aid our new BCs as they dive into helping mothers in their communities throughout the USA. From organizing supplies, to organizing a community event, it's sure to be a tremendous resource for all the volunteers.

**Finances:** The Finance Committee is finalizing the 990 tax return for the last fiscal year. The first filing due date is November 15. In keeping with our values of financial transparency, the 990 will be posted on the website for the public to view and shared with everyone in the Volunteer Yahoo chat group. The [Finance Committee](#) welcomes any questions you may have about our income, expenses, budget and procedures.

**Google for Nonprofits:** We have been accepted into the Google for Nonprofits program. Operating Committee Chair Anne Hutton is looking into all the features it can provide to best serve Breastfeeding USA, such as organizational email addresses, hosting education videos, committee chat groups and more. One or two committees will test drive Google Groups. Look for more information on this in the near future.

**New Committee:** An Ethics Committee has been chartered and will report directly to the Board of Directors. BC Sara Spalding has volunteered to serve as the Compliance Officer for Breastfeeding USA and lead this committee. The Compliance Officer is referenced in our [Whistleblower Policy](#) as being responsible for investigating, documenting, and helping to resolve all complaints and allegations about violations to Breastfeeding USA policies and the Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee will have broader responsibility to define a process for handling complaints and suggestions within the organization and for establishing a framework to ensure that Breastfeeding USA operates in accordance with our ethical standards. We welcome additional volunteers who are interested in this work. To volunteer, please contact [ethics@breastfeedingusa.org](mailto:ethics@breastfeedingusa.org).