

Virtual Connections and Getting Current

My past quarterly reports have involved a great deal of affirmation for the many efforts of initiatives happening in and around the project.

Most prominently in that regard, I want to again thank the incredible team that put together jDayUSA. It is the best virtual event that I have been to for providing something like the informal connections that are a natural part of in-person conferences. It was a combination of careful consideration of the best available resources for virtual conferencing and volunteer dedication.

I am especially grateful for those that helped with the Joomla expo booth for the event. We had near continuous coverage for the entire run of the event. Booth volunteers helped answer questions and mostly shared thoughts about their Joomla experiences. It was interesting to me to see the number of people that just wanted to “lurk”. There was a consistent group that was happy to just hear others talking about Joomla informally. Again, this is very reminiscent of the real world experience. People just enjoy being around and a part of the Joomla community. The whole event was a great reminder of that.

I did also have a chance to participate in Cloudfest. My very first conversation in their expo area was with Soeren von Varchmin. At the time I didn't realize he was one of the event coordinators and would later be sharing his interview with Sir Tim Berners-Lee. It was a lesson in better doing introductions when I am meeting people at an event. Regardless, I was able to take in a few sessions and enjoyed the event as a participant.

The last virtual conference of the quarter was Developers for Africa hosted by the cmsafrica.org team. I was honored to introduce the presentation by Open Source Matters, Vice President Justine Ayebale. She did an excellent job of presenting the benefits of Joomla in general and updates in Joomla 4 in particular.

Finally, the bulk of my personal efforts on the board in the last quarter revolved around completing the work of auditing and standardizing our financial processes and reporting. There have been vacancies and or rapid succession in the Bookkeeper, Treasurer, and President roles over the last several years. This prompted an extension in our tax filings for 2019-2020 which is now complete. The board as a whole has been working hard to provide for an up to date and accurate accounting in preparing those filings. They will be posted in the coming weeks on the OSM website.

This crucial work has also positioned the board well in its approach of the upcoming fiscal year 2021-2022. We will be preparing the budget over the next two months. Department Chairs will be working with volunteers in their departments to assess needs and discern how we can best leverage to our financial resources to grow the project. We will be eager to share the result of those contributions and conversations as we prepare the 2021-2022 budget for presentation at the semi-annual members meeting.

As always, thank to everyone working together on behalf of the software and the community that makes Joomla great.

All together,

Brian Mitchell

President, Open Source Matters