Vice President Q2 2020 - Report

[Education]
Independent of the role as VP I spend one week for educational outreach for the "kids4opensource" project in Germany and it went very well. 32 Kids created Joomla websites. The kids4opensource week involved 8 mentors and at least 6 hours per day for every mentor. The experiences were shared with the educational outreach team where team members also did a great job in training kids in the US. The educational project gave us not only good insights on how to do such trainings but also "free user testing". In such training situations it's very clear to see where Joomla has a UX deficit. There will be a JCM Article about it which is already written down by Holger Kremers.
In the beginning of August I am taking care of a class of kids in "real life" to teach them Joomla at the aim academy in Heilbronn, Germany.

[Building bridges]
Various feedback in the community channel lead me to build bridges between volunteers and groups:
- Jenn Gress proposed to help to improve documentation and testing of RC Versions. The RC Version checklist was shared by Philip Walton and Jenn created a great document of it.
- Feedback in the Leadership channel about the #BLM subject leaded the board into writing a statement in the community blog and was shared by the Social Media team which can be read up here: https://community.joomla.org/blogs/leadership/joomla-all-together.html
- As follow up of the #BLM Post I asked in the community for feedback on how to be more inclusive and got feedback from a member of the VET team, Benjamin Trenkle who gathered great ideas about educational outreach and focusing on broader outreach. That brought me to an idea about a focussed online "Joomla! Outreach Event" and discussed this with VET and the Board. The event could for example contain an introduction into Joomla, having teams presenting their past work, presenting upcoming goals, call for volunteers, having international speakers talking about their first steps in Joomla especially from underrepresented communities like the African Community, Asia and on), searching for sponsors for the event (opportunity for Joomla to collect money) Having live sessions how to test Joomla, how to write a PR,... etc. All, VET, the Event Department and others supported the idea. However VET is currently focussing on the onboarding process itself so hopefully after this has been formed we can think about an onboarding online event.

- As there is a lot of outstanding work for checking and improving the a11y of Joomla 4, I made a connection with the accessibility club which has over 1200 Followers on Facebook and Twitter. They are willing to share a call for volunteers on their channels. A11y team committed to write an onboarding blogpost that can be shared also with

interested persons outside the Joomla community, latest when the first beta of Joomla comes out.

- Benjamin Trenkle asked me how to gain more sponsors for PBF end of year. Due to the COVID-19 situation it has to happen online. I suggested some different ways to arrange the event on a website, including gamification. For this we would need help from someone who can connect a joomla property to github like in issues.joomla.org and to display the activities there in a fun way.

[Improving the Communication in Joomla]

I took a coaching session with five business- and communication coaches and talked with them if it's possible to help Joomla. Two of the coaches offer Joomla their expertise with leadership and communication skills and are also willing to meet up with the board from time time for free and help us out with our topics. The coaches are completely outside of the Joomla community and already brought some good first points to work on. The brainstorming document was shared with the board and waits for comments to form the further procedure.

[Various]

In a board motion it was decided that I am allowed to sign outstanding NDAs, so I signed some NDAs that were partially outstanding for over 2 Years, I am happy to help here to help to work off the paperwork.

In a board motion Marco Dings and I asked for joining the CRT Team to take care of outstanding issues, we cleaned up and enhanced the overview and took care of replies.

In connection to the budget meetings I brought into discussion to let Teams define their goals and submit reports about reaching those goals to ensure the budget is allocated and spent effectively. In an extended discussion there were loud voices against "goals" to minimize bureaucracy in the organisation. Second objection was that Joomla has no central Roadmap at all so how the teams should create proper aligned goals. My opinion is that no company can survive without plans, every small team should know which milestones they are working towards so that no one feels lost. I am not saying that existing teams don't have goals but my experience in some teams is often being lost in "what is the next step"?

I want to thank all Volunteers for providing ideas and for their outstanding engagement for the Community. Being in my new role gives me a way deeper insight and understanding what individual volunteers people do for the community.

Elisa Foltyn, 6th July 2020