American Council of the Blind of Indiana (A.C.B.I.)

Board Meeting via teleconference

July 25, 2015

Present were: Lynn Powers, John Huffman, Edie Huffman, Gerry Koors, Don Koors, Bill Sparks, Jeff Busch, Rich Vonderhaar, Don Lane, Rita Kersh, and Mike Bowman.

Excused were: Brenda Eads, Deanna Austin, Sue L’Esperance, Vicky Saari and Barbara Salisbury.

The meeting started approximately 10:08 am.

Web discussion being added to the agenda, Don Lane made the motion, with John Huffman seconding, that the agenda was accepted as amended.

The minutes for the board meeting were approved with the following corrections on page 2, 5th paragraph of the Apr. minutes: “ACB received a Chase grant for the 1st year” (amending “gets a grant”). Don Koors moved, Gerry Koors seconding, the minutes were approved as amended.

July 21, 201 - Financial reports

Checking Account: Balance: $2,070.34, Balance in Savings Account $3,943.84.

Hofstetter: Balance in General Fund $9,396.00. Balance in the Endowment Fund $15,859.78. Total Amount in both Funds $25,255.92

Ardis Dobson Fund: Balance $3,226.53

Balance in All 3 Accounts: $42,872.41

Page 1 of Checking report, “eSioght” should be “eSight.” Page 2 of Hofstetter report, last line, “%”. Should be “.001%”.

The refunds for the Brenda Dillon walk have not been disbursed yet, anticipated after end of July., Indiana’s portion will be $515, thanks to Don’s efforts at fund raising and walking. The walk made $52,000+. The goal was $40,000.

No car sales reported.

Jeff Busch moved, John Huffman and Rita Kersch seconded that the treasurer’s report be accepted as amended. Motion passed.

**The National Convention**

The National Convention was discussed. The Target gift card ACBI donated ($100 value) received a winning bid of $130. Total was $19,000 – 20,000. Uneventful convention, overall. Food at hotel was expensive. John McCann (who was then replaced) was elected in place of Marlaina Leiberg. The blind author of “The barefoot lawyer”, who escaped from China, spoke and was well received. Lynn will donate a copy of the book. ACB has made a great effort to recruit sponsorships, which have helped profits. Lane Waters reported that the convention made $80,000 profit in 2014, $100,000 profit in 2015. One sponsor of three scholarships for $3,500 is a blind man from northern Indiana. The family has 3 legally blind brothers and they made a donation to ACB, also. Edie Huffman and a representative from Bosma, Anthony Scott, attended the Audio Description workshop.

CrossRoads will hold a conference in Louisville, Kentucky Aug. 13 and 14. Lynn and Bill and Jennifer Sparks are intending to attend.

**ACBI/ACBO convention**

ACBI/ACBO convention was mentioned. Preliminary program is in place. Currently, committee is on summer hiatus, will start soon. Details will be worked out soon. Room rate is $90 a night plus tax. Registration deadline is not yet set (probably in October), Ohio will be handling online registrations, and Don Koors will handle paper registrations. Don mentioned the Governor’s Council as a source of funds, for which people must individually apply.

Our fundraising was discussed.

The auction was mentioned, including 20 items per state. At this point, Indiana has bread from Gerry, and a thumb drive and hard drive with radio shows from Bill. Edie is coordinating.

The state and/or chapters could have tables. Indiana could do a raffle, like a 50/50, or 50% split among three winners. Edie will have Donaldson’s candy available.

The question of vendors came up. Rita gave ACBO the list of our vendors. AI squared, Bill and Jennifer Sparks, and Bosma are probably vendors. The charge for a vendor is $50, which is waived if they donate $50 in merchandise. Other details will be set soon and communicated via email.

**Constitutional update**

John sent them via email. The first is about term limits. 1) Extends to all officers, effective after first election following adoption, 2) Limits to 3 terms (6 years). John spoke about needing to draw new talent in but also that the officers need time to learn the job and be comfortable. The limit would also bring ACBI into conformity with the national. Also, the 12 month and 18 month provisions address partial terms.

The second is about membership. A person who joined while in Indiana can continue to be a member after they moved by continuing to pay dues. We could allow anyone who lives anywhere to join. John asked if the consensus is to draft a broader proposal. The committee will re-work the wording.

The amendments will be tabled and reviewed at the next board meeting. Under the constitution, the board doesn’t have to take any action. The committee understands that there is consensus regarding the terms limits and will revise the membership proposal to make it broader.

Officers and some board members will be up for election, so a nominating committee is needed. Gerry, Jeff and John will be on the committee. Rita finishes her 2nd term this year, Don Lane can serve a 2nd term and Bill Sparks can re-run, having finished the 1st term of another board member.

**Focus**

Question of whether to publish a December issue. When we changed when articles are due to the 1st of the month. That would put publication right before Dec. It was decided to move the cut-off deadline to Nov. 15.

Winter meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 20-21, to which we send 2 people, each of whom is allowed $600, which doesn’t cover trip but helps. It includes a President’s meeting and a Legislative session, then going to the Hill. It is hoped that National will have a grant to help us. For the President’s meeting, flight is roughly $300, (transportation to and from airport – depending on hotel), hotel $150 a night, food, Legislative session includes flight $300, transportation to and from airport, $50 which includes one meal, hotel $150, meals, transportation to and from Hill. New attendees are strongly encouraged. Cost is approximately $800+. Hofstetter Fund helped Sue L’Esperance attend several years ago. That is always a potential source of money, as is an individual’s chapter. The state’s limit is based on income and budget.

**Web presence**

Bill, Mike and Edie met in March or April. Current website is not as accessible as it should be. Bill uses Word Press (a different platform), which is easier to use and more accessible.

We don’t have a Facebook presence. It is more easily infected, but security on the website can help, with the latest software and plug-ins. Being vigilant and monitoring often is the key.

We do not currently have a Twitter account, which is easily added.

We would still need a URL, whatever company hosts us. It is a reasonable cost. If we switch to Word Press, we would need to do find a new host.

A fundraiser would help us afford to make a new website more attractive and accessible. Bill suggested $500 or less would help. Lynn suggested the 50/50 funds be dedicated to that issue. The current website and technology is old enough that it needs to be changed to a more viable website.

ACB has developed an IPhone app (Android in the works). Lynn asked for a state affiliate email address, which Edie will share with her. Monitoring texting could be a part-time job, so since a phone number is optional, we will opt out of the phone number.

**Legislative news**

Don Koors mentioned the Rehabilitation Act, passed in Dec. 2014. The proposed rules would require that rehab money could not be given to anyone not working towards employment (homemakers, personal adjustment not covered). 15% money to be used for transition, which would reduce funds for older blind people. ACB, NIB, AER, and AFB all transmitted comments. Don sent a letter to Rep. Brooks, who along with some other lawmakers, sent a letter to Sec. Duncan of the Education Dept.

**Chapter news**

SCAVI will do a chili supper (made by members) fund raiser, Oct. 15, White Cane Day.

Rich moved, Gerry seconding, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Edythe Huffman, secretary