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

Board Meeting via teleconference

January 23, 2016

Present were: Lynn Powers, John Huffman, Edie Huffman, Gerry Koors, Don Koors, Bill Sparks, Deanna Austin, Jeff Busch, Rich Vonderhaar, Don Lane, Brenda Eads, Barbara Salisbury, Sue L’Esperance, and Rita Kersh,

Absent were Vicki Saari and Mike Bowman.

The meeting started at approximately 10 a.m.

The agenda was approved with the following additions: budget and audit.

Approval of previous minutes for 10/24/2015 were accepted das corrected. 1) All meetings will be teleconferences except for July. 2) 50/50 raffle prizes were 25%, 15% and 10%. 3) It was pointed out that the expenses for Kathy Nimmer’s presentations and appearances at the annual convention were paid for by Bosma, which will also be mentioned in the annual report minutes.

Lynn thanked Don for his past service and for doing the last report. The auction raised $1.815.00; State chapter received $1,089; Circle City $ 588.40; SCAVI $17.16; Heartland Chapter $120.00. The letter fundraiser raised $1,420 in 2015 + $200 in 2016; split is 60 % state; 40 % local chapters; state will get $972; local $648. 92 letters were sent; ACBI received gifts of $10 to $100; 9 donors gave $100.

The treasurer's report for the general fund included balances of $4,525.76 in the checking account; $3,944.24 in the savings account, and $39,184.54 in the Hillard Lyons account for a total balance of $46,158.81. The Hofstetter fund had $9,496 in the General Fund, $16,663.57 in the Endowment Fund, with a total of $26,159.37, The Dobson report shows a balance of $3,226.70. Jeff moved, Rich seconded, and the financial reports were accepted as emailed.

Rita asked about contacting colleges again, to promote the Dobson Scholarship; Don will do that. There are now only 6 colleges/universities with qualifying students.

The budget was then discussed. 2016 income slightly exceeds expenses, thanks to the auction. Don suggested that the income not be expected to be so high next year; there are some surplus funds for the coming convention and the 2016 auction might not produce as much funds as 2015. Sue moved, Don Lane seconded, and the budget was accepted.

**Comments about 2015 convention.**

Lynn suggested that 2016 be more low key. Don Koors mentioned that the movement for food events was awkward; last minute change was made. Kathy Nimmer and the IU researcher were outstanding. Ohio organization had a lot of energy. Lynn will check about final attendance numbers. Deanna did a wonderful job as auctioneer; Indiana had some good items in the auction. Auction really benefitted by two groups of people; more competition and higher prices. The exhibit hall was good with lots of variety; except that manning the tables and exhibit attendance discouraged session attendance. Exhibit hall should be closed and locked during sessions. Ohio had a lot of government offices represented. Some presenters had very few attendees, due to exhibit hall being open, and felt discouraged. Michigan wants to do a joint convention; possibly in 2017. Hotel people did not know about a grassy area for dog relief, which did exist.

2016 convention suggested to be one night; auction on Friday night, lunch banquet for Saturday lunch. Don Koors offered to check with Marten House about dates and prices; they also have an inside pool. He’ll check about restaurant for Friday night and Saturday morning. We could do a breakfast run at a local restaurant, if need be.

Dates in Oct. were discussed. Sept. has Vision Expo on the 24th and Indiana Blind Children’s Foundation on the 17th, so Oct. would be preferred except the last weekend. Jeff Mittman is a potential speaker; he is a local man (an employee of the federal government) who was left visually impaired during an attack in a tour of duty in Iraq. Don Koors mentioned that he was a member of the Bosma board of directors.

**Mid-year meeting**

The budget provides funds for two people to attend mid-year and the legislative session. Lynn will pay for her attendance at the President’s meeting on Feb. 28, so that will allow 2 people to be reimbursed up to $600 to attend the legislative session, on Feb. 29 and Mar. 1. Barbara would like to attend, and she has a local member, Ted Boardman, who is interested. Edie moved that we send Barbara and Don Koors payable from the budget, Brenda seconded. Motion passed. Hofstetter grant funds would be available for someone else to attend. Don Koors mentioned that local chapters look at their contributions to Hofstetter. Rita asked who oversaw the Hofstetter grant fund requests; officers have approved requests in the past. Barbara will look into applying for the Hofstetter grant for Ted.

**Website**

No change reported.

**Audit**

Barbara has a couple of people in her chapter interested and it would be good to have someone from Indianapolis. Rich wondered if the audit could be done before the transfer of treasurers.

Lynn, Don and Rich will work on changing names on the account. There is no 5/3 branch in Bedford, but Rich could do online banking. Deanna suggested that the accounts stay at 5/3, and Lynn and Rich will work together. Edie has to produce a document stating that a new treasurer was elected by the membership.

**Focus**

Articles are due March 1.

**Other**

Rita mentioned that she will be a guest on a radio show.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

Respectfully submitted.

Edythe Huffman, Secretary

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 a. m. (print draft of minutes not available).

Respectfully submitted,

Edythe Huffman, secretary