**ACBI Board Minutes**

**January 26, 2019**

# Welcome and Roll Call

Barbara welcomed everyone to the meeting. Barbara took roll. Present at the meeting were Barbara Salisbury, Rita Kersh, Rich Vonderhaar, Cindy Brooking, Kari Goodman, Dolly Sowders, Regina Vonderhaar, Bill Fierman, Machell Philippone, Dee Ann Hart, Bill Sparks, John Huffman, Don Koors, Gerry Koors, Deanna Austin and Lynn Powers. Not present was Ted Boardman.

# President’s Report

Barbara thanked everyone for their help during the convention this past November. Barbara welcomed the newest board member, Regina Vonderhaar and Chapter Representative from SCAVI, Dolly Sowders. She also congratulated Bill and Machell for being re-elected to the board.

# Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 2018 board meeting are currently unavailable. Rita and Barbara will work from the agenda to create a report detailing what occurred during that meeting.

Kari Goodman has been appointed as interim secretary until the next election. Kari is working on creating a Dropbox account for ACBI where all important documents can be stored and accessible to everyone at any time.

# Treasurer’s Report

See attached Treasurer’s Report for November 2, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Notes about report:

Convention donations consisted of $440 which was donated for the pizza mixer. Convention meals money was collected for Friday lunch and walk-in meals. The refund was from the catering company resulting from Barbara’s discussion with the company about the poor service during the convention. Rhett Salisbury paid for the Speedway tour with his personal credit card and was reimbursed by ACBI. Lunch refunds were made out of the refunds ACBI received from the catering company. The refund money was split between Indiana and Ohio. The expense for the Stripe was a fee on each dollar used for credit card charges. This number was high due to the large number of online registrations for the convention.

Barbara asked if there were any questions or comments about the report.

Don was concerned about the report being accepted because the 2017 annual report has not yet been completed and voted on. After discussion, it was decided that all balances in this report were verifiable by the financial institutions and therefore would not be affected by the 2017 report. Barbara asked if there was a motion to approve the income, expenses and balances on this report for the two-month period. Dolly recommended approving the report subject to an audit.

Rita made a motion to approve the report subject to an audit, Regina seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.

# Old Business

1. Action Item – A resolution was passed pertaining to accessible absentee voting during the fall board meeting at convention. John and Dee Ann provided information on some bills that are relevant to the resolution passed. Barbara started a discussion on the next steps needed to move the resolution forward. At the fall board meeting, we discussed meeting with the secretary of state. As of now this has not been able to occur. John suggested following up and inquiring with the secretary of state office, possibly the election board, on setting up a meeting. Dee Ann shared that the election board is made up of one democrat, one republican and the secretary of state. Barbara wants to ensure that any current bills align with what our resolution states. The two routes to pursue the resolution are legislative changes or legal action. Legal action is not a feasible route. Legislative action is not a quick process and will take time. John recommends building a coalition. Cindy asked exactly what changes our resolution is asking for. Currently to vote absentee, a paper ballot that the voter is required to mark and sign is being used. We are looking for possibly a secure electronic system that would be accessible to all voters independently. Barbara suggested that our next step is to form a committee that would track current bills, provide input on those bills and meet with the secretary of state regarding our resolution. Don asked what bills were currently being introduced. Dee Ann shared that there is HB 1311 and 1504 authored by Cat Boyd. There is also SB 86 authored by John Ford and SB 261 authored by Frank Marvin. Currently the house is working on 17 bills and the senate is working on 15 bills. Don asked if any of the current bills expand or make absentee voting any easier. We do not have enough information as of now to know the answer to that question. Dee Ann, John, Machel and Don volunteered to form a committee to follow current bills and work on pushing the resolution forward. Dee Ann will organize a call for the committee. Dee Ann will email updates to the board; the website will also be updated with any action items being taken. Barbara will check to see if a cost analysis has already been done for electronic absentee voting and share it with the committee.
2. Insurance Update – Barbara shared that she has asked Don to research the best options to get insurance to cover our assets and board members.
3. Webmaster Contract – The contract has been signed. There was not a clause for if the contract needed to be dissolved. Barbara worked with John McCann, a retired attorney, to add this clause to protect both parties. Rich asked about when to pay Michael. Barbara will forward the contract to Rich which states the dates to pay.
4. Retreat Update – Barbara is working on setting up the retreat. She has attended a non-profit training and has a connection with the United Way. She also has a call out to the governor’s council to inquire if their grant would possibly cover the retreat. Not sure if this will happen for the April meeting or be a summer event.
5. Letter Campaign – Don reports that he turned over $1,865 to Rich from the letter campaign. 89 letters have been sent out and 21 have been received back. There has been no response from six of the donors who make substantial donations. We did do something different this year. Barbara purchased Christmas cards that had Braille as well as printed text on them to send to the donors. One donor called and responded positively to the card. The cards were purchased at Barbara’s expense. Donations are less this year than they have been the last two years. Barbara inquired about possibly following up with the donors that normally donate. Don says it has not been done in the past. Barbara suggested that a follow-up be something we think about for the future. John suggested when we send the letter, we offer the opportunity for the donors to receive our quarterly newsletter. This would make them feel as if they were getting something in return for their donation and get a feel for what the organization is doing. Don feels this could be done electronically.
6. Updates on the 2017 Financial Report – Because of the question regarding the 2017 report Barbara has appointed a financial oversight committee. Rita is the head of this committee. The committee will be looking over the report as well as making suggestion as to what should be reported and the best way to report that information. The committee has three specific goals and a timeline to be completed by the April board meeting. The committee is comprised of Anita, an ACB member who is an accountant, Rita Kersh and Rhett Salisbury. Anita’s husband is serving as an advisor as well; he is also an accountant.

# New Business

1. Convention 2019- Ohio has invited Indiana to join us for convention 2019. Barbara joined in on a call where a site was selected. Convention for 2019 will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. The date fir convention is November 15-17. Ohio is in the lead this year for convention. Kari has been appointed as the Indiana chair to work with the Ohio convention planning committee. Lynn will be heading up the auction committee. Cindy and Barbara will be working together to secure a site for the 2020 convention which will take place in Indiana. We Would like to have a site selected so it can be announced during the 2019 convention. Barbara has already started the search and making some phone calls. Rita made a proposal regarding the auction for 2019. She suggests that instead of doing a 60/40 split between the state and local chapters that the board consider doing a 50/50 split. Barbara asked if there was any discussion regarding Rita’s proposal. Don made the comment that in doing a 50/50 split that it gives more revenue to the local chapters but takes away revenue from the state organization. Rita feels like the local chapters need the money more than the state as this may be the local chapter’s only fundraiser. Don agrees that the state does have money, but that it cannot continue to run with deficit spending. Barbara commented that thus far the state has not been in deficit, Dolly made the comment that it is only 10% but that extra could allow the local chapters to provide smaller grants at a local level. Regina agrees with Dolly. Cindy made the comment that this change is always reversible and if we find the state is losing money, we could always change it next year. Rita made a motion to change the auction fundraiser from a 60/40 split to a 50/50 split between the state organization and the local chapters. Cindy seconded the motion. All in favor: Barbara Salisbury, Rita Kersh, Rich Vonderhaar, Cindy Brooking, Kari Goodman, Dolly Sowders, Regina Vonderhaar, Bill Fierman, Machell Philippone, Bill Sparks, John Huffman, Dee Ann Hart, Deanna Austin and Lynn Powers. Opposed: Don Koors and Gerry Koors. The motion passed. Barbara asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the 2019 convention. Gerry asked if the hotel picked has in-house food services. Barbara said the hotel does have restaurants. Rooms are $104 per night. Rooms are double beds or a king bed with a pull-out bed. Deanna made a suggestion about a possible program discussing food delivery services. Kari will mention her suggestion at the next program planning call. Deanna is interested in joining the program planning committee.

# New Chapter

We have a new member from northern Indiana. She attended the 2018 convention. Her name is Vicky Western. She had contacted Barbara before convention about starting a new chapter. Barbara has offered to go up to her organizational meeting in early spring and do conference calls if needed. Barbara invites anyone who is willing to help with this to join in creating this new chapter. Don asked where Vicky was planning on having her chapter. Barbara said she is open to have them either in Ft. Wayne or Colombia City. She is willing to make it broader so more people can participate. Barbara has contacted Ardis and connected her with Vicky. She has shared documents on starting a chapter and Vicky will be able to get on the ACB call on building a new chapter as well.

# Public or General Membership Comments

There were no public or general member comments.

# Chapter Updates and Other Announcements

1. President’s Mid-Year Meeting - Barbara asked who was interested in attending the president’s mid-year meeting occurring in February. Don stated that he was interested in attending. Barbara will not be able to attend this year but will listen in to live or recorded stream. Dee Ann is interested in the information about the live stream. Barbara will send out the information about the streaming of the event. Don offered to attend the president’s meeting and wondered what the board’s budget was for attending this event. The board has approved $600 per person for two people to attend. Barbara would like to see that $600 be reallocated if no one goes in her place. At this time, there is not enough information to make that decision and can be revisited at the April meeting. Lynn and Dee Ann may be interested in going. Barbara told them to think about it and get back with her. Dolly asked if there was any way to increase the budget for this event. Barbara said that she proposed that last year, but there is not enough money in the budget to do that at this time. Dee Ann asked if anyone had a budget from previous year’s that this event has been attended. Don will send her what he has used. Dee Ann stated that she will attend this year. Barbara told Dee Ann if anything changes to let her know and Lynn might possibly be able to attend.
2. Angel Wall Donations in honor of Edie – ACBI is collecting donations for the angel wall in honor of Edie. Donations can be sent to ACB on behalf of Edie for the angel wall. Donations should be made by the end of March so Edie can be included on the wall for this year’s convention. Barbara can share the information on how to donate. A tribute to Edie has been submitted to the Focus and is also up on our website.
3. Chapter Reports
   1. SCAVI – SCAVI will be having a speaker in February from the Lawrence County Cancer Society and what they offer for people diagnosed with cancer. In January a police officer came to speak to the group about Smart 911. SCAVI gained four new members last year and has another membership pending.
   2. Circle City – John reported that Circle City had their holiday party on December 1 for the second year in a row at Shapiro’s Deli in downtown Indianapolis.
   3. Heartland – Their last meeting was just a few weeks ago where they discussed the top eight online options for food delivery. The Heartland group has decided to hold one of their meetings at one of the senior assisted living facilities in order to reach more people. They also discussed holding more of their meetings out in community-based setting, so they are more in the public and are more seen. Their meetings are posted on Facebook and a community list of events. Heartland also has a new member.
4. Other Announcements

* Don reminded everyone of the Vision 101 program being offered at BOSMA. This is a one-week program for people who do not qualify for Vocational Rehabilitation. There is no cost to attend.
* Don also stated he has two checks totaling $200 that came in the mail today for the angel wall. He has another donor who will be donating who is a non-member. Dolly and Mike sent a check directly to ACB. With these donations, we should be at minimum halfway there.

1. Rita wanted to share that she and John are on the Older Independent Blind Technical Assistance Council. This is national five-year grant. John represents the ACB older blind affiliates, Rita represents people who are deaf/blind. Someone from Hadley is also on the committee. They have a call coming up next week. They oversee training for older blind programs around the country. They have yet to do anything in Indiana yet. BOSMA has the BOSMA connections program but there is no money for training older blind individuals. Deanna said the OIB program is the program for blind or visually people age 55 or older. Any individual 55 or older should be able to have services from an entity in Indiana. Barbara suggests we let Michael know to update the website resource page to include OIB. Don is willing to find out who has the grant money and let Michael know what to add to the website. Deanna has a list of all the resources that she will send to Don and he can check what is still current.
2. The next meeting will be April 27. Barbara will let the board know within the month if the April meeting will be a regular board meeting or the retreat.

# Adjourn

Rita made a motion to the adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Goodman

Secretary

ACBI Treasurer Report

Date: 01/23/2019

Income

Hilliard Lyons interest: $241.40

Dues: $56

MMS: $152 3RD Quarter

Convention registration: $510

Convention auction: $1718.50

Convention donations: $512

Convention banquet: $109.50

Convention lunches: $275.50

Allen's family catering refund: $856.94

Chase interest: $.15

Total income: $4431.99

Expenses

Allen's Family Catering: $4,947.75

Waterfront Hotel: $1,925

Chicago's Pizza: $413

State convention registration refund: $80

Speedway event: $310 reimbursed to Rhett Salisbury

Lunch refunds: $66.50

Catering refund to Ohio: $427.48

Masson HB for awards plaques: $140

Stripe: $296

State Convention auction

Circle City: $226

SCAVI: $172.80

Heartland: $68.80

Total expenses:9,073.33

Chase accounts:

Checking $2,819.13

Savings $9,236.08

Total $12,055.21

Hilliard Lyons Endowment Account

Bonds $44,306.75

Cash $979.13

Total $45,285.88

Hofstetter:

Bonds: $24,481.19

Cash: $4,871.63

Total: $29,352.82

Hofstetter donation at convention $100

Dobson $3,234.85

Submitted by Treasurer, Rich Vonderhaar