# American Council of the Blind of Indiana

Board Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2021

## Call to Order:

President Rita Kersh called the ACBI Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 29, 2022.

## Roll Call:

Secretary Michelle Hahn called the roll. The following ACBI Board members were in attendance: Rita Kersh, Kari Goodman, Michelle Hahn, Cindy Brooking, Barbara Salisbury, Regina Vonderhaarr, Mary Stores, Deanna Austin, Dee Ann Hart, Gerri Koors, Dolly Sowder, Don Koors, Mel Wobschall, Ted Boardman

The following ACBI Board members were absent: Mike Adams, Vicky Western

The following guests were in attendance: David Rosenkoetter, Pat Tusing

## Approval of Minutes:

Vice President Kari Goodman shared the minutes of the ACBI Board meeting held November 6, 2021 via email prior to the meeting.

Don Koors noted a duplication of content regarding the mention of the treasurer's report in the minutes. Kari Goodman will amend the minutes.

Dee Ann Hart moved to approve the November 6, 2021 minutes as amended. Mary Stores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.

Passed unanimously.

## Approval of Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Cindy Brooking shared the treasurer's report for the 4th quarter via email prior to the meeting. The report was approved.

Cindy Brooking noted that she made some corrections of calculation, with a final total income for 2021 being $14,004.48. She also modified some comments to clarify actions taken, including that the 1st quarter payments to Bosma, the Indiana Blind Children's Foundation, the Visually Impaired Preschool, and the James Olsen Scholarship were the contributions that carried over from the previous year and made according to the 2020 budget, and the same payments made in the 4th quarter were the contributions according to the 2021 budget. She also noted the transfers intended for the Hank Hofstetter Endowment account in the 4th quarter of 2020 and 2021 were not made, but those intended for 2020, 2021, and 2022 will be made in the 1st quarter of 2022. One check written during the 4th quarter to a member of the Heartland Chapter was not cashed before the end of 2021, and will therefore be reflected in the 2022 1st quarter report. ACBI has not yet received the proceeds from the 2021 convention, noting that the last time ACBO hosted those proceeds were not transferred until the 1st quarter of the following year. Barbara Salisbury asked whether the $2,000.00 given by her mother-in-law for the Convention fund be noted as being attributed to her mother-in-law. Don Koors recommended that a note be made on a line item to indicate that $2,000.00 of those donations came from Barbara Salisbury's mother-in-law for the Convention Fund. Cindy Brooking will add a note to the Convention Fund line item.

Barbara Salisbury moved to approve the treasurer's report as amended. Regina Vonderhaar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the treasurer's report was approved.

## President's Goals:

President Rita Kersh commented that, for an organization with an elected board such as ACBI, that board should be a working board. She noted that some board members in the past did nothing more than attend meetings, but she hopes that all board members will take part in committees, and that each committee's board member will serve as the chair of the committee, giving the example of the Information Station committee meeting a few days prior to plan content of the Information Stations, and that Rita intends for the Information Station committee to take an active role in starting the Information Station calls.

Rita Kersh noted that Dee Ann Hart scheduled a meeting for the following week with the Advocacy Committee. Rita also noted that Vicky Western, who is the chair of the Insurance Committee and the Budget Committee, conveyed the information that the Budget Committee has not met but will have a budget drafted before the April 30, 2022 board meeting. Vicky and Clif Goodman of the Insurance Committee are working on a plan for insuring the organization.

Rita Kersh would like to see Membership Committee and the Outreach Committee calls to discuss how to reach out to potential new members and to past members with the intent of determining how to get them involved. There isn't a Fundraising Committee yet, but Rita has an idea for a fundraiser connected to an Information Station call in the late summer.

## Old Business:

Dee Ann Hart talked about the accessible absentee voting lawsuit, noting that the trial has been continued twice, as the state has been unresponsive to our attorneys. The trial may not happen now until March of 2023. The Attorneys have been deposing the Secretary of State and Indiana Election Division's subject matter experts. The attorney's representing ACBI have been determining who will serve as subject matter experts on behalf of ACBI.

Rita Kersh has appointed Dee Ann Hart to represent ACBI, working with the attorneys to create a declaration.

David Rosenkoetter asked whether ACBI is considering a disparate impact situation--while not intentional, the impact is discriminatory. Dee Ann Hart responded that the attorneys are planning to submit statements that delaying the case to March 2023 will have a harmful impact because of our disabilities. Barbara Salisbury responded that Dee Ann Hart will be calling a Legislative Committee meeting, and proposed that further discussion and information giving take place during that time. Dee Ann Hart agreed.

Rita Kersh noted that she posted to the Indiana-L list that the attorneys sought feedback from ACBI members about their preferred formats for receiving ballots, but was disappointed that no one had responded. A discussion then ensued about those needs. To participate further in the development of this suit and potential legislation, watch the ACB Indiana list for opportunities to respond and to meet. Anyone may also contact Dee Ann directly at (765)215-1211 or [d64hart@outlook.com](mailto:d64hart@outlook.com).

At the primary elections, all nine representatives are up for election, as is one senator. Dee Ann encouraged everyone to vote. She also noted that the Leadership Seminar is March 12-15, including the presidents meeting and the leadership meeting. She is planning on setting up meetings later that week with Indiana's congressional representatives. Dee Ann will call a separate meeting to plan for those events, and the February 2nd meeting at 2:00 pm is for the Legislative and Advocacy Committee.

Dee Ann concluded her update with information about progress on current bills in the Indiana legislative process that affect the disability community.

Barbara Salisbury reported that ACBI has a contract with the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomington, Indiana that is based on the 2020 contract that was negated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hilton Garden Inn agreed to honor many of the details from the 2020 contract, including meeting room spaces, similar food costs, and no guest room minimum. There is a cancellation clause requiring that a full cancellation be made 90 days in advance to negate the financial responsibility of the organization. Cancellations made after that time will require a percentage of the expected cost be paid.

The first planning meeting will be the first week of February, 2022.

The convention will be held November 11-13, 2022. In order to match the costs from the October 2020 contract, ACBI had to move the convention to November. Rita Kersh noted that the guest room rate is only $10.00 more than the rate in 2020.

Don Koors asked about the meeting space costs and the food minimum. Barbara noted that the food minimum requires $3,000.00, and that will easily be met by the planned catering expenses for meals. The meeting space cost is $850.00 for the entire meeting. Don also asked about the gratis room that was raffled off in the past. Barbara noted that the Hilton Garden Inn will again honor that gratis room, as a donation. Dolly Sowder asked about the registration rate. Barbara and Rita both clarified that it would be $80.00. Mary Stores asked whether she was on the Convention Vending Committee. Barbara clarified that she was on the Convention Planning Committee, which will have some subcommittees, one of which will discuss vending. Barbara also mentioned that the Convention Planning Committee has decided to provide some of the meeting space for mini sessions given by vendors. Those vendors wishing to hold such an informational session may be granted the space by giving a pre-determined donation, which will also help cover the costs of the convention.

Rita Kersh provided an update on the Investment Policy, confirming that the committee put together the final draft and sent it to Chris at Baird to review. It will be on the agenda for the April 30, 2022 Board meeting for approval before it is officially put into action by Baird.

## New Business:

Vice President Kari Goodman provided an update about the Information Station. The committee met and planned for the next few months. February will be a game, March will feature Guidelites and Gadgets, April will feature someone speaking about low vision devices, May's discussion will have a speaker talking about how to get a job being visually impaired and blind, June will be technology focused, July will be a national convention wrap-up, and August will feature a dessert auction. Mary Stores suggested the speakers of the Penny Wise podcast for future Information Station events.

Kari also mentioned the Get Up and Get Moving Facebook group, hoping to set up a monthly group discussion as well, and will set up event invitations in the group about the Information Station sessions that will make them easy to share.

Dolly Sowder suggested an Information Station about how to access audio description on TV and at movie theaters. Regina Vonderhaar agreed that would be a good topic.

ACBI has two Facebook groups or pages now: [American Council of the Blind of Indiana](https://www.facebook.com/acbofindiana), and [ACB Indiana - Get Up and Get Moving](https://www.facebook.com/groups/3033779470207666/).

Rita Kersh asked whether Vicky Western and Clif Goodman had met to discuss insurance for ACBI. Clif confirmed they have not, and Rita reiterated the need to have it before the national convention.

Barbara Salisbury provided an update on the progress of the creation of a Virtual Chapter for ACBI. She will announce more on the Indiana-L list and on Facebook, as well as an article in the next issue of Focus. She is planning a meeting in March or April to provide more information about creating this chapter.

President Rita Kersh gave an update on the Leadership Conference in Washington, DC., noting that she, Dee Ann Hart, Pat Tusing, David Rosenkoetter, Barbara Salisbury, and Mel Wobshall will participate. It will be held virtually March 12 through 15, 2022.

Kersh then reminded everyone of the ACB National Conference and Convention July 3 through 7, 2022 in Nebraska, which will be in a hybrid format this year. Rita is considering attending in person, and asked whether anyone else intended to attend in person. Don and Gerry Koors noted that they plan to attend, and Don mentioned that there are some meetings that occur as early as July 1.

## Chapter Updates:

Heartland Chapter - Ted Boardman mentioned the December social, and a scheduled virtual meeting in February.

Circle City Chapter - Don Koors mentioned the Christmas party and planned virtual meetings. The April meeting will feature an Indiana author who will read some poems. The chapter intends to follow up with the state library to determine whether they have any audio versions of the authors books. Gerry Koors mentioned that two Circle City members, Bill Sparks and Coleen Ulry, spoke about the Lions Club.

SCAVI Chapter - Regina Vonderhaar mentioned that they had their Christmas party featuring games and carol singing. The previous SCAVI meeting featured Jennifer Stevens from SICIL speaking about technology help they are providing at the center for independent living. Their next meeting will include brainstorming about future meeting topics. Dolly Sowder asked about a non-24 speaker from Chicago, and Regina responded that Jennifer Lyon came to speak about non-24, sleep apnea, and other related concepts.

## Good of the Order:

David Rosenkoetter asked about the possibility of sharing content from other sources on the ACBI social media. Barbara Salisbury and Kari Goodman both agreed it would be beneficial. Editor Mary Stores suggested that he write about his blog for an issue of *Focus*. Barbara suggests that Kari potentially come up with some guidelines for social media content, and reminded everyone about the ACBI Code of Conduct. Rita Kersh wondered about whether it was possible to have such specifications for a public page. Pat Tusing asked that we be careful about sharing email addresses.

## Adjournment:

President Rita Kersh accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting from Don Koors. The motion was seconded by Mary Stores. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.