ACBI Board Meeting

Face to face,

Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington, IN

April 29, 2017

Board members present were: Lynn Powers, Jeff Busch, Cindy Brooking, Bill Fierman, Rita Kirsch, Bill Sparks, Rich Vonderhaar, Don Lane, Barbara Salisbury, Gerry Koors, Don Koors, Deanna Austin, John Huffman and Edie Huffman.

Members absent were Mike Bowman and Sue L’Esperance.

President Lynn Powers called the meeting to order at 10:25 am. The agenda was approved as presented. Thanks were tendered to Lynn for writing the minutes, due to Edie’s family funeral. The minutes were approved as amended, to include (on page 3, under legislative items):1) the Medicare project Demonstration on Coverage of Low Vision Devices Act, which would measure the various costs and benefits of removing the Medicare eye-glass exclusion, 2) Ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Treaty, also known as the Marrakesh Treaty, which the United States signed in 2013 but not ratified, as have 22 other nations. It would allow for the international exchange of print materials, including textbooks, in an accessible format, and 3) current and continued funding for six key programs and services that are of great value for millions of Americans who are blind and visually impaired. These programs not only promote independence, but also sustain literacy and foster community inclusion.

The 990E, a federal electronic postcard for small 301c3 organizations, is due May 15, annually, and the Business Entity form is due to the Secretary of State in April of 2017, which filing is good for 2 years upon payment of $20 biennial fee, according to Don Koors, who will take care of both filings.

The working budget for 2017 will be presented at the July meeting and the treasurer’s report was received, pending further information from Hilliard Lyons, due to questions about their web balances. Income was reported of $1,297.50, expenses of $2,263.00. The Chase checking account stands at $5,438.20, Chase savings account $6,267.76, for a total of $11,705.96. The 5th 3rd account has now been closed ($2,421.00, not included elsewhere?). The Hilliard Lyons Investment account (Endowment) is $22,679.68, account 2 (Hofstetter) $28,297.15, account 3 (Ardis Dobson scholarship) $3,337.14 for a total of $54,203.97. Discussion ensued about donating $400 to Bosma for our Focus printing, at the end of the year.

Don Koors talked about the mid-year Presidents’ meeting, at which two items were of paramount importance; 1) communication, including Twitter and Facebook, and 2) generating money, both for the national and the local. He also spoke more about the legislative issues, which he covered in length in the first Focus of the year. The Alice Cogswell and Anne Sullivan Macy Act, H.R. 1120 have 15 sponsors as of March 1 and is being closely followed by the Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf and the American Foundation for the Blind.

It was agreed that, since Lynn will be unable to attend the National Conference, Edie, who is going, will receive the $800 stipend and serve as Indiana’s official delegate. Don Koors will participate in the Brenda Dillon memorial walk and designate half to go to ACBI. John moved, with Don Lane seconding, that ACBI present a $100 Target gift card for the auction and $100 to the James Olson scholarship fund. Motion passed.

The joint ACBI/ACBO convention on October 20-22 was discussed. There will be an adult pool night on Friday night, the auction will be held on Saturday night, and ACBI’s business meetings will be held Friday night and Saturday. The trip will take 4 ½ hours, so hiring a bus was discussed and whether a deposit will be required and whether ACBI would subsidize the bus fare. Vendors were then mentioned. There will be tables available for the state and local chapters. There is some conflict between vendor times and sessions, which creates a problem, especially when professionals donate their time, travel and expertise and have few attendees.

Possible multi-state convention was discussed, including Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and maybe Illinois. Fort Wayne was discussed; room for 100+; fairly central location; public transit. It has a Greyhound terminal. We need to talk about it at the joint convention in October. The consensus was that we both be involved and host. Fort Benjamin Harrison would not work, unfortunately. Marriott at 21st and Shadeland was suggested; Bloomington’s convention center was suggested. Indianapolis has Megabus, airports. Don Koors will check Indianapolis locations. The 195 members of ACBI need to be strongly encouraged to attend.

Focus deadline was discussed; end of May.

The audit committee has met with Rich and Don and has all the documents they want; they will have a report ready within a few weeks, definitely by July.

Bill Sparks discussed the new website and social media plans. It is planned to be a more interactive and accessible site, with registration and financial transactions possible. We will probably have to pay to maintain, make the website grow and be more visible. We should have facts and figures by July and Bill would like to get a couple of bids. Committee consists of Earlene Hughes, Bill Sparks, Ted Boardman, and Rich Vonderhaar.

Order of selection was then discussed. It is possible that 3,500 eligible people would not be served and new applicants denied. It all depends on the counselors’ interpretations of the clients’ limitations. There will be 3 public hearings on April 25, in South Bend, Indianapolis and Evansville. There are 35 vacant counselor positions vacant, out of 175. One issue is the pay scale, which is low compared to other states. Indiana does not draw down as much federal money to serve clients with disabilities as it could, due to a number of factors. One result of the order of selection would be that clients would be referred to other agencies, some of which have no money or obligation to serve them. This would impact people’s employment and independent living. Don Koors suggested contacting your state senator and representative.

The north central chapter has no meetings and no officers. It was suggested that John draft a letter for him and Lynn to work on, regretting that the chapter has ceased to function and offering formal acknowledgement of the situation.

The next meeting will be a teleconference on July 22, at 10 am. Topics include the audit, web and social media and the state convention.

SCAVI mentioned that it will celebrate its 35th anniversary on May 22.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edythe Huffman, Secretary