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

Teleconference meeting, 1/27/2018

Meeting began at 10:05 am. Attendees included Gerry Koors, Don Koors, Barbara Salisbury. Dee Ann Hart, Rita Kersh, Edie Huffman, John Huffman, Bill Sparks, Rich Vonderhaar, Cindy Brookings, Bill Fierman, Kari Goodman (new SCAVI chapter representative), Machell Philippone, Lynn Powers, Ted Boardman (new Heartland chapter representative), and Deanna Austin.

Don Lane was excused.

Barbara welcomed all to the meeting, especially new board members. Minutes were approved as emailed, with the following corrections. 1) Deanna Austin was present. 2) Edie Huffman was present. 3) Lynn is not leaving the board but Mike Bowman is leaving. 4) Deleting phrase “with Gerry” will be deleted. Rita made the motion to accept, Machell seconded; the minutes were approved.

The treasurer’s report was received, covering 10/23/2017-1/23/2018. Total income since 10/22/2017 was $4,367.08. Total expenses for same period were $2,776.45. Checking account balance: $5,177.53, savings balance, $9,235.17. The total of the Hilliard Lyons accounts is $44,054.64, which includes Hofstetter accounts total of $28,452.87 and Dobson account, $3,228.61.

The 2016 income total was $15,773.00 (which included a $3,983 donation from the Lakota chapter which dissolved and $5,121 from the car project) and the expenses total was $,181.00. The 2017 income total was $7,415.86 and expenses total $7.344.77 (which included transportation and other expenses for the joint ACBI/ACBO convention). The letter fundraising campaign was successful, with 27 donations totaling $3,112.00. The state chapter will receive $1,867.20, the Circle City chapter $1,136.80, and SCAVI $108.00. The donations are split between the state and the chapter providing the donor’s name, 60%-40%. John moved that the report be accepted, subject to audit (seconder’s name not identified). Motion approved.

The report was accepted, subject to audit; motion made by John, seconded by Edie. The audit will be presented in April or at a special board meeting, end of Feb. or beginning of March. It was decided that April would work.

The board committees and memberships were then presented. The chairs will add members to their committees [and report at the next board meeting].

2018 Convention

Rita Kersh, chair (liaison with Jill Noble, ACBO)

Cindy Brookings

Edie Huffman, auction

Dolly Sowder, vendor chair

Membership

Rich Vonderhaar (will try to get some committee members from ACBI members at large)

Legislative

Don Koors

Constitution and bylaws (intermittently busy)

John Huffman

Mike Bowman, possibly

Budget (no budget for 2018 yet)

Don Koors, chair

Bill Fierman

Rhett Salisbury (Heartland Chapter)

Rich Vonderhaar

Website

Bill Sparks

Lynn Powers

Ted Boardman

Rich Vonderhaar

Barbara picked committee chairs with strengths in the relevant area. Membership is especially important, as we need to grow the organization. Barbara encouraged new board members to consider joining a committee of interest; she may contact board members.

The proposal was sent out via email. Discussion concerning the website then ensued. Bill S. said there will be graphics work done and reviewing will be done by blind and visually impaired people. Bill S. has worked with this developer on other projects. We will pay 1/3 when the contract is signed. It was decided that maintenance should be paid quarterly in advance [one quarter in advance?].

Ted said that often a portion is paid up front, the rest upon completion. Don asked about the costs for the current website; whether any of that rolled over and about new costs after the first 2 years. Bill S. said it would probably be a couple of hundred dollars to continue to maintain and host the website (partly due to financial transactions) (will become a budget item). Bill S. said it is not recommended to pay maintenance a year in advance; quarterly is good. He also said that the hosting company chosen is one of the top two in the country. John asked about domain names; do we own acbi.org and acbi.com or acbi.net? Searches will be re-directed to the website used. Barbara spoke to the absolute need for this new website, which will improve our visibility and functionality, with financial dealings, Facebook. Discussion ensued.

Machell moved that we accept Michael Lauf’s proposal as submitted.

Bill S. suggested ½ down. John suggested 1/3 down, 2/3 at end of Dec. [2017]. Deanna suggested that the format of the top of the page be designed differently, so it does not look like NFB’s page. [Unanimous agreement!]. Ted asked about whether we should pay for backup software for one year.

Motion was amended to accept the proposal for the website

1. pay 1/3 down, when contract is signed
2. website to be finished within 60 days from beginning of work
3. remaining 2/3 paid when work is done satisfactorily
4. 3 months free maintenance,
5. paid maintenance through Dec. 2018, then re-evaluate as to whether year was acceptable in terms of site utility
6. will pay for only one year of software backup

Machell made original motion, Bill Fierman 2nded the amended motion. Motion passed.

Board expressed thanks to Bill S. and committee. Bill S. assured board it would be a good product.

A joint state convention with Ohio will be held this year (Illinois and Michigan have made plans for their own state conventions), with possibly attendees from Illinois. Illinois is definitely interested in a joint 2019 convention. Talks with the Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center in Speedway are underway. The convention would be held from Friday evening through Sunday morning, November 2-4, 2018. There is no onsite restaurant, so we are working with a caterer for food. The hotel manager has been very accommodating; he really wants our group to come.

* A Friday night pizza mixer is planned (activities, giveaways, fundraisers) (looking at various ways to pay for it; donations, ACBI pay, work into registration fee)
* Saturday hot breakfast buffet
* Saturday box lunches ($10-$13)
* Saturday dinner (plated for possibly $20-$21 plus taxes - $30? dessert not currently included but Barbara negotiating with him, possibly that we bring in our own dessert)
* Sunday hot breakfast buffet
* We can bring in our own snacks and pop but not alcohol
* There will be tickets for meals.

Other details include

* a $400 damage/security deposit,
* fee for hotel will come from registration fee ($20 per registrant; with $1,000 guaranteed minimum, several hundred of which ACBI/O could make up, if needed)
* registration fee of $80 which could be lower if food costs can be kept under $60 (Barbara would like to make it $70)
* Food/catering fee will be locked in when contract is signed
* $95 (plus taxes) room rate (includes hot breakfast buffet)
* Free meeting space, which includes 3 breakout rooms (which includes 2 vendor rooms) and a ballroom
* Use of our own audio equipment
* Tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum

The hotel:

* includes a pool and hot tub,
* has a dance floor,
* has a theater,
* has a pool table,
* has free wifi,
* has handicap-accessible rooms,
* is very blind-friendly and easily traveled,
* will allow us to use our own audio equipment,
* has a bar/lounge,
* does not has assistive listening devices; ACBI/O would have to arrange for that service
* water and coffee will be available free,
* wants awareness/assistance training for staff,
* guarantees current renovation will be done (by April/May).

We are working with local Lions Clubs for transportation.

The registration form will include several line items, including the tour and the Friday pizza mixer. It was suggested that all day is too long for exhibits, so there will be a definite, shorter time line. The convention will be streamed.

Lynn made the motion that we move forward but not accept until everything is ironed out (as detailed today). John seconded. Motion passed.

A marketing/press release will be prepared. It is hoped that students from ISBVI can attend. [It depends on the sponsors for extracurricular activities. Their policies have probably been revised since some unfortunate incidents of several years ago].

It is hoped that the contract with the hotel can be signed within the next month. Deadline for convention attendees will probably be Oct. 5.

Don K. spoke about the Midyear President’s (Feb. 25, which Barbara is attending) and Legislative meetings (Feb. 26 and 27, which Don is attending). Gerry moved, John seconding, that their expenses be reimbursed up to $600 each. Motion passed.

The April meeting, the 28th, will be face to face. Since the State Library will be closed on April 28, the meeting could be either at the Waterfront Hotel with box lunch from caterer (contract may be signed by then) or at Bedford. We will communicate via email as to which location will work.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edythe Huffman, Secretary