

**HLAA-WA Board Meeting
January 19, 2019, 12:00 pm
Everett Public Library
2702 Hoyt Ave.
Everett, WA 98201**



Board Members Present:

Cynthia Stewart, President
Sandra Bunning
Bill Collison, Treasurer
Kate Jantz-Koprivnik
Cheri Perazzoli, Dir. of Advocacy
Glenda Philio
Warren Weissman, Secretary
Karen Utter

Board Members Absent

Larry Wonnacott

Also Present

Aundie Collison

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00pm by Cynthia Stewart, President. It was noted that the meeting room was looped. Due to technical difficulties, CART captioning to be provided by David Hart was suspended after attempts to create the required communications link.

Minutes

Kate Jantz-Koprivnik moved, and Karen Utter seconded, that the minutes of the October 27, 2018 board meeting be approved as distributed. All in favor, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Collison, Treasurer, distributed the financial statements for the fiscal year 2018, ending on December 31, 2018.

Total income for the year declined from \$13,022.61 in FY2017 to \$9,436.94 in FY2018. The decline in income is due to reduced GiveBig donations and fewer donations associated with Sound Waves subscriptions. Also, in FY2017 there was a special donation from the defunct Spokane HLAA Chapter, which transferred its remaining funds to HLAA-WA.

Total expenses for FY2018 were \$12,027.89, compared to \$11,280.52 in FY2017. The increase is due primarily to greater expenditures on expenses associated with attendance at the HLAA 2018 national convention, offset somewhat by reduced advocacy expenses.

Net income for FY2018 is a loss of \$2,590.95, compared to a gain of \$1,742.09 in FY2017. Cash balances declined by approximately \$2,400 during FY2018.

Glenda Philio moved that the financial statements be approved as presented, Karen Utter seconded. All in favor. Financial statements for FY2018 accepted.

Communications

Cynthia Stewart commented about and asked for discussion on several topics related to the HLAA-WA communications strategy:

- The first step will be to identify the target audience for each element of HLAA-WA communications, including the website, Sound Waves, E-News and social media.
- Social media requires significant improvement.
- After taking on the role of webmaster, Cynthia has worked to gain administrative access to the website and has interacted with the web host, Site Ground, to establish what needs to be done to facilitate updating and redesign of the website.
- The Whatcom Chapter has proposed that they would produce videos, probably monthly, for posting to YouTube and to the HLAA-WA website. The videos would be intended as an outreach tool. They have requested funds to be used to pay for the captioning of such videos, expecting that \$50-100 would be required per video.
 - Cheri Perazzoli moved that up to \$400 be allocated to produce/caption up to 4 videos. Bill Collison seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Outreach

- Karen Utter commented on the need for her to receive regular input from others regarding events and other activities which would be relevant to the HLAA-WA outreach effort.
- Karen commented on the value of focusing on support groups in outreach activity.
- There was discussion of the elements—events, targets, budget, materials—that would comprise an outreach plan. Karen asked that the board establish a budget for HLAA-WA outreach. Warren commented that it would be useful to identify outreach objectives, plans to achieve those objectives, and to estimate how much it would cost to achieve those objectives, and to then have the board assess whether the estimated budget is acceptable.

Advocacy

- Cynthia updated the board on the progress of HB1078, the telecoil/Bluetooth bill that HLAA-WA is supporting. Rep. Laurie Dolan has introduced this bill for the 2019 State legislative session and there is a companion bill in the State Senate. The bill requires hearing health providers to adequately inform customers about the uses and benefits of telecoils and Bluetooth technology in their hearing instruments.
- Cheri Perazzoli requested that board members provide her with personal stories regarding the uses and value of telecoils, so that she may use these stories in supporting HB1078.
- Cheri noted that Laura Gramer, a fellow advocate for people with hearing loss, requests HLAA-WA support for legislation requiring insurers in Washington State to cover hearing aids for children. While supporting the initiative conceptually, Cheri commented that it was probably too late to seek legislative support for such legislation in the 2019 session. It would be preferable to seek support from legislators, in an organized way, during 2019, with an eye to introducing legislation in a future legislative session.
 - Warren moved, Cheri seconded, that HLAA-WA offer conceptual support for insurance coverage of hearing aids for children in Washington State, but not commit to supporting pursuit of legislation during the 2019 legislative session. All in favor.
- Cynthia commented that May is Better Hearing Month. Last year, certain local jurisdictions issued proclamations in support of Better Hearing Month. HLAA members should seek to have their local governments issue such proclamations in 2019, and Cynthia will see if it is possible to have Governor Inslee issue such a proclamation on behalf of Washington State.

Fund Development

Cynthia read a note from board member Larry Wonnacott, who was unable to be present. Larry suggests that identifying specific uses of funds, tied to hearing loss issues, would be an excellent way of creating a basis for approaching potential donors.

HAAA national Convention

Cynthia requested clarification and views on what HAAA-WA financial support has occurred and should occur in enabling attendance by HAAA-WA representatives at the HAAA national convention.

- Karen commented on the history of such support, clarifying that the board's intention has been to subsidize rather than fully cover expenses. Scholarships, available to categories of individuals, as well as subsidies for specific individuals, have been offered. Prior HAAA-WA annual budgets have included allocation of funds to subsidize attendance by the HAAA-WA President as well as the Chapter Coordinator.
- In the past, a scholarship committee has existed for the purpose of determining who should receive assistance for expenses related to the convention.

Future Board Meetings

- After discussion, April 27th was selected as the date for the next HAAA-WA board meeting.
- Other meetings will occur in
 - July/August
 - Karen recommended that the board meeting not be associated with the annual picnic, as that creates too much work and activity for one day.
 - The board meeting would be held on August 10.
 - Glenda will determine availability of the picnic site (likely date either July 27 or August 3).
 - October
 - October 27 was selected as the date for the board meeting/annual meeting

Other Business

- Cheri commented that the new post office box is working smoothly.
- After discussion, it was agreed that the full board would work on nominations of future board members, with the Executive Committee responsible for determining a slate of nominees and conducting the corresponding election.
- It was agreed that it would be useful to identify a candidate to fill the vacant Vice President position.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Weissman, Secretary