

**HCAA-WA Annual Meeting
April 22, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Perazzoli Residence, Redmond**



Board Members Present:

Wes Brosman
Sandra Bunning
Judi Carr
Bill Collison
Don Gischer
Devin Myers
Kimberly Parker

Cheri Perazzoli
Steve Pettijohn
Cynthia Stewart
Jayesh Unadkat
Karen Utter
Warren Weissman

Others Present:

Jana Brosman
Diana Thompson
David Hart, Captioner

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Warren Weissman, President. He thanked David Hart for again providing CART services.

Minutes of Annual Meeting, November 5, 2016

The minutes of the annual meeting on November 5, 2016 were approved with the following changes:

- Kathy and Lori, who were present as interpreters for Deborah O'Willow, will be noted as such
- Charlie Pilkey's name was mis-spelled and will be corrected

Treasurer's Report

Bill Collison, Treasurer, handed out copies of the Treasurer's report for year-end 2016 and first quarter, January through March 2017. At 2016 year-end, income was 51% higher than budgeted, and expenses were only 77% of budgeted. Some events that had been planned in 2016 were not done, thus money was saved.

At the end of first quarter 2017, the checking account balance was \$38,741. Including savings, total assets were \$72,705. Income in the first quarter was \$2150, about 17% of the budget for 2017; expenses were \$3562, about 26% of the budget for 2017.

Bill also reported that all mandated reports have been filed. The financial report was accepted as presented.

GiveBIG 2017

Warren reported that donations to GiveBIG can be scheduled in advance, beginning April 27. He also noted that there is a possibility that Seattle Foundation may not continue this fundraising endeavor in the future.

Advocacy/Legislative Activities Report

Diana Thompson thanked those who sent letters to the Legislature in support of hearing aids for adult Medicaid recipients. She described the history of getting involved in this issue, beginning with understanding that untreated hearing loss can be connected to cognitive decline. Hearing aid coverage was removed from the Medicaid budget effective 2011. In 2015, Jerry Reilly, who represents various aging-related organizations, tried to get coverage restored, and in 2016 a budget proviso was attempted. This year, there are four bills related to hearing loss, two of which would address hearing aid coverage for adult Medicaid recipients, one of which would require training about hearing loss for medical providers and one of which would require training for long-term care workers. AARP is helping with these as well.

Cheri and Warren discussed the need for future legislation to address T-coils and requested that stories be submitted of people who weren't told about T-coils.

Cheri then discussed work being done at Sea-Tac with the goal of making Sea-Tac the most accessible airport in the country. This initiative is especially important because Seattle will be hosting the Special Olympics in 2018. An assessment of the airport is currently underway by Open Doors, a firm from Chicago that specializes in accessibility and accommodations.

Cheri also mentioned what ACT Theater is doing with its individual seat captioning system. She encouraged HLAA members to test systems in all the theaters and provide feedback.

Training Day with Oregon

The March training in conjunction with the Oregon association of HLAA in Vancouver was attended by about 20 people from HLAA-WA. Karen has written an article about it for the newsletter. Outreach and chapter leadership were emphasized, and Karen noted that the power point was provided and is excellent.

Karen noted that the Port Townsend and Bellevue chapters have closed. The importance of chapters is to provide an opportunity for people with hearing loss to be part of a group, to help people dealing with hearing loss for the first time and to provide a way to gain new HLAA members.

HLAA National Convention - June

A number of Board members and some chapter members who are not on the Board will be attending the convention in Salt Lake City, UT, June 24-26.

WA Speech and Hearing Board

Wes Brosman brought up the fact that there are three vacancies on the WA State Board of Hearing and Speech. People interested can find information and the application process on the relevant website.

There are also vacancies on the Governor's Council on Disabilities and the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and Employment. People who are interested should contact Toby Olson, in the Governor's office, or should apply directly to the GCDE.

Several Board members indicated an interest in applying for at least one of these positions.

Communications

After a lunch break, there was a discussion of the current communication methods: E-news, Sound Waves and other outreach publications.

The discussion of E-news included these points:

- People liked the length, the table of contents and the differentiation between E-news and Sound Waves
- Suggestions for changing E-news included adding more pictures, putting “hearing loss” in the header, including an “update”, adding more local information and adding hearing health
- The conclusion was to leave E-news as is for a while longer; to ask Chapter leaders to share it with others who may not be getting it; and to add a way to sign up for it online.

The discussion of Sound Waves included these points:

- It was proposed that Sound Waves be produced only twice per year (as opposed to quarterly), with 16 pages instead of 12. This is less expensive and allows more in-depth articles. E-news will include an alert that Sound Waves is coming out.
- Sound Waves can be used as an outreach tool. Some people use it like a business card.
- At some point, an on-line version should be considered.
- Each issue should have opportunities for subscribing, donating and joining HLAA.
- It is important to continue to run stories related to basic experiences that people with hearing loss have.
- Several Board members indicated a preference for staying with the quarterly frequency of Sound Waves due to the factors mentioned above as related to outreach and the value of articles to people with hearing loss. The Board voted to keep the frequency quarterly.

Nominating Committee

At the Annual Meeting, Glenda Philio, Judi Carr and Devin Myers were appointed to be the Nominating Committee for 2017 elections. Glenda agreed to be chair. Warren asked that people be identified who really want to be involved as opposed to aggressively persuading people to join the Board.

Outreach

Various upcoming outreach events were discussed.

- Kimberly Parker will be at an upcoming Auburn Library event.
- On May 10, HLAA will be represented at the Transitions in Care conference in SeaTac. Kelly Tremblay and Margaret Wallhagen, both of whom are on the national HLAA Board, will be presenting a paper together.
- The HLAA-WA picnic has been scheduled for July 22 at Lake Boren Park, in the Newcastle area.
- We can create awareness by using the public comment period at city councils (most are now televised) to discuss hearing loss and accommodations

Other Business/Announcements

- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4, with location to be determined [note: this date was changed after this meeting to October 28]
- Please take copies of Sound Waves to distribute at various places (e.g., Costco hearing aid stores)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Stewart, Secretary