

Council of Citizens with Low Vision International  
September 6, 2017  
Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 8:35 pm eastern by President Leslie Spoone.

Present: Leslie Spoone, Kathy Farina, Richard Rueda, Robert Spangler, Linda Allison, Patti Cox, Angelo Lanier, Fred Scheigert, Christine Chakin

Absent: \*Sara Conrad, Charlie Glaser, \*Zelda Gebhard,

Committee Chairs: Dr. Bill, Jim Jirak

Guests: Linn Nishihara, Donna Pomerantz, Allan Peterson, Mary Lue Baracco, Bernice Kandarian, Allen Casey, Ken Stewart

Agenda approval: Kathy Farina approval, second Christine. MC

Secretary Report Not available.

Treasurer Report: Not available, Linda has been having trouble getting access to several accounts due to website issues. She will present the correct reports at the November meeting.

Guest Comments: Allan is present as a board liaison. The ACB Board is asking for any concerns. Allan 701 - 715 - 5482.

Donna Pomerantz: asking about the progress of the Constitution committee and has the committee had any meetings. That will be addressed under the committee reports.

Mary Lue questioned a survey she took.

Committee Reports:

Constitution Committee: The committee has not met yet but has plans to meet after the summer holidays. We have a very good group set to assist in the review and proposed changes.

eCommunications Committee: I have been working with the Genensky committee to assure the applications are correct. Nothing has been heard from the Scheigert committee on their applications. Also the board set the deadlines for the two applications as March 15 of each year to avoid the mid-year meetings.

Sheigert Committee: Allen thanked Leslie for the opportunity to work with the committee. He also shared ideas about getting the word out concerning the scholarship.

Fundraising Committee: the committee had a meeting and the committee is looking for some new members. Angelo, Linda, Leslie, Christine are current members. Kathy Fox and Marcia F had shown some interest. The committee is planning on working on items that could be sold throughout the year. Sara Conrad has a fundraising project that will be for CCLVI, "31 Gifts". It was also advised that Market Place may be going away and that those tables could be moving into exhibit hall.

Convention Committee. Jim Jirak, The convention plenary committee met on July 25 at 9pm eastern to review the successes and to discuss how things can be improved upon going forward. With the exception of Richard, all committee members were present. What follows is a general synopsis of the discussion. And as Richard provided his feedback electronically to all committee members, his remarks are shown unedited as originally sent to the convention committee.

"What follows is constructive feedback. You are all great people. Please know that in reading my thought provoking and direct feedback.

Richard d

Here are some general observations for the most recent CCLVI convention held in Sparks Nevada.

Overall, the CCLVI program was well established and prepared. I was not able to stay for the mixer past the first hour; however what I did see was a well prepared event and excellent attendance. It is always difficult to gauge what the size of the issued suite will be often up until arrival at convention. I am wondering if during the planning process, if there is a way to solicit from

the ACB Convention planning group what the square footage of suites for the upcoming year will be. It may help us plan to some extent for crowd control.

Sunday's sessions with Dr. Bill and later with Dr. Bill and Vicky Parker were both very successful and well attended. It may be worth discussing inviting Vicky Parker back next year to do a similar program.

I was not in attendance for Monday's All About You session, however I heard it was well received.

Wednesday's Travel panel followed by our reception in the suite was also well received.

I am not sure how utilized or underutilized our suite was, however I feel as if it was under used. I am wondering if we were to have a suite next year, if we could have multiple evening gatherings in the CCLVI suite. Perhaps a series of intimate listening sessions on various topics impacting persons with low vision.

Additionally, I know that for years, people have been asking for CCLVI to consider hosting a lunch and lunch time speaker. It may not be a bad idea. Also, often many special interest affiliates often hold a business meeting luncheon and make an afternoon of it. Again, it may be worth considering.

I believe our fundraising efforts were well received and people were generally happy with it.

I do think that as a whole, CCLVI could improve its public image and public engagement with the entire convention experience. In many instances, I was either witness to and or was later confided to, that persons taking tickets at the door were either less than professional and or were loudly arguing with another member of CCLVI on ticket sales and other organization business that should have and could have been done so discretely and privately. I could not agree more. One prime example comes to mind. Just before the start of the Dr. Bill session on Sunday, July 2, I was excited to see two Executive Director's I knew from agencies for the Blind in California come into our session. I was in the midst of introducing them as they had not yet met. I was also elated to have them

attend our session and learn a bit from Dr. Bill and the CCLVI experience. I figured that if their experience was positive, they would be return customers, perhaps become a member and even perhaps tell their agency consumers about CCLVI. Yet, from the entrance of the room where the tickets were being taken, a loud roaring voice came crashing through demanding this and that from folks. I do not want to blame one person, yet I think this has been a recurrent issue with CCLVI's public image and its systemic and something we truly need to get in front of. It is not easy for me to write this as many of you is persons I consider friends and colleagues. Yet, for the sake of CCLVI business and putting the needs of our small but mighty organization first, we all need to check our egos and mouths at the door. In no way am I perfect, however I do think this needs to be addressed. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend next week's convention feedback call, however if I can be of help in other ways to help CCLVI improve its public image, do not hesitate to let me know.

Also, to that end, I would strongly urge the committee to consider soliciting feedback from members we know who attended. Whether or not we do so through a call in early August and or through a survey tool and or through our toll free number, something should be done, even if it is on a small scale this year and bigger next year.

Another area that CCLVI could improve its convention visibility is if we were to consider having CCLVI shirts and or CCLVI polo shirts for all board members and convention organizers to wear. It would and could be viewed as a way for members new and old to know who to go to for all things convention relations.

All right, I did not beat around the bush here. I, like many of you care dearly about CCLVI and I can only hope that we do what we can to make the CCLVI experience an even better one next year. In closing, I applaud you all for your sweat and tears in planning this past year. The program itself was A+ and thank you Jim for your time in this. Lastly, I forgot to mention game Night. I do also applaud Zelda and Angelo for their leadership throughout. I liked the game for Jeopardy. I was unable to stay for name that Tune, yet I am sure it was well received. My only concern with the Game Night was the room location. I understand why the room change was made, however it felt a little confined and the lighting in my opinion was poor.

I am sure that similarly I have just finished sending to Janet and other ACB leaders my constructive feedback for this year's ACB Conference & Convention. Similarly, like Sara Conrad's post, I too mentioned my concerns with issues faced by those with low vision. Although my feedback covered many more topics, I am glad ACB publicly encouraged attendees to solicit feedback.

All right, thank you all and I hope my feedback will help guide the discussion next week. I am and continue to be wholeheartedly in support of CCLVI and my comments above were and are not intended to hurt any feelings.

Best,

Richard”

The committee felt that:

The convention chair should not take tickets and be available to potentially identify and troubleshoot problems should they arise.

The overall programming went well.

The suite was underutilized and not big enough for our Wednesday afternoon open house. Jim explained how and why we were assigned the suite size we were provided. Consensus was to have the convention chair reach out to Janet earlier in the plenary process to ensure we were assigned a larger suite. The plenary committee needs to find unique and innovative ways to use the suite to its maximum potential.

The open house was a success despite the size of the room and that we should perhaps close it down at 6pm rather than 7pm.

There were issues with persons being kept up to date on room changes as the numbers of possible attendees necessitated the change. We discussed perhaps having a team of two committee members outside of the room the event was changed from to direct persons to the updated meeting room.

Vicki Parker should be invited to present in 2018 as her topic was well received.

We need to look at the possible combining of programming with other special interest affiliates or committee task forces should similar interests be identified.

There should be a convention co-chair. Jim and Sara will discuss the feasibility.

There should be no luncheon with the business meeting. We will consider a luncheon with perhaps another topic and determine whether this is a viable option.

We should consider Richard's idea of self-identifying T-shirts for the board, officers and the convention chair.

Game night was a success despite the last minute room change 2 hours prior to the start time. We will do a better job of remembering to bring prizes going forward.

To hold a membership call to gauge input on what worked and what didn't. The call will be August 16th at 9pm eastern. Sara will post on Facebook and Jim will email to all relevant CCLVI lists the dial in number and access code.

The convention plenary committee held an all-membership call to review the successes of the recently concluded convention in Sparks, NV and to discuss how things can be improved upon going forward. The comments provided are:

That since not all go to ACB's morning general session, we need to attempt to find better ways of communicating room changes. This may be a long-term global solution, but we should begin the process now to avoid unnecessary confusion. Should this somehow be incorporated in the convention programming and the publishing of the agenda?

That people enjoyed the programming and that no negative feedback had been received.

That we should consider hand-outs or trinkets to give members of the audience at various programming sessions. People like take a ways.

That the Wednesday afternoon mixer was enjoyed. Was the suite underutilized? We need to consider a nightly suite activity such as a meet and greet. Additionally, we need to attempt to secure an accurate room description including square footage to help us better plan for suite only activities.

Whether a description of the hotel could be put on CCLVI lists.

Whether compass descriptions could be incorporated into the hotel description document when it is circulated?

What is the makeup of the national plenary committee? Is there CCLVI representation? Are there any members having low vision?

That we consider an iDevice session as either a program or have small groups in our suite for one-on-one training.

That game night was a success. Angelo and Zelda did a phenomenal job.

Membership: Jim Jirak, Membership renewal notices will be mailed to all non-chapter affiliated life members, at large members and professional members early in November. As in past years, chapter presidents and treasurers will likewise be sent a notice via email requesting their information be submitted to me no later than 11:59pm pacific time February 15. Chapter lists received after that time will only be processed after all other received applications have been processed. Chapter presidents and treasurers will receive one reminder notice 30-days following the initial send in December, January and February. It is my intent to submit certification via AMMS to ACB 4-days prior to the required deadline to afford time to deal with any potential technological snafu's. It was questioned as to the constitutional duties of the committee to leave out those members of chapters. The constitution was read concerning the duties of the Membership committee. Kathy moved to have a call to discuss logistics of sending dues notices to everyone, Richard second. MC.

Roll call vote: Kathy Farina Yes, Robert No, Christine No, Richard Yes, Fred Yes, Patti No, Angelo No, Linda No. Motion failed.

Finance Committee: Linda. The committee will meet in October. Also Patti Cox had expressed interest in being part of the committee so please add her to my committee.

Book Committee: the committee discussed sales and looking at printing costs of the Spanish copy. The book sales have increased and we still have over 100 books to sell.

Old Business:

Large Print survey is in the hands of the Minneapolis office for totals.

New Business:

Two committees were formed during the annual business meeting, celebration Committee for 40 years, and a history committee. It was explained that the membership had authorized the committee and that Bernice would be part of the committee and that Patti would also be on that committee. The celebration committee Zelda expressed an interest to be on that committee. Patti Cox offered to be chair.

Vision Access: Christine expressed a concern about the number of issues and the lack of articles being supplied. The last issue cost us \$619 for the printing. It was made clear that "Vision Access" was a magazine rather than a newsletter. Richard suggested that we make contact with members and study the issues before we pull the issues down to anything any lower. Richard suggested that we do some conference calls to get membership inputs. Richard suggested we do the calls sometime in November or October. Leslie is concerned that we are not getting proper number of pages for the three issues.

Jim suggested that we have the meetings and to sit it for the first Wednesday in October, being October 4.

Angelo moved that we meet the first Wednesday in October concerning the publications committee, concerning the number of issues and that the meeting be open to members, chapter presidents. Seconded by Christine.

The only business to be addressed will be "Vision Access" issues. MC.

The meeting notice will be put out through Facebook and Twitter and Leslie and Jim will make calls to chapter presidents and others.

Glass door Resolution: The matter is in the hands of the Alexandria office and more information will be coming in November.

Committee chair approvals:

What is the purpose of a co-chair? To have a successor in case the chair decides to move on. This can allow ease of committee work. A committee chair can ask for a co-chair and those committee chairs who have asked for a co-chair. It was pointed out that Scholarship was the only committee to ask for co-chairs.

Leslie named the committee chairs are: Convention: Jim Jirak, co-chair Sara Conrad. Jim pointed out that he did not ask for a co-chair., Constitution: Robert Spangler, Finance and Budget: Linda Allison, Fundraising: Kathy Farina, Legislative: Sara Conrad, Membership Jim Jirak, Linda Allison and Robert Spangler  
Nominations: Charlie Glaser, Publications: Mike Keithley, Public Relations: Open, Scheigert Scholarship: Allen Casey, co-chair Bianca, Genensky: Cathy Schmitt Whitaker, Book Committee: Dr. Bill, eCommunications: Robert Spangler.

Kathy moved to accept the committee chairs, second Angelo. MC

Next meeting will be October 4, 2017.

November 1, 2017

January 3, 2018.

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Spangler  
CCLVI Secretary