

HLAA Board Meeting

Date: February 28, 2018

Members Present: Gail Morrison, Joyce Bowlby, Craig Bowlby, Ilga Dravnieks, Katie Wright, Van Von Burg, Ram Kakkar, Maxine Barten-Bauman, Ken Saw, and Linda DeGuire.

Board Meeting started at 12:05 PM. Loop in room was not working. FM ALD's used for meeting.

Minutes of December Board meeting: Mistake on visitor number noted and will be corrected. MSC (motion, second, and carried) to approve minutes. Plan: Secretary to email today's minutes to above members present.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer bought up new bank policy on fees on minimum balance in checking which will be \$20.00 per business checking account if the balance falls below \$5,000. Motion to approve the Treasurer to transfer funds from savings to checking if the checking balance is close to falling below \$5,000 during the month to avoid fee. MSC. It was reported that we must use online checking to avoid fee. Plan: Treasurer to monitor checking balance and act to avoid the \$20 fee.

President's Report: Ronnie Adler from HLAA National is gearing up for Walk 4Hearing 2018. Katie reported that deaf students from SELACO High School in Downey may be recruited to sign the national anthem and form an alliance to support Walk4Hearing. She is following this up.

Corresponding Secretary: Van did not receive visitor numbers or information so no follow up was done yet. Plan: Set up system to get this information to Van for follow up.

Critical Business discussed today:

Saturday Chapter meetings:

Maxine looked up comments online on National HLAA site on chapter meetings on Saturday. Katie read the compiled comments given to her by Maxine on what other chapters around the country do. Consensus is that other chapters struggle like we do. Saturday meetings vary in success on member attendance. Lively discussion among Board and Chairmen followed. Board decision made not to change to Saturday chapter meetings at this time. Vote was 8 to 1. MSC to keep chapter meetings on Thursday night. Plan: No further discussion on this topic necessary for now.

Nominating Committee:

Gail related the slate for new Board for 2018 to 2019: Gail, President; Joyce Bowlby, Vice President; Craig Bowlby, Treasurer; Van Von Burg, corresponding secretary. Katie Wright was asked to be Recording Secretary. Only two viable candidates were approached and they declined. Need to develop chapter and future leadership was noted. Plan: Present this slate of officers at the March chapter meeting and vote at the April chapter meeting.

Program Plan for April, May and June:

For April, Katie suggested a kickoff push for Walk4Hearing 2018. Connor will present the symbolic check from last year's walk to the chapter. Election of officers will also be done. For May, Katie related that Toni Bariant is available to speak on a Consumer Guide to Hearing Aids.

For June, we have our end of year party and celebrate members who have contributed a lot to our chapter. The McIvers were suggested.

Lip Reading Classes:

Linda DeGuire related that her classes are full and she cannot accept more people. It was suggested that we stop advertising the classes for the rest of the year (through June). The Board has not heard for some time from Elfriede McIver on the Monday classes. Plan: Gail to talk with Ron and Elfriede about a report on the Monday classes.

Loop/ALDs:

Frustrating problems continue with the looping system and ALDs despite Rick Archibold's intervention. Through Katie's troubleshooting and Bill Busch input, she feels that the old FM transmitter is very bad. Cost to replace it is \$600. Our present ALDs will work with a new transmitter. Present loop system is not powerful enough for the big meeting room. Rick Archibold of Hear USA loaned us a system that will work for half of the room. We need permission to set up a permanent loop in the big room which requires Lakewood government approval. This is a time-consuming process. It was noted that there is only one other company in the area that does loops named Overjoy. Lively discussion followed. Our Bylaws require membership approval for expenditures over \$300. Board approved \$300 toward new transmitter. Van Von Burg offered to donate the \$300 in order to purchase and set up new transmitter for upcoming March meeting when a vote for approval for the total expenditure for the transmitter can be obtained. If approved, Van will be reimbursed. The Board also discussed changing the bylaws to increase expenditures by the Board to around \$1,000 before approval is needed by the members. Cost of AV equipment has gone up.

Plan: Purchase the transmitter as discussed above. Ask the members to approve the expenditure at the March meeting. Reimburse Van if approved. Work on changing the bylaws to increase the threshold of expenditure before needing membership approval. Use ALDs with new transmitter at the March meeting. Loop half of the room until funding/ approval obtained for permanently looping the big room.

The following Committee reports and old/new Business were not discussed at this meeting. They are deferred to the March Board Meeting.

HAT Committee, Membership Committee, Outreach Committee, Looping Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Informer, 2018 Calendar, and 2018 budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Bowlby
Recording Secretary