

Annual Reports 2020-2021

American Bell Association International, Inc.

Executive Board:

President: Dianne Bradfield
First Vice President: Bonnie Kerber Tippery
Friends of ABA
Second Vice President: Sue Goebel
Secretary: Kathleen Collins
Treasurer: Shirley Russell
Immediate Past President: Arlene Foreman
Member at Large: Annette Hunt
Past President Representative: Laura Murgia
Legal Advisor: Bill Kenworthy
Parliamentarian: Bill Kenworthy

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Auction: Bruce Clayton
Audit: Cindy Knoblauch
Bell Tower Editor: Marilyn Grismere
Bell Tower: Marie Varian
Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund: Ruth Ann Frank
Budget: Shirley Russell
Bylaws: Laura Murgia
Chaplain: Betty Goodson
Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator: Sue Moore
Collins Memorial Bell Tower: Ruth Ann Frank
Convention Committee: Carol Jurin
Historian: Kathleen Collins
Hotel Coordinator: Alan Burgdorf
Job Descriptions: Laura Murgia
Membership Coordinator: Nancy Kirk
Membership Expansion: Jane Boldenow
Nominating: Sue Wakat
Past Presidents' Group: Betty Goodson
Social Media: Bonnie Kerber
Special Services: Sue Wakat
Tax Consultant: Bruce Clayton
Town Crier: Terry Laduke
Website Coordinator: David Elliott
Welcome Letter Writers: Mary Levins

Executive Board

President's Report 2020-2021

Dianne Bradfield

Being ABA President the past two years has been both interesting and rewarding. After being installed in 2019, I looked forward to our 74th convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Sadly, it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, I anticipate our 75th convention to take place in Knoxville, Tennessee. If everything works out, I will be able to finally welcome ABA members to a much anticipated gathering! Over the past two years there has been ABA business continuing and motions agreed upon by a very supportive board. I have appreciated the e-mails and phone calls during our time apart. Being President has given me opportunities to connect with bell collectors throughout the United States and other countries.

I am a fairly new bell collector and have been a member of the ABA since 2009. My husband and I have enjoyed attending conventions and all that takes place, whether it be programs, tours, sales, or auctions. The ABA has provided a host of new friends and bell information we would otherwise not have.

On a personal note, I was born in Long Beach, California and my family had many opportunities to enjoy the beaches, deserts, and mountains. I attended local schools and graduated from CSULB. For 34 years I taught at the middle school level, first as an English teacher and then retiring as a credentialed librarian. My husband and I married in 1967 and have two sons and four grandchildren. Travel has been a wonderful part of our lives together! Volunteering has included packaging soup for 3rd world countries, serving as counselors at summer camps for brain injured adults, and helping girls who were being trafficked in Cambodia. Being a part of the ABA has added so much to our lives and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your President.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BONNIE TIPPERY, 1st Vice President

(For the Fiscal Year 4/1/2020 through 3/31/2021)

For the year 2020-2021, I participated in the various Executive Board meetings online.

I was honored to acknowledge the donations to the Friends of ABA (FoA) and provide recognition in the Bell Tower to those individuals and chapters that helped support the ABA financially.

By Convention 2021, I will have identified members- and some chairpersons – to be appointed to the organization's many committees and functions. Following my installation as President at the end of Convention, I shall seek the Executive Board's support of these appointments.

The First Vice President serves on the Budget Committee and works with the Treasurer and other committee members to formulate a financial vision for the coming year.

It was my privilege to work closely with President Diane Bradfield and the Executive Committee through the challenges of the Covid 19 virus this year. I am grateful to Past Presidents Arlene Forman, Sue Waket and Jane Davenport for sharing their experience and expertise with me.

FRIENDS OF ABA REPORT
BONNIE TIPPERY, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
(For the fiscal year 4/1/2020 through 3/31/2021)

Members of ABA are exemplary in the giving of their time, service, and monetary donations in support of this organization. The First Vice President acknowledges monetary gifts to the Friends of ABA fund. Deepest thanks go the Treasurer Shirley Russell and Membership Chairman Nancy Kirk who help make the fund administration run smoothly.

As of March 31, 2021, eleven thank you notes of acknowledgment were sent this fiscal year to donors. The total amount of donations received is \$1083. This figure does not include donations that were made to Friends of ABA in lieu of expense reimbursement. The total is up slightly from last year. There were no new Major Donors this year.

Second Vice President 2020-2021

Sue Goebel

After agreeing to serve in the same position for a second year, and mourning the cancelled convention, my year as 2nd vice president began. One of the first things I did was send personal letters to each of those who had registered as ‘first timers’ for the convention. I wanted to encourage them to continue their interest in attending the convention as soon as it was safe to do so. I actually received a reply back from a couple of them, and look forward to greeting them (hopefully) this year.

With respect to the board, I have worked to be involved in the board communications and votes on any motions on the table. I try to respond in a timely and thoughtful manner. I look forward to being able to meet in person, which always facilitates communication, and will allow me to get to know everyone better.

Secretary 2020-21

Kathleen Collins

As the 2020 ABA convention was cancelled due to COVID-19, the usual procedures for the ABAAI Secretary were not completed. The entire Executive Board continued in their positions for another year, so there was no updating of motion books. Two years of motion book updating will be done after the 2021 convention when a new Executive Board will be installed.

- Participated in and recorded minutes for all online meetings of the 2020-21 Executive Board.
- Maintained the list and indices of all motions of the Executive Board.
- Submitted a list of all Executive Board actions for each issue of *The Bell Tower*.
- Requested an annual report from each officer, appointee, and committee chair; these will be shared with all concerned. A hard copy of the reports will be available in the BEHOLD room at the convention.

Treasurer's Report 2021

Shirley Russell, Treasurer

Balance Sheet - As of 3/31/2021

(Cash Basis)

5/21/2021

Page 1

Account	3/31/2021 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
ABAll Checking 229000795413	2,685.03
ABAll Savings 3772337642	8,023.32
Collins Memorial Fund 3772337655	5,053.95
Conv CD 8100002416569	15,985.62
Convention Advance Acct.	6,795.60
Convention Emerg. 3772337668	10,053.96
Savings CD 8100002416577	69,029.83
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	117,627.31
Other Assets	
PayPal	38.54
Pre-Paid Expenses	793.80
Stripe	0.00
TOTAL Other Assets	832.34
TOTAL ASSETS	118,459.65
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Credit Cards	
Corp Card 5386	0.00
VISA CCard-MC 5511	0.00
VISA CCard-Treas 5394	0.00
TOTAL Credit Cards	0.00
Other Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	118,459.65
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	118,459.65

5/21/2021

Profit and Loss Statement
4/1/2020 through 3/31/2021 (Cash Basis)

Page 1

Category	4/1/2020- 3/31/2021
INCOME	
Bell Tower Income	
Ad Receipts	200.00
Misc Income-Postage~Foreign	954.00
Misc Income-Postage~US	1,180.00
TOTAL Bell Tower Income	2,334.00
Collins Memorial BT Fund Receipts	1,117.90
Directory Income	
2017 Directory Mailing Deposits	0.00
TOTAL Directory Income	0.00
Friends of ABA	
Monetary	1,083.00
TOTAL Friends of ABA	1,083.00
Interest Inc	
ABA Savings	6.57
ABA Savings CD	214.21
Collins Savings	2.93
Conv Emerg CD Income	49.61
Conv Emerg Savings Income	5.32
TOTAL Interest Inc	278.64
Membership Dues	13,416.00
Misc. Income	49.40
TOTAL INCOME	18,278.94
EXPENSES	
Bell Tower Expenses	
Color Picture Expense (Collins Fund)	3,840.00
Editor's Expense-Supplies	384.94
Editor's Fee	11,400.00
Mailing Extras & Replacements	42.42
Misc. BT Expenses	76.99
Publication Expense	15,344.25
TOTAL Bell Tower Expenses	31,088.60
Committee-Appointee Expenses	
BT Collins Fund Expense	68.90
Membership Chairman	380.32
Membership Expansion	415.18
Nominating Comm.	300.16
TOTAL Committee-Appointee Expe...	1,164.56
Convention Expense	
Convention Expense	216.96
TOTAL Convention Expense	216.96
Insurance & Bond	
Bond	183.00
Liability	847.80
TOTAL Insurance & Bond	1,030.80
Internet Web Site	849.25
Legal Fees	
Corporate Annual Report	50.00
TOTAL Legal Fees	50.00

5/21/2021

Profit and Loss Statement
4/1/2020 through 3/31/2021 (Cash Basis)

Page 2

Category	4/1/2020- 3/31/2021
Misc. Expense	270.70
Officers Expenses	
President	193.44
Treasurer	247.64
TOTAL Officers Expenses	441.08
TOTAL EXPENSES	35,111.95
OVERALL TOTAL	-16,833.01

Immediate Past President 2020-21

Arlene R. Foreman

As Immediate Past President, I attended the first meeting of the 2019-2020 Executive Board in Dubuque, Iowa.

As the Immediate Past President, it has been my pleasure to help and assist President Dianne Bradfield when needed.

I have participated in email discussions and have voted on motions presented throughout the year.

As required by the Bylaws, I was an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee.

My last duty will be the honor of installing ABA's new officers at the Convention banquet in Knoxville. It has been an honor to serve on the board of the ABA and to work with the many dedicated members of our organization.

Member At Large Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Annette Hunt

I have answered all ABA Board emails, participated in all online board meetings, and have voted on all motions. I will continue to participate in board business the remainder of my term of office.

I have answered all Convention Committee emails and have voted on all issues. I will continue to participate in the committee emails and business for the rest of my term.

As the representative of the ABA members to the Board and Convention Committee I have sent out regular email letters to the ABA members with an email address on file.

I have received emails back from members and try to answer those emails and passed member suggestions and questions on to the people and committees that could answer their question.

I have tried to encourage members to continue meeting with other chapter members by zoom meetings while unable to meet in person due to the pandemic. I have participated in zoom meetings with 3 other chapters. A member from Italy sent that he would like to be involved in a zoom meeting as he had never met another ABA member. I arranged for him to be part of our Gateway Arch Chapter Meeting. I presently am setting up an International Zoom Chapter. They are excited about having their own chapter.

Thank you for the pleasure of serving as your Member At Large for the last 3 years.

**Past President on the Board Report
2020 – 2021
Laura Murgia**

I have answered emails sent to the board and offered perspectives and advice when requested. I have consulted with other Past Presidents as needed.

**Legal Advisor Report—2020-2021
Bill Kenworthy**

During the past year (2020) I approved contracts for the hotel and entertainment for the 2020 convention hotel. Contracts for the 2021 convention and for the convention bell also have been reviewed and approved.

Legal advice was provided to the Board on application of the doctrines of force majeure and also frustration of purpose by governmental action as applicable to the pandemic and our hotel commitments. It was also necessary to write a letter to the hotel explaining the Association's position on that matter.

**Parliamentarian Report—2020-2021
Bill Kenworthy**

During the past year, because no convention was held, there were no duties to be performed as parliamentarian.

Committee Chairs & Appointees

**Auction Coordinator, 2020-2021
Bruce Clayton**

We have no figures to report from the auction because the 2020 convention was cancelled due to Covid-19. We did have a full slate of sellers who called in for the 2020 convention. We decided to keep the same sellers for the 2021 convention in Knoxville. A few have cancelled, and we had a waiting list of sellers who would like to be in the 2021 convention. We have filled the sellers' list, so we are preparing the auction catalog. We are hoping to have a successful auction in Knoxville.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR, 2020-2021
Cindy Knoblauch**

As the Audit Committee chairman I was unable to audit the the April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020 books of the Treasurer as the Annual ABA Convention that was scheduled to be held from June 15, through June 19, 2020 in Charleston, WV was cancelled due to the Covid 19 virus epidemic.

BEHOLD ROOM REPORT, 2020-2021

Marge Edwards

Larry Glassco started the BEHOLD (Bell Educational Hands Off Learning Display) in 1991. As of 2021, 189 displays have been presented by our resourceful ABA members and have been enjoyed by thousands of appreciative Conventioneers over the BEHOLD Room history.

I started contacting ABA members in March 2021 to see if they were interested in providing a display for the 2021 convention BEHOLD room. The following members will be presenting a display.

Sue Goebel Goebel Bells

Luida Shearer Fenton Bells

Shari Giemer Mechanical Bells

Annette Hunt Wooden Bells

Marilyn Grismere Wedding Cup Bells

2020-21 Bell Tower Report

Marilyn Grismere, Editor

Thanks to the many article contributors that have supplied articles this year for the *The Bell Tower* magazine. I try to continually upgrade the magazine in finding new articles that the members will enjoy. I look forward to each issue coming together and making the self-imposed deadline.

The following individuals provide contributions to each issue. They are in alphabetical order: **Kathleen Collins, Chiming in with the Collins Family; Dianne Bradfield, President's page; Betty Goodson, In Memoriam; Ruth Ann Frank, Collins Bells Tower Fund; Sue Moore, Chapter Chimes and Notes; and Nancy Kirk, Membership, For Whom The Bell Peal; Bonnie Tippery/Shirley Russell, Friends of ABA....** And last but not least, the continual support of the chairperson of *The Bell Tower* Committee Chairman **Marie Varian** and my proofreader. It takes a team to get *The Bell Tower* issues into your hands, and I thank every one of the contributors.

The issue article for this year were:

- 🔔 **July-August 2020**—"Bylaws Report" by Laura Murgia; "Bells from Sears, Roebuck" by Carl Zimmerman; "Cat Bells and the Crazy Lady Who Owns Them" by Cindy Knoblauch; "Fairy, Brigut, and Jolly Gorodets Painting" by Larissa Franczek
- 🔔 **September-August 2020**—"A Life of Pursued Passions Rings On" by Jossy Rogers, Hastings College; "Pass the Salt Please" by Cindy Knoblauch; "Old But Not Forgotten" by Sue Wakat and Pauline and Wade Prentice; "Bells of India" by Roma Croy.
- 🔔 **November-December 2020**—"2021 ABA Convention" by Marilyn Grismere; "Pass the Salt Please—Part II" by Cindy Knoblauch; "Salamander Bells" by the late Ruth Mularcik; "Handle Happenings" on China's Collectible Bells" by Shari Geimer; "Antique English Wedding Bell" by Rob Roy; "Ringing in a Winter Wonderland" by Robin Koozer
- 🔔 **January-February 2021**—"Gerry Ballantyne & The French Soldier" by Gary Childress; "The Perfect Birthday Gift for the New Year???" by Sue Wakat; "Dragonfly Garden Globe Bells" by

Ailene Pearce; “From Japan—To the Auction & Sales Room, Part I” by Kathleen Collins; “Our Bell Bargains—\$10 or less” by Shari Geimer.

🔔 **March-April 2021**—“Then and Now...Call Bells” by Robin Koozer, Hastings College; “Our Special Bell Friend” by Sally and Rob Roy; “J. Warner & Sons, London, England” by Tin Verdin; “The Walrus Ivory Bell” by Larissa Franczek; “Knoxville Gateway to the Smoky Mountains” by Marilyn Grismere; “From Japan—To the Auction & Sales Room, Part II” by Kathleen Collins; Using Zoom for an ABA Chapter Meeting” by Carl Zimmerman.

🔔 **May-June 2021**—“Knoxville—Gateway to the Smoky Mountains—75th Convention” by Marilyn Grismere; “Bianzhong Bronze Bells” by the late Dorothy Foster; “Our Nodding Novelties” by Shari Geimer; “The Drummer Boy Toy” by Robert Watrous; “26 Years—The Road from Passion to The Museum of Bells of the World” by Ovidiu Oana-Pârâu; “Vintage Toys with Bells” by Bonnie Tippery.

Goals for Next Year

- 🔔 Continue to search for new articles and arm-twist those that have been sitting in the sidelines.
- 🔔 Send articles to some journals for re-print to encourage new membership in the organization.

THE BELL TOWER COMMITTEE **ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021** **Marie Varian, Chair**

In the aftermath of the massive shutdowns caused by Covid-19, nothing was as we had planned – mainly, NO CONVENTION. But, work must go on, and it did.

Every issue of *The Bell Tower* was mailed on schedule. Editor Marilyn Grismere made sure of that. Authors of regular features, new authors, and past authors together turned in terrific articles on many, many bell subjects. See the complete list printed in Marilyn’s annual report.

Ruth Ann Frank handled all donations to the Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund, as she has done for years. Her task includes writing thank-you letters to donors, as well as sending word of in- memory and in-honor donations to a family’s contact person. Ruth Ann reports \$1969.90 in contributions this year. See Ruth Ann’s report in each *Bell Tower* issue.

Ron Weaver is custodian/guardian of the back-up membership data base. This protection assures the safe-keeping of such vital information. Ron is also the person to contact for another copy of *The Bell Tower* should yours arrive damaged in the mail, or if you just want another copy. Guaranteed, Ron will take care of your request promptly. A small fee is required to cover postage. See instructions in *The Bell Tower*.

Jim Cayey handles all requests for advertising in *The Bell Tower*. He carefully and adeptly guides would-be advertisers through the process. There are times when a potential advertisement does not fit ABA rules and protocol. This entails Jim’s ability for genial conversation while explaining the reasons for refusal. See advertising instruction and fee schedule in each *Bell Tower* issue.

Becky Ryan and Glenn Edwards do not have year-around specific jobs, but would step in if there is a need. Part of any committee member’s responsibility is to offer opinion, answer emails promptly, be willing to help, and hold down the fort, so to speak. Becky and Glenn are always very willing to do their part.

We very sincerely thank Membership Coordinator Nancy Kirk for faithfully supplying *The Bell Tower's* membership mailing list to the printing house each and every issue. The Committee thanks everyone who in any way helps in the production of *The Bell Tower*. Even the smallest need needs someone.

As of this writing, the Chair did not have all the usual income and expense figures available. A financial report will be available at Convention 2021.

Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund, 2020-2021

Ruth Ann Frank

Contributions to the Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund are used to offset the cost of the full color issues of *The Bell Tower*.

During the past fiscal year, we received 36 contributions to the Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund totaling \$1,969.90. About 50 acknowledgements were printed and sent to the donors and to family members of those memorialized or honored.

My expenses incurred in handling this fund were \$68.90, which was donated back to the Collins Fund.

Bylaws Committee, 2020 – 2021

Laura Murgia

I answered questions from the Executive Board and members during the year about the bylaws and standing rules. Also being Past President on the Executive Board I was able to monitor board communications and motions. When needed, I advised the President on specific motions and how to carry them out.

In early 2020 the committee was asked to review Standing Rule #9. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 convention due to Covid-19 the change was unable to be presented to the membership.

The committee approved and did forward to the Bell Tower Editor an amendment for publication in the 2020 and 2021 May/June issues of *The Bell Tower*.

Change Standing Rule #9: Membership data and directory information shall ~~not to~~ be made available electronically through the ABA website **only in a members only section of the website.**

The committee did give its approval to the Executive Board to allow the directory to be in the members only section of the website until the amendment could be voted on by the membership.

The change to the Standing Rule will be presented to the membership at the 2021 Knoxville Convention

ABA Chaplain

Annual Report 2020/2021

Betty Goodson

As ABA Chaplain during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, I have submitted reports to the Bell Tower Editor for the "In Memoriam" column which consists of member deaths during the year.

In preparing for this report, I must seek information from chapter members, family and the internet. A great deal of this information starts with our Membership Chairman, Nancy Kirk. Nancy learns of a

member's passing many times when she sends renewal reminders. I would like to know of these as early as possible so I can get the information needed in order to honor them. Also, it would be helpful to be able to send condolences to family in a timely manner.

Since there was no convention held in 2020, I had no conventions duties to perform. This year at convention, I do plan to include the previous year's deaths in the "in Memoriam" program.

2020-2021 Annual Report
Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator
Susan Moore

Activities accomplished during my eighth term:

- ❖ Corresponded with *The Bell Tower* reporters prior to the due date of the next issue
 - Responded to emails and questions
 - Acknowledged receipt of chapter minutes and announcements
 - Encouraged chapters to include photos with their meeting minutes
 - Requested that chapters send in meeting announcements, chapter news, photos of bell displays by chapter members and other items of interest, especially if the chapter did not have a recent meeting to report on
 - Helped chapters develop procedures for holding meetings via Zoom. This included scheduling and conducting the meetings and using photos to document Bell and Tell and meeting attendance.
 - Encouraged chapters not having meetings due to COVID19 to submit alternate reports highlighting chapter members with short bios or describing favorite bells.
- ❖ Prepared "Chapter Chimes" column for *The Bell Tower* for all issues and communicated with editor Marilyn Grismere
- ❖ Attended additional chapter meetings via Zoom including the first International Meeting, Pittsburgh, New England, and Gateway Arch chapters.
- ❖ Continued to keep current a chart of the chapters' presidents, secretaries, *The Bell Tower* reporters, and ABA website contacts and their contact information
- ❖ Will conduct a meeting of the chapter representatives at the Knoxville, Tennessee, convention
 - Working to develop a new format for listing the chapters and contact information that will better delineate active chapters and will make better use of space (6 pages) assigned to "Chapter Chimes."
 - Will introduce chapter representatives at a specified lunch at convention

The following chapters have disbanded or have no current members:

Aloha	Bell Collectors of Ontario	
Bell Study Club of Cincinnati (merged with Heart of Ohio)		
DiMarVa	Japan Eki Rei	
New Zealand	Northern California Bell Friends	
Oregon	Southern Michigan	York Penn

The following chapters are inactive, do not currently hold meetings, or have had to cancel meetings due to ill health and/or low number of attendees. In most cases, they still have an officer or another ABA member willing to serve as a contact person. The contact person may respond to the pre-issue emails and attend the chapter representative meeting at convention.

Bell Study Group of Northern Ohio	Colonial	Colorado	Greater
Chicago West	Iowa	Metropolitan New York	
North Lake Shore		Southern Chimes Texas	

These chapters remain active. In most cases they contribute meeting minutes and photos to “Chapter Chimes.”

Arizona Desert Bells	Bell Collectors of the British Isles	
Bell Friends of Wisconsin	Florida	Great Lakes (Michigan)
Gateway Arch	Heart of America Chimes	Heart of Ohio
Hoosier Bells of Indiana	Minnesota	New England
Pacific Northwest	Pittsburgh	San Diego Mission Bells
Southern California Campanology Club		

I have not received correspondence this year from these chapters:

Bell Study of Northern Ohio	Chattanooga Chimes
Iowa	Kangaroo (Australia)
Southern Chimes	Texas

The reports shared in the “Chapter Chimes” column this year reflect some of the ideas of one chapter that have been incorporated by another chapter. The main effort of chapters this year has been to meet via Zoom and to learn about and improve this type of meeting. Even after chapters start in-person meetings, Zoom can be an important tool for maintaining contact with members not able to travel to meetings. This leads to the second effort of chapters - to keep current members active.

Incoming President Bonnie has asked me to continue in this position for another year. I have two goals. 1) Continue to find ways to keep chapter members involved through electronic and other means. 2) Rework the format of the column in *The Bell Tower* to allow more space for chapter news and to condense the space taken up by disbanded and/or inactive chapters.

I have enjoyed the coordinator job as it allows me regular correspondence with ABA members throughout the world. In addition to the meetings listed above, I have attended meetings of Heart of America Chimes and the Minnesota Chapter. While it is sad to see chapters disband or fall into inactivity, it is important to support the active chapters. They help convey the joy of bell collecting and bell friendship, serve as an important communication conduit, and bring new members into the ABA.

Convention Committee Annual Report 2020-2021

Carol Jurin

The 2019-2020 Convention Committee's Annual Report looked forward to the annual ABA 2019 Charleston, WV convention. Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic, the 2019-2020 convention was cancelled. Judy Blake, Convention Treasurer, sent refund checks to all registered convention attendees. The purchased 2019 convention bell created by Mary Bethune, Gauley River Pottery, West Virginia, were mailed to all buyers.

Since the 2019 Dubuque, Iowa convention the Committee's business has been conducted via email.

In September 2020 a visit was made to Knoxville, Tennessee the 2021 Convention site. The visit included a stay at the Crowne Plaza, Hotel, Knoxville, TN to make convention plans, plus meeting the Knoxville visitor's bureau representative. The pre-convention site visit proved worthwhile and included the ABA Convention Presiding President, ABA Hotel Coordinator, ABA Convention Coordinator, and a representative from the ABA Convention Committee.

Marilyn Grismere, Knoxville Convention Coordinator and ABA *the Bell Tower* editor, has been wearing multiple convention hats, both in convention planning and publicity.

Alan Bergdorf, ABA's Hotel Coordinator, is the Knoxville hotel liaison and tour planner. Alan also renegotiated the Charleston, West Virginia Embassy Suite's hotel contract from 2019 to 2022.

Even though 2019-2020 saw the approval of a complete guideline's revision, an ongoing Convention Committee task is updating the ABA Convention Guidelines. The convention treasurer's section needs revising to include both online banking and registration.

Thank you to retiring member Art Frank, a charter member of this committee, 2002.

2020-2021 committee members:

Voting: Carol Jurin, Coordinator; Nancy Kirk, Secretary; Art Frank; Brenda Spratt; Marilyn Grismere, immediate past convention coordinator; Annette Hunt, ABA member-at-large

non-voting: Dianne Bradfield, ABA President and Alan Bergdorf, Hotel Coordinator.

Historian Annual Report 2020-21 Kathleen Collins

During this year I have received seven requests for a total of eight articles from The Bell Tower; three were requests for information on bell related materials. All but one person had email, so most articles were sent as email attachments; the other materials were sent via the US mail.

I reminded people who made requests that flash drives containing all issues of The Bell Tower from 1940-2018 were available through the Special Services Coordinator, Sue Wakat.

I created a Powerpoint presentation to be given at the 2021 convention, celebrating 75 years of ABAII convention history.

Hotel Coordinator Annual Report FY 2020-21
Alan Burgdorf – ABA Hotel Coordinator – alanburgdorf@hotmail.com

As you know, the 2020 ABA Annual Convention, scheduled for the Embassy Suites hotel in Charleston WV, was cancelled due to Covid. It has been rescheduled, under the same contract conditions, for that hotel in 2022.

After an extensive search of hotels in three cities, and prior to the emergence of Covid, the Crowne Plaza hotel in Knoxville TN was chosen for the 2021 annual convention. The selected dates are the last week of May, instead of the more usual June dates. The hotel offered to waive the convention space charges, which would have been in the \$10,000 range in the more popular summer period. ABA President Dianne Bradfield and members of the Convention Committee visited the hotel for a planning meeting last September, and all were very impressed with the facilities and location.

For 2023, I will consider a venue in the western part of the Central District, perhaps Omaha NE, from which we had received favorable responses when previously searching for a 2022 location. I will want to see the 2021, and possibly 2022, attendance figures before sending out a new RFP.

The same problems remain as previously discussed. We seek a quality hotel, with good convention facilities, in a desirable and accessible location, but with declining attendance those hotels are increasingly harder to find on favorable terms. Some hotels will no longer even respond to a request for bid. Other hotels may want a higher room rate, or a rental charge for convention space, since our room nights and food and beverage purchases are below their minimum.

**2021 ABA Convention
Knoxville TN**

2021 MAY Crowne Plaza - Room Nights - Activity						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 5
23 35	24 45	25 55	26 55	27 55	28 50	29 5
Arrive	Tour	Conv1	Conv2	Conv3	Conv4	Depart
30	31					
	Memorial Day					

**2022 ABA Convention
Charleston WV**

2022 JUNE Room Nights - Activity						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 5
12 40	13 50	14 60	15 60	16 60	17 55	18 5
Arrive	Tour	Conv1	Conv2	Conv3	Conv4	Depart

Crowne Plaza Hotel
401 W Summit Hill Dr
Knoxville TN 37902



Embassy Suites
300 Court Street
Charleston WV 25301



To keep track of donations to Friends of ABA and the Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund, notifying the First Vice President of the former and the CMBTF contact of the latter, as well as the ABA Treasurer for both.

To maintain current contact information for all members, updating the database as necessary and listing all changes as well as new member information in each issue of *The Bell Tower*. To notify the Welcome Letter Writers Committee of new members, and to notify the Chaplain of any deaths discovered.

Before the printing of each *Bell Tower*, to provide a list of US members receiving bulk mail, US members receiving first class mail, and international members. At about this same time every other month, to send the Website Coordinator an updated list of members for the Directory in the online Members Forum.

From time to time to provide database information for printing a directory or for an all-member emailing.

To make expenditures, notify the ABA Treasurer, and keep accurate financial records as necessary for the duties of the position.

To participate in email and (most years) in person meetings/business of the Membership Expansion Committee and/or The Bell Tower Committee.

To answer or refer random questions as they come to the Membership Coordinator as the contact listed on the website.

Each time I modify the database, I back it up to iCloud and to a flash drive. I also send a backup twice a year to Ron Weaver as Database Custodian.

ANNUAL REPORT, 2020-2021

Membership Expansion Committee

Jane Boldenow

We have accomplished several goals and feel that each one is aligned with MEC's Job Description (*see italics, below*):

Hold a Membership Expansion Committee meeting during convention:

Because of the Covid pandemic the national convention was not held in the summer of 2020. The last meeting of the Membership Expansion Committee was on June 26, 2019, at the 74th bell convention in Dubuque, Iowa. We plan to meet at the Knoxville, Tennessee convention in May of 2021. Current members are: Jane Boldenow, Ardis Copple, Penny Clouse, Nancy Kirk, Advisor, and Marilyn Grismere, ex-officio.

Meetings and communication between members should happen throughout the year via mail, email or other means:

Since June of 2020 our committee has communicated many times via email.

Place advertisements in national/local publications:

We renewed our ad in the *Antique Week* publication.

- ❖ The ad was revised in 2019. The fee is \$220/year, for 52 weekly issues.
- ❖ '*Antique Week has the largest paid circulation of any antiques and collectibles newspaper in the United States and has been published weekly since 1968.*'

- ❖ In January of 2019 The American Bell Association was featured in a front-page article of *AntiqueWeek*.

We did not renew our ad in the *Antique Trader* publication, a bi-weekly magazine. The fee is \$250 year. Our budget is \$300/year.

Prepare articles for *The Bell Tower*, as needed:

Messages in *The Bell Tower* have appeared in the following issues:

- ❖ January-February 2020
- ❖ March-April 2020
- ❖ January-February 2021
- ❖ March-April 2021
- ❖ And also in the December 2020 Member-at-Large email message

Messages offer ideas to ABA members such as using ABA's Business cards (see below); consider gift memberships to ABA; invite a friend or family member to a chapter meeting or the convention, and more.

Maintain adequate supplies of Membership Promotion Pamphlets and ABA cards and distribute to chapters and/or members upon request. Bring a supply of these items to convention.

- ❖ Our committee has paid for the printing of 500 ABA Business cards. The fee was \$51.30.
- ❖ Through messages in *The Bell Tower* we have offered to send free cards to members upon request; or, cards can be printed from ABA's website. It is suggested that cards can be distributed in antique establishments, with gifts or greeting cards, and in other ways.
- ❖ Business cards and pamphlets (An Introduction to Bell Collecting) will be offered to members at the national convention in Knoxville, Tennessee, in May of 2021.

Appraise expansion growth...

In March of 2021 our committee fulfilled its obligation to review the Job Description of the Membership Expansion Committee. We thoughtfully studied the components and made suggestions to Laura Murgia. In order to appraise expansion growth we are reviewing data on new members from the Membership Coordinator.

Nominating Committee Annual Report 2020-21

Sue Wakat

The nominating committee worked diligently all year to obtain candidates for the positions on the board. Jane Davenport worked tirelessly on vetting people to make sure they met the requirements for all positions. The result was that we were still missing a person for second vice-president by the time the nominees were written in the *Bell Tower*.

Thanks to Kathleen Collins, at a later point, a person who would accept the second vice-president position was found and will be nominated from the floor at convention.

We also worked with the first vice-president to help her with names of people who would need some experience on committees and positions of leadership in order to be nominated for positions on the board at a later time.

Chairman Past Presidents' Group, 2020-2021

Betty Goodson

As chairman of the Past Presidents' Group, my duties consist of keeping our Past Presidents informed of any happenings in ABA and to share information about our group. Most of this is done with email, but correspondence is also done with regular mail as needed. One of the things I like most is carrying on the tradition started by Past President, Kay Weaver of sending cards to our own group; those including birthday, get well, thinking of you, sympathy and other celebrations.

With no annual convention held in 2020, my duties were less, considerably. There being no meeting to conduct, and no programs or minutes to mail, I just sent an update on addresses and information on our group. The list does have to be updated yearly as we usually add an outgoing president to our group. Even that did not happen this past year. I look forward to our convention this year, seeing many of our group and all our other bell friends.

ABA SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Bonnie Tippery

ABA Twitter Page - <https://twitter.com/AmericanBell>

The American Bell Association's Twitter page was created in September 2009. Currently, the website has 294 followers and is following 426 other Twitter members who have indicated an interest in bells. Most of our followers are organizations of bell ringers located throughout the world. Postings are written in their native languages so if one wants to read their messages, it is necessary to use a language translator program.

In scrolling through the postings currently on the ABA's Twitter page, there are few past or present ABA members. There are no announcements of chapter meetings or pictures and information about collectible bells on our Twitter website. Most of the participants on the site are not interested in collecting and researching bells.

It may be time to discontinue having an ABA Twitter page since it does not appear to be working for the ABA.

ABA Facebook Page

During the year, the Facebook Media Coordinator responded to 24 Facebook messages concerning bell related topics on behalf of the organization. In addition, several informational messages were posted by the coordinator and 24 informational messages were posted by others.

Topics of Posts:

1. 2020 Convention Bell
2. Bells purchased this year
3. Questions about bells
4. Notable bell displays
5. Information on the 2021 convention

Activity: As of April 13, 2021, the ABA Facebook site shows that there are 417 people following us on Facebook.

Special Services Annual Report 2020-2021

Sue Wakat

There has been very little activity with Special Services this past year.

One flash drive of the Bell Towers was sold and there are two remaining.

We do not have quite enough convention bells for the first-timers this year but there are people who are bringing some to make up for this deficit.

Programs are a definite problem. The way forward will probably be to somehow get people to voice-over their programs and put them on the web site on the members only side. The members only side is wonderful and more people need to be encouraged to sign up for this so they have access to things like the programs. Many people do not even have a DVD any more so programs being sent out on DVD's are not useful. Slides are even less useful.

There are still some programs on slides that are actually deteriorating that still have to be changed to DVD in order to save them and possibly get them to the web.

TAX CONSULTANT, 2020-2021

Bruce Clayton

Re: Preparation of the Federal Non-Profit Income Tax Return

I received the fiscal year, April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020, financial statement prepared by the ABA II treasurer, Shirley Russell.

I prepared the fiscal year end, March 31, 2020 non-profit tax return form 990, and it was electronically filed on a timely basis.

The American Bell Association, International, Inc., is in good standing with the Federal Government, and there are no communications going on at this time.

I have answered and assisted on any questions that have come up in the last year concerning taxes.

Town Crier Annual Report: 2020-2021

Terry Laduke

I am looking forward to serving as the Town Crier at 2021 ABA convention. It will an honor to fulfill this appointment. To maintain a great tradition, I will be in character attire complete with bell and serve at the pleasure of the ABA.

Seeing you all again will be exciting and fun.

Welcome Letter Writers Chairman's Report, 2020-2021

Mary Levins

For the fiscal year 2020-2021 the Welcome Letter Writers have written letters to twenty nine new members and two returning members. This was an increase of three over last year. The new members were from twenty one different states, the District of Columbia and two foreign countries. With the acknowledgement they receive from the membership chairman and the letters from us, we hope to make them feel truly welcome.

I would like to thank Teddy Skattum for her service on the committee. She will be missed. It was nice to welcome back Betty Goodson. Annette Hunt and Kathy Quiney also served on the committee with me this year.

There has been good communication between Nancy Kirk, the membership chairman, and myself. This has resulted in the letters going out in a timely manner. Nancy will sometimes add additional information about new members. This has allowed us to create more personal letters. Most letters are now sent via email. This has continued to increase communication between new members and the letter writers.