

2021-2022 Annual Reports

Auction Coordinator
BEHOLD Coordinator
Bell Tower Committee Report & Budget
Bell Tower: Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund
Bell Tower Editor
Bylaws Committee
Chaplain
Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator
Convention Committee
First Vice President
Historian
Hotel Coordinator
Immediate Past President
Job Description Coordinator
Legal Advisor
Member at Large
Membership Coordinator
Nominating Committee
Outreach Committee
Parliamentarian
Past Presidents' Group
Past Presidents Representative
Post Convention Statistics Report jpeg
President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Social Media
Special Services
Tax Consultant
Town Crier
Treasurer
Website Coordinator
Welcome Letter Writers

AUCTION COORDINATOR

Annual Report 2021-2022

Bruce Clayton

We had a very successful auction at the Knoxville, Tennessee Convention. There were some outstanding bells up for auction, and the buyers were in attendance. Our gross revenue was down from previous years, but I thought it went very well. Considering there was no convention in 2020 due to the pandemic, I thought it was a success. There were a lot of good people that helped the day of the auction.

The auction sold 237 bells plus (7) items that were donated for a gross revenue of \$ 14,305.00 dollars. ABA received \$ 355.00 from the donated items. In addition the 15% proceeds to ABA totaled \$ 2,090.50. We incurred \$ 232.42 in expenses, mainly printing the auction catalog. After expenses the net proceeds to ABA was \$ 2,215.08. The remaining \$ 13,950.00 was distributed to the sellers.

BEHOLD ROOM
Annual Report 2021 – 2022
Marge Edwards , Coordinator

Larry Glassco started the BEHOLD (Bell Educational Hands Off Learning Display) in 1991. As of the January 2022, 195 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 February 2022 to see if they were interested in providing a display for the 2022 convention BEHOLD room. This year there is 9 wonderful displays. Be sure to come in and check them out.

Kelsey Murphy Cameo Glass	Lucille Kenworthy
Bell Toys	Bob Watrous
Bell Basic	Sue Moore
Nativity Bells & Companion Pieces	Peggy Nelson
Daniel Riccio Bells	Aileen Pearcee
Fenton Bells	Luida Shearer
Queen Elizabeth & Family Bells	Marilyn Grismer
Silver Table Bells	Alan Burgdorf
Mr. & Mrs. French Faience	Ed & Janie Hendzlik

Thank you to all who are helping with this year's BEHOLD Room.

THE BELL TOWER COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2021-2022
Marie Varian, Chair

And another year has passed. Members of *The Bell Tower* Committee, including our ex-officios, faithfully continued in their respective positions, and all have given notice that they are willing to continue on through 2022-2023.

Our outstanding *Bell Tower* topped itself again with its huge variety of articles and photos, all in brilliant color. Editor Marilyn Grismere will supply a detailed listing in her own Annual Report. We enjoy the close working relationship we have with our printing house, Sundance Press of Tucson, Arizona. Our Membership Coordinator, Nancy Kirk, supplies Sundance with each issue's up-to-date mailing list.

We are expecting costs to continue to rise, and, of course, we have no control over postage rates. *The Bell Tower* uses particular grades of paper, which, at any time, could become unavailable, forcing use of substitute, less desirable grades. Sundance is keeping watch of this.

If you're thinking of making a donation to ABA, we STRONGLY urge you to think of the Collins Memorial *Bell Tower* Fund. It's sole purpose is to "help maintain excellence and perpetuation of the

publishing of *The Bell Tower*". At present, the Fund allots \$640.00 per issue. Donations this year totaled \$2492.28. The Fund's end-of-the year balance was \$5024.14. Ruth Ann Frank handles all the internal workings of the Fund, and the donations are forwarded to the ABA Treasurer. At the rate of this year's income and outgo, the Collins Fund will deplete in three and one-half years.

We ask that all ABA members thinking of selling bells, looking for particular bells, or anything bells, to advertise in *The Bell Tower*. A three-line ad is only \$5.00 and various other sizes range from \$12.50 to the full page for \$100.00. Jim Cayey manages the advertising and he will walk you through the process and give you good advice. Advertising income this year totaled \$710.00.

ABAers may not be aware of this, but Ron Weaver is custodian of ABA's back-up Membership data base – should anything happen to Nancy's software, we are protected. Ron also houses a supply of *Bell Towers* in case someone's *BT* gets damaged in the mail, or if extra copies are wanted for whatever reason.

Our people mentioned above, plus Glenn Edwards, Rebecca Ryan, and Marie Varian as Chair strive to keep this Committee running smoothly. Monies coming and going are properly accounted for and good records are kept. We welcome and appreciate hearing membership's ideas on any *Bell Tower* subject.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Varian, Chair
Ruth Ann Frank
Ronald Weaver
James Cayey

Glenn Edwards
Rebecca Ryan
Marilyn Grismere, *Bell Tower* Editor, Ex-officio
Nancy Kirk, Membership Coordinator, Ex-officio

2021-2022 BELL TOWER BUDGET

Marie Varian, Chair

	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>SPENT</u> (amounts as shown on Treasurer's Report)
Editor's Fee	\$11,700.00	\$11,650.00
Editor's Expense & Supplies	400.00	686.82
Editor's Convention Registration	0.00	320.00
Publication	16,716.00	18,932.73 (includes *)
Less: From Collins Fund	(3,840.00)	
Quick-pay Discount	(319.00)	
Mailing:		
Bulk (U.S. Standard)	1,082.00	*
First Class & International	2,079.00	*
Replacement & Extra Copies	100.00	182.44
Less: First Class, Int'l, & Extra Fees Paid	(1,653.00)	(1,416.00)
Advertising Expense	60.00	*
Chair & Miscellaneous Expense	<u>80.00</u>	<u> </u> (listed elsewhere)

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

The articles for this year were:

- 🔔 **July-August 2021** – “Push, Pull, and Ride Toys” by Bonnie Tippet; “By One of Our Own” by Sue Wakat; “Summing Up” by Larissa Franczek; “Will the Real Nicolette Please Stand Up” by Nancy Kirk; “The Bells of Roberto de Cardona, Milan, Italy” by Kathleen Collins; and “Music Fills the Home of Joyce and Philip Nickles” by Philip Nickles.

- 🔔 **September-October 2021** – No articles for the convention issue.

- 🔔 **November-December 2021** – “The History of the 1878 Big Duke Alarm Bell, Savannah, Georgia” collaborated and written by Brent and Marilyn Grismere with the help of Luciana Spracher, the Municipal Archives Director of Savannah, Georgia; “My Many Minis” by Jane Clayton; and “From a Nickel to the Belsnickle” by Cindy Knoblauch.

- 🔔 **January-February 2022** – “New to Zoom?” by Carl Scott Zimmerman; “Flint Glass Bells” presented at the ABA 2018 Convention; “French Faience” by Kathleen Collins; “2022 ABA Bell Convention, Charleston, West Virginia” by Marilyn Grismere; and Pittsburgh Chapter Celebrates 25 Years at Laurel Lodge by Kathleen Collins.

- 🔔 **March-April 2022** -- “Colored Glass Bells—Cased—Flash—Millefiori” by Shari Geimer; “Quiltin’ Bee Thimble Collection” by Laura Murgia; “2022 ABA Bell Convention, Charleston, West Virginia” by Marilyn Grismere; “Flint Glass Bells—Part II” presented at the ABA 2017 Convention; “Preservation Tradition: Bantayan’s Bell Ringer/Town Crier” by Maria Jane C. Paredes; “The Biggest Bell in Our Solar System?” by Jane Davenport; “2015 Past President Joan Elliott” by Chaplain Betty Goodson.

- 🔔 **May-June 2022** – “2022 ABA Convention. Charleston, West Virginia, by Marilyn Grismere; “Antique Mechanical Bells—Part I” presented at the ABA 2021 Convention; “Superior, Wisconsin, Retired Fire Bell by Dave Johnson, Ret. Superior, Wisconsin, Fire Department Captain and Gary Carino; “on the Road Again” by Sue Moore.

Goals for Next Year

- 🔔 Continue to search for new articles and encourage new authors to write an article.
- 🔔 Send articles to some journals for re-print to encourage new membership in the organization.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE
Annual Report 2021 – 2022
Laura Murgia, Chair

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.

At the 2021 Convention a change to Standing Rule #9 was approved. Bylaws on the website were changed to reflect this.

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 approved and did forward to the Bell Tower Editor for publication in the 2022 March/April issue of The Bell Tower a proposed change to a committee name and a change to Standing Rule #28.

Proposed Bylaw and Standing Rules Changes – June 2022

#1 Name Change – Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator to Chapters Coordinator

This would change the name in ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS, SECTION 1.C., Standing Rule #22, and omitted from the New Standing Rule 28 prior to vote.

Reason – easier to say, we have no regional groups at present and if some should develop it would be included in the duties of this position

#2 Standing Rule #28 – Committee Change

OLD

~~28. MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION—The goal of this committee is to expand ABA membership throughout the world. The President, with Executive Board approval, shall appoint three members. The members shall select a Chair. The Membership Coordinator, Second Vice President, and The Bell Tower Editor shall serve in an advisory capacity.~~

POSSIBLE NEW

28. OUTREACH COMMITTEE – The goal of this committee is to reach out and encourage members to be more active in ABA and to develop ways to expand membership throughout the world. The President, with Executive Board approval, shall appoint a minimum of three members. The members shall select a Chair. The Second Vice-President, Member at Large, Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator and Membership Coordinator shall serve on the committee with voice and vote. The committee shall meet a minimum of four times a year (electronic or in-person). The following shall be invited to attend the meetings: President, Bell Tower Editor, Social Media Coordinator, Special Services Coordinator and Website Coordinator and any other interested persons. All persons attending the meeting have a voice.

Reason – It is a clearer understanding of what the committee wishes to do and allows the committee room to develop and grow.

The change of the committee's name and change of Standing Rule #28 will be presented to the membership at the 2022 Charleston, WV Convention business meeting.

Betty Goodson

As Chaplain during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, I have submitted reports to the Bell Tower for the “In Memoriam” column which consists of member deaths during the year.

In preparing for this report, I must rely on information being sent to me, either by family or a chapter member. Actually, most of my information is relayed to me by our Membership Chairman, Nancy Kirk. Nancy often learns of a member’s death when she sends out renewal reminders. Sometimes an entire year has gone by before we learn of a member’s passing. This is unfortunate as it is hard to gather information at that late date. It would certainly help both the Chaplain and the Membership Chairman to learn of these in a timely manner. If members know of a death in our Bell family, please don’t assume someone else had notified us, it will not matter if we hear more than once. Thank you for your help.

At the annual convention, held in Knoxville, TN in May 2021, I was able to perform my duties as Chaplain. At the request of the President, I offered prayers for the opening, closing, and presented the “In Memoriam” program, combining the last two years, as we had no convention last year.

During the year, I sent to condolences to family when I had information to do so.

I will not be able to attend the convention this year, and have enlisted Sue Moore to fill in for me. She will present the “In Memoriam” program, prepared by me, and offer the prayers as requested by the President.

CHAPTERS AND REGIONAL GROUPS COORDINATOR Annual Report 2021-2022 Susan Moore

Activities accomplished during my ninth term:

- ❖ Corresponded with chapter reporters prior to upcoming issue of *The Bell Tower*
 - 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, and other items of interest, especially if the chapter did not have a meeting report
 - Helped chapters develop and improve procedures for Zoom meetings
 - Encouraged chapters not meeting due to COVID19 to submit alternate reports highlighting chapter members with short bios or describing favorite bells
- ❖ Communicated with editor Marilyn Grismere and prepared “Chapter Chimes” column for all issues of *The Bell Tower*
- ❖ Attended the International and the first North America Zoom meetings, reporting on both meetings in “Chapter Chimes”
- ❖ Participated in ABA Outreach committee meetings and helped promote participation in both the International and the North America meetings
- ❖ Encouraged ABA members without a chapter to join a “far away” chapter via Zoom and included ABA Board members in meeting invitations and correspondence
- ❖ Kept current a chart of the chapters’ officers and contact information
- ❖ Will conduct chapter representatives meeting at Charleston, West Virginia, convention

- Working to develop a new format for listing chapters and contact information that will make better use of space (6 pages) assigned to “Chapter Chimes”
- Will introduce chapter representatives at a specified lunch at convention

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
Florida	Gateway Arch
Heart of America Chimers	Hoosier Bells of Indiana
Minnesota	New England
Pacific Northwest	Pittsburgh
San Diego Mission Bells	Southern California Campanology Club

The following chapters are inactive, do not currently hold meetings, or have canceled meetings due to ill health and/or low number of attendees. In most cases, they still have a 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	

I have not received correspondence this year from these chapters:

Bell Study of Northern Ohio	Bell Friends of Wisconsin
Chattanooga Chimes	Great Lakes (Michigan)
Heart of Ohio	Iowa
Kangaroo (Australia)	North Lake Shore
Southern Chimes	Texas

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
Kangaroo Bell Club Australia	New Zealand Bell Collectors
Northern California Bell Friends	Oregon
Southern Michigan	York Penn

The reports shared in “Chapter Chimes” this year reflect how chapters are trying to keep members involved. They also continue to learn about and improve Zoom meetings, including hybrid meetings (combination of in-person and Zoom).

Incoming President Sue Goebel has asked me to continue in this position for another year. I continue my two goals which have been partially achieved and have expanded following those achievements.

- 1) Find ways to keep chapter members involved through electronic and other means
- 2) Rework format of column in *The Bell Tower* to allow more space for chapter news

I am adding a third goal: 3) Continue to work with the Outreach Committee to provide chapter-like activities for ABA members without local chapters

I have enjoyed the coordinator job as it allows me regular correspondence with ABA members throughout the world. 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 2021-2022
Carol Jurin, Coordinator

The Convention Committee's function is to make recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the date and location of the annual convention and oversee and assist, as needed in, any phase of the annual convention.

The Committee met, in person, at the annual 2021 Knoxville, Tennessee Convention, discussing the current convention and the future 2023 convention sites.

Throughout the year, online up-dates and meetings were conducted including:

- Results of the 2021 convention evaluation – The overall impression is a job well done, a good variety of programs and enjoyment of the Sunday evening meet and greet.
- Visits were made to both Charleston, WV for 2022 convention planning and Omaha, Nebraska for possible 2023 convention site. Both visits were coordinated by Hotel Coordinator, Alan Bergdorf and the local Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- Plans for the 2022 Convention Bell. The chosen bell was contracted to Michael Magyar, Glass Studio on Cape Cod, bell glass blower, and Kelsey Murphy, Studio of Heavens, glass carver. Two contracts were signed for bell production, a first in ABA convention bells.
- After Committee discussion, the April 1 early bird convention registration date was not extended.

As Committee Coordinator, I have worked with Marilyn Grismere on the 2022 convention planning: schedule, facilities, menu and budget. My goal as committee coordinator is to make sure Marilyn also, after countless hours of planning, enjoys the 2022 Convention!

The Committee keeps records of past conventions and is custodian of ABA properties.

2021-2022 committee members:

Voting Member: Carol Jurin Coordinator; Nancy Kirk, Secretary; Ailene Pearce, Facilities Coordinator; Brenda Spratt, ABA Member at Large; Marilyn Grismere, Immediate Past Convention Coordinator; Connie Clark, Convention Photographer; Judy Blake, Convention Treasurer.

Non-Voting member: Bonnie Tippery, ABA President and Alan Bergdorf, Hotel Coordinator.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Annual Report 2021 – 2022

Sue Goebel

During this year I had the pleasure of getting to know many of our members better as I participated in chapter meetings, both in person and through Zoom. One of the benefits of having a Zoom option was to be able to interact with people who would otherwise be unable to attend chapter meetings. With this in mind I was honored to act as moderator during 3 Zoom meetings for our international friends. This effort is still a work in progress as we try to find the best times / days for the most people. At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to our first North American Zoom meeting. This is an effort to include ABA members in the USA and Canada that do not have a chapter near them, or are now unable to physically travel to a local meeting. It is my hope that these meetings will continue and will allow our members to remain involved.

It has also been my pleasure to manage the “Friends of the ABA” program. Since I took office last May until the time of this writing, we have had 23 separate donations for a total of \$1,018. At this point we do not yet have any donors that have reached the ‘Major Donor’ level.

Last September I joined Alan Burgdorf, Jane Boldenow, and Bonnie Tippery in Omaha on a site visit in preparation for our 2023 convention. It was very interesting to see all of the work that goes into choosing a city and hotel for our conventions. Thanks to all who work so hard to make them a success.

Throughout the year I have participated in various meetings as needed including our new “Outreach Group”. I have voted on any motions brought to the board, and worked to learn as much as possible about the workings of ABA.

HISTORIAN **Annual Report 2021-22** **Kathleen Collins**

Being the Historian of the American Bell Association gives me the opportunity to have all previous issues of The Bell Tower at my fingertips. My joy and responsibility is to keep all of these issues in a safe location, and add each additional issue of The Bell Tower to the Historian’s files.

During this year I have received eleven separate requests for more than 30 articles from The Bell Tower. All but two members had email, so most articles were sent as email attachments. Many articles were sent to new/newish members of the ABA, who indicated the type of bells they are collecting. My hope is that when they receive the excellent articles from the past, their interest in bells will deepen and they will remain members of the ABA. I always encourage them to become active in a local chapter, or attend the international convention.

Special Services (Sue Wakat) has held the ABA flashdrives (containing all issues of The Bell Tower from 1940 – 2018) for distribution. It is my understanding that all of the flashdrives have been sold.

I would like to continue to have electronic copies of The Bell Tower so that when requested, it is easy for the Historian to send copies.

HOTEL COORDINATOR
Annual Report FY 2021-2022
Alan Burgdorf

As you know, the 2020 ABA Annual Convention, scheduled for the Embassy Suites hotel in Charleston WV, was cancelled due to COVID. It was rescheduled, under the same contract conditions, for that hotel in 2022. ABA President Bonnie Tippery and members of the Convention Committee visited the hotel for a planning meeting last August, and all were impressed with the facilities, location, and hotel staff.

For 2023, I was interested in a venue in the western part of the Central District, and selected Omaha NE, from which we had received favorable responses when previously searching for a 2022 location. The VisitOmaha CVB sent the RFP to local hotels. Four responses were received from Hilton, Embassy Suites, DoubleTree, and Marriott Regency. Hilton was eliminated because their proposed dates were out of our preferred range. Embassy Suites was eliminated because, even though the hotel is in a prime area, the room costs, parking fee, and space rental was well out of our range.

I toured the other two hotels, along with Bonnie Tippery, Sue Goebel, and Jane Boldenow. We all spent one night in each hotel, and met with a VisitOmaha rep and hotel staff. We eliminated DoubleTree because it is in a rather hilly area, difficult to negotiate for our older members. We chose Marriott Regency.

We will probably return eastward for 2024. 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.

2022 ABA Convention Charleston WV, Embassy Suites, 300 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301; June 11-18. Room rate: \$135 (single-double); \$145 (triple); \$155 (quad). Free parking, free WiFi, free airport shuttle, free breakfast and evening reception.

2023 ABA Convention Omaha, Nebraska, Marriott Regency, 10220 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE 68114; June 24 – July 1. Room rate \$135 (single-double) \$142 (triple) \$149 (quad). Free parking, free WiFi, free buffet breakfast. Total hotel renovation in 2017.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Annual Report 2021-22
Dianne Bradfield

During the year I participated in motions made online and voted on during the 2021-2022 year. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Charleston, WV, convention!

JOB DESCRIPTION COORDINATOR
Annual Report 2021 – 2022
Laura Murgia

All Job Descriptions remain on the website. Most were reviewed last year and needed little change this year. There are a few that will need to be changed after a bylaw change at the 2022 Annual Convention. They will be addressed at that time and uploaded to the site in the coming year.

LEGAL ADVISOR
Annual Report—2021-2022
William Kenworthy

During the past year I approved contracts for the hotel for the 2022 convention and for the convention bell. Fortunately, no other problems arose for the Association requiring legal attention.

MEMBER AT LARGE
Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Brenda Spratt

I attended the Executive Board meeting at the 2021 Convention in Knoxville Tennessee. I also answered all ABA Board emails, and have voted on all motions. I will continue to participate in all ABA Board business until the end of my term.

I have also participated in all Zoom meetings (except one) this year. These included the Executive Board Committee, Convention Committee and Outreach Committee.

I sent web blasts for 2022 Convention along with blasts for the International and North American Zoom meetings.

I received all the emails of members who wanted to participate in the Zoom meetings and compiled a list of their names and emails. From that list, I sent out Zoom invitation and directions to enter the meeting (s).

I have also communicated with members throughout the year on various subjects and passed them on to other members who can help with their questions.

Thank you for the honor of serving you as your Member at Large for the last year.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
Annual Report, Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022
Nancy Kirk

The primary responsibility of the Membership Coordinator is to maintain an accurate listing of members of ABA. New members are added as they apply and pay. Members are removed when we are notified of a death, non-renewal is specified, or for non-payment of dues. Renewal notices are sent by postal mail early in the month before the expiration month. A follow-up email is sent or phone call made (if no email) early in the month after the expiration month. A third email notice is sent early the following month, and the month after that a final email notice is sent that removal of their name is imminent. I keep track of all dues as they are paid; once or twice a month I deposit checks and send a list to the ABA Treasurer.

At the end of the fiscal year 2021-2022, ABA had 329 memberships, which was 420 members (adding one each for 91 couples). This included 300 US memberships with 383 members and 29 international memberships with 37 members. During the year, 42 memberships were removed, which was 48 members (6 couples). We welcomed 19 new memberships, with 20 members. **Net loss for the fiscal year was 21 memberships, 26 members**

Of our US members, about one third used online payment, either credit card or PayPal. The rest paid by check. Of our international members, about 28% paid by check, the others online.

Other responsibilities of the position that I fulfilled this year include:

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.

To notify the Website Coordinator all changes in members' contact information so the online directory in the Members Forum can be kept up to date. 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 Outreach Committee and 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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2021-2022

Sue Wakat

We have gone through the list of members in order to find those people who qualify for a position on the boards. If there would be someone who would accept the position and did not have the specific qualifications, we could ask for that person to be approved by the board. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find anyone for the second vice-president position in spite of having asked a number of people.

There are a couple of people coming up who may be good candidates but then we always say that and then they have a medical or other problem. Deleting the position of second vice-president could be an option. There are positives and negatives. This would make it a three-year commitment rather than a four-year commitment. It could also be possible to decide that the past president was not necessary on the board.

If almost all of the business of the board were completed by zoom then it might be easier to find people. If they go to convention, they are then required to be in meetings for much of the time. If they only had a brief meeting the old and the new board then they might be more likely to agree as then they would be free to enjoy the convention.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

American Bell Association

Sue Wakat

The Outreach committee seems to consist of the former Membership expansion committee (with new people) and the social media committees plus whatever board members can attend and Carol J. and Nancy K. plus Marilyn G.

These groups work well together as they can support each other and share ideas and problems.

Laura M. on the web site is doing a fantastic job and the outreach committee can suggest ideas for making the web site more appealing and thereby getting out the message to those who don't know who we are. She can also ask for assistance with things she needs. She has changed many things and the entire look of the site has evolved. It is still a work in progress but it would be nice if everyone looked at it and signed up for the members only section. We need the help of all members for ideas and feedback.

We plan to have times in the Behold room at convention that people will be available to help people get on the Members only site and the proper You Tube site as well. Jane B. has made a slip telling people how to print their own business cards as well as making packets of business cards.

Sue Goebel suggested a "Roadshow" at the convention which is being implemented as a trial and we'll see how it goes. Unfortunately, the visitors center did not follow through on their promises of promoting this activity. It is worth exploring to see if it would showcase the ABA if properly advertised another time.

We asked Arlene F. to video the Behold again to put on You Tube and she agreed. A sign saying American Bell Association and Americanbell.org will be shown at the beginning and end of each You Tube video. We are also going to attempt to video Tim Verdin's program and it may possibly go on You Tube- or possibly our web site, depending on what you want. We also are possibly attempting to video a couple of other programs. I say attempting as none of us have the experience that a 12 yr. old has on making videos. We are supporting the International and North American zoom meetings. The International needs some help and each international member is being contacted individually to attempt to find out how we may better serve them.

North American zoom started out well but we all need to attempt to pull in those members who are now left out in the cold because their chapters have gone under or just don't meet or maybe did not have a chapter near at any time. Everyone could encourage these people to get on zoom and at least try it once. There are people who just do not like zoom but others who are afraid of it.

Having a buddy for first timers at convention has been discussed and there is only one couple this year who might be amenable to that as others have friends, relatives. Talking about having someone "buddy" with new members and keep in touch with them for a year or more. Try to pair with someone who has similar interest in bells and/or lives around them. but no decision with that.

Have worked out a seating plan at dinner on Wednesday at convention to assure that people meet others and not sit with the same people all of the time. It's a mixer.

We need to involve those who are not able to come to convention due to whatever. We would entertain ideas from everyone as to where they could be useful. Also, any of you could contact people you know

and see if they would be willing to help with contacting people by email, phone, snail mail or have any other ideas of what they could do. One thing might be to contact other collector (related) groups who are on the web and ask them to link our web site to theirs. We will reciprocate. We have tried some but don't get replies but persistence is often the key. Also, they might be able to give programs locally to groups to stimulate interest or in libraries to children or adults. This could spread the word.

Considering putting a video of Judy's bell museum on the web page.

May ask about changing some of the auction rules. If there were a set of Lowell Davis small bells, should that be in the auction? Or should it be denied because each isn't 25\$. They should be something that is a set or connected-it could be a bell plate and cup of the same design. However, we need to stimulate the auctions some. Too many sort of nothing bells. We have many that are great but not necessarily interesting. People could get an entire set here or maybe three of a set. This does not reflect on Bruce. Often just people getting rid of so-so bells they don't want.

Possible preview of some bells in the auction on the web site (not this year) but not sure about that.

Promoting the Bell Tower almost as if it is an item for sale. Showing more of it, possible "teasers" on the web site. The Bell Tower is probably one of the best magazines of any collector's group. Possibly a web site update in the Bell Tower as a regular feature. Just a box to say what is new.

Spoke about putting a chapter meeting block on web site and Laura had it done-amazing.

How to get emails of those people who have an email but have not shared.

How to get email of people who visit our website.

Individual follow-up with contacts, people who visit Facebook.

Asking members to make videos for our You Tube site. Recognize that we have two of those (attempting to get rid of one) and that everyone should sign up and subscribe to ours. This evidently gets us to the top of the list when you look for it or something like that.

Could use a lot of help finding people to do this.

Checking up on members who have dropped out. Contact people not in directory and (if they haven't died) see why and what we should do differently or how we might get them back.

Interactive internet?

Advertise in Bell Tower about giving the Bell Tower (memberships) for holidays, birthdays? People say we have done this before but we need to make a splash! Recognizing that your children are fifty or more and their children are out of the house then they possibly might become interested. Jane D. said it was years before she finally gave up and came. She what happened then! Also, there are nieces and nephews who could become enticed. A couple of my own nieces would be possible members in a few years as they came and have at least a couple of hundred bells each from Mom and Dad's collection. Their children are getting older and out of the house in a while so that's the kind of people we could use.

Jane D. probably brought up a raffle of a membership on the web (to non-members only) but paid for through our advertising expenses so it is compliant with our bylaws. Someone mentioned that it was illegal in some states but we can just put the same disclaimer as all of the other people do- that not allowed in whatever states.

These are just ideas, proposals and some the things we have been attempting to do. L we need the enthusiasm of everyone in the ABA and that would probably fall to those who come to convention. They are our backbone and our best chance for getting the word out. We need to energize them somehow. Many are almost defeatist. Any suggestions?

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Annual Report 2021-2022
William Kenworthy

During the past year I was present at the convention and also monitored the activities of the board that were conducted by e-mail. No issues arose that required any parliamentary ruling.

PAST PRESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Annual Report 2021 – 2022
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. Per request of Bonnie Tipperary, ABA President I am involved in the Long Range Planning Committee and the Outreach Committee.

PAST PRESIDENTS' GROUP
Annual Report 2021-2022
Betty Goodson

As chairman of the Past President's Group, my duties consist of keeping our Past Presidents informed about happenings in ABA, especially about the members of this group. I send emails when needed and also send regular correspondence as needed.

At convention, during our Past President's meeting, it is my duty to prepare an agenda for discussion with the group, ask for reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer, the Representative on the Executive Board, request changes to the address list, and welcome our newest Past President. I was able to perform these duties at the annual convention held in Knoxville, May, 2022. I also presented the Past President's pin to Dianne Bradfield at the Banquet.

Returning home from convention, I mailed packets to all our group who were unable to attend. This included the Program Booklet, an updated address/birthday list, the "in Memoriam" list and also the convention attendees' list. Later after receiving minutes from our meeting, I emailed a copy to all members of our group.

As I will not be able to attend convention this year, I have enlisted Neil Goepfinger to stand in for me. He has graciously agreed to do so. He will conduct the meeting, take minutes as Secretary, update address list, and present the Past President's pin to Bonnie Tipperary at the Banquet. On receiving the Program Booklets from Marilyn Grismere and the other information from Neil, I will again mail packets to those unable to attend.

I am very sorry not to be able to be there in person, but will be in spirit, and hoping for a great convention for all of you.

PRESIDENT

Annual Report 2021-2022
Bonnie Tippery

In the year 2021-2022, I conducted meetings at the Convention and online, participated in several Zoom meetings, worked with the First and Second Vice President and the new Outreach committee, wrote a bi-monthly column in the Bell Tower, and used ABA email to communicate with members. The complete list of Executive Board Motions 2021-2022 may be viewed in the Annual Report Book.

I was able to attend a Pittsburg Chapter meeting, a Heart of America Chimers Meeting, and a Gateway Arch Meeting, as well as several zoom chapter meetings. It was good to see people from convention and to meet some new bell friends as well. I enjoyed meeting in smaller groups where you have a chance to get to know each other better.

Zoom meetings were a new concept that was started this year because of the pandemic. They have turned out to be a good way to connect members who are not able to attend a chapter meeting. I have participated in several zoom calls with the new Outreach Committee, formerly Membership Expansion. We are trying to find ways to get current members engaged especially in areas where there are no chapter meetings. We have had some success with our North American Zoom call. We have also tried to have an International Zoom call. That has had limited success. That needs further exploration.

We started out the year with a new Website Coordinator since our previous coordinator had passed away. Laura Murgia has done an excellent job and has made some updates that make it more attractive.

My goal for the year was to position the American Bell Association for the future. I worked with the Outreach Committee to increase member engagement. We have seen some old members express interest in the organization again which is what we want to see. I established a Long-Range Planning Committee to evaluate our organization and make recommendations on where we need to place ourselves to make our organization viable for the future. Hopefully, their recommendations can be used by Sue Goebel and Jane Boldenow in the next few years to keep ABA going well into the future.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Annual Report 2021-2022
Jane Boldenow

I have enjoyed carrying out my duties as Second Vice President of ABA. I have attended Executive Board meetings and various Zoom meetings, including those with the Outreach Committee (formerly Membership Expansion), International Members, and the newly formed North American group.

I am preparing to meet with the first timers at our convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Such preparation includes communicating by email or letter, acquiring some personal information, and asking about their interest in bells. At our first meeting in Charleston a member of the Welcome Letter Writers group shall attend, as well as the Membership Coordinator. At our convention's first luncheon I will host the first timers at a special table and introduce them, sharing some of the information about their personal lives and their interest in bells. I will ask each first timer if he or she would like a 'buddy' during the convention, and find an appropriate match from our friendly organization. I look forward to serving as 1st VP of ABA.

SECRETARY
Annual Report 2021-22
Kathleen Collins

- Motion books were updated within sixty days after convention. Motions from the year, a chronological index and an alpha index were sent to all persons on the Executive Board, including the Past Presidents Representative, Legal Advisor, and Parliamentarian. Copies were sent to the Bylaws Committee Chair, the Historian, for the President's Box, and for the Secretary's Box. Instructed people to update their copy of the Motion Book.
- Participated in and recorded minutes for all meetings of the 2021-22 Executive Board, both in person and on-line.
- 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; a copy will be sent to the Website Coordinator for inclusion on the ABA website.
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SOCIAL MEDIA
ABA June 2022
Ardis Cople, Sue Moore

Following the Knoxville Convention Ardis Cople and Sue Moore agreed to work on the ABA Facebook page to relieve ABA President Bonnie Tippery of one of her responsibilities. Though well-intentioned, our social media venture was not particularly successful. Ardis responded to posts and questions for about 6 months and then was unable to access the administrative site to continue to do so, so Bonnie once again took on that responsibility. Sue posted chapter meeting schedules which were updated every quarter or so and promoted the first time North America Zoom meeting but did not post photos of bells.

During the year 515 people followed the ABA website. While some of these people are ABA members, the majority are not. The convention videos that Arlene Foreman has created have generated positive posts as have photos of bells. Shawn Wagner has posted on the ABA Facebook page, photos of the BEHOLD displays at the Charleston convention and already reached 127 people, a number of whom are ABA members not able to attend convention. This is a great beginning for the next year of ABA social media.

SPECIAL SERVICES
Annual Report 2021-22
Sue Wakat

There is not much to report. We have sold the last flash drive of the Bell Towers but Laura Murgia has found that we can copy them so is doing so. They will be sold for \$35.

No one has asked for a program. Chapters are either not meeting or have their own programs. Suggestion would be to voice over the good programs and put them on the Members only portion of the web site. Unfortunately, people do promise that they will voice-over programs and fail to follow through. This includes people who know how to do this very well but just don't follow-through.

TAX CONSULTANT
Annual Report 2021-2022
Bruce Clayton

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

I received the fiscal year, April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021, financial statement prepared by the ABA II treasurer, Shirley Russell.

I prepared the fiscal year end, March 31, 2021 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 2021-2022
Terry Laduke

Our 2021 convention in Knoxville, Tn. was a roaring success. I arrived in costume with great help from my daughter. I still have ringing in my ears from all the bells.

I served as Town Crier for all meals, meetings, and programs. Learning all the aspics of what duties were required of me was exciting.

Most of all I really had a very good time and played the part with gusto.

See you in Charleston WV.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
As of March 31, 2022
Shirley Russell

The unaudited financial statements for (1) Donations Received; Income/Expenses, and (2) Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances as of March 31, 2022 indicate the following: Total support and revenue for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 was \$ 61,098.72. Total expenses for the same period were

\$ 77,228.73. Specific areas of interest are shown below, with comparison to the previous year.

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Compared to 2020-2021</u>
Dues Income	12,720	Down 1,280 (318 memberships paid)
Collins Fund Donations	2,492	Up 522 (Nice increase)
2021 Conv & Auction net surplus	6	No 2021 convention
Friends of ABA	1,891	Down 675 (Collins up/Friends down)
Interest Income	38	Down 241 (Cashed CD & low rates)
Insurance & Bond Expense	1,467	Down 54 (About same)
Committee Expenses	1,048	Up 168 (New ways to get members)
Officers Expenses	903	Up 453 (More Proactive)
Bell Tower Net Expense	29,646	Up 951 (Overall expenses increased)

All of the above and additional items as shown below, account for a net deficit of \$16,130.01. Equity has decreased that much from last year and stands at \$ 102,593.72. I had to transfer money from CD savings to cover expenses.

Forms 1099 and 1096 were filed timely with the IRS. Tax Consultant Bruce Clayton prepared and filed ABA's tax return following the convention with no taxes due.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Russell, Treasurer

(1)Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Fund Balances
As of March 31, 2022

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts:	
ABA II Checking	38,433.06
ABA II Savings	8,026.90
Collins Memorial Fund Savings	5,024.14
Convention Emergency Savings	10,058.46
ABA II Savings CD	19,044.15
Convention Advance Account	5,000.00
Convention Emergency CD	<u>15,992.83</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	101,579.54

Other Assets:

Prepaid Expenses	388.91
PayPal Account	<u>625.27</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>1,014.18</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 102,593.72

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Accounts Payable	0.00
Equity	<u>102,593.72</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 102,593.72

(2) Donations Received; Income & Expenses

INCOME

Bell Tower Income	2,126.00
Collins Memorial BT Receipts	2,492.28
Convention Income	41,590.98
Friends of ABA	1,890.94
Interest Income	38.11
Membership Dues	12,720.00
Miscellaneous Income	240.41
Deposits to Mail Directory	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>61,098.72</u>

EXPENSES

Bell Tower Expenses	31,771.99
Committee Appointed Expenses	1,048.31
Convention Expenses	41,596.82
Insurance & Bond	1,467.38
Internet Web Site	177.63
Miscellaneous Expense	244.74
Bank Charges	18.49
Officers Expenses	903.37
Flash Drives For Bell Towers	00.00
Directory Expense	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	77,228.73

OPERATING (DEFICIT) (16,130.01)

WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Annual Report 2021 – 2022
Laura Murgia

I was appointed Website Coordinator in May 2021 after the death of David Elliott, our previous Website Coordinator. His sudden illness and death allowed for no transition and any information and passwords that he may have had were unable to be recovered.

I was able to contact Shock Hosting which has our website on their server. They set me up with new passwords for their site. I was then able to contact Michael at 7 Mile Web Support who is the Webmaster. He was able to provide new passwords to actually get into the website.

Michael was very helpful in giving me direction and tips on website management. The learning curve was very steep and took many months, but I was able to learn quite a bit about WordPress which is the webpage building program that we have.

I was able to independently create our Convention 2022 pages and have updated other pages on the website. I have been working with the Outreach Committee, originally an ad-hoc committee formed by ABA President Bonnie Tipperary. The committee is now replacing the Membership Expansion Committee. The committee has made many suggestions for changes and has supplied good information.

The Members Only section of the website is 'stale'. The Membership Directory, Reports and Bylaws are updated as needed. I started a Chapter News and Information forum where chapter meeting minutes and other information can be placed. There have been a few entries. Some videos were uploaded but no new articles. There has been no use of the Bell Talk.

I was also able to open a new U-tube site and have placed videos of BEHOLD displays on it. Other videos submitted by members are welcome.

Members have been asked to contribute items for the Bell Forums and U-tube.

WELCOME LETTER WRITERS
Annual Report 2021-2022
Mary Levins, Chair

For the fiscal year 2021-2022 the Welcome Letter Writers have written letter to eighteen new members and two returning members. This was a decrease of eleven over last year. The new members were from eleven different states 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.

This year we welcomed Carol Mannchen to the committee. Carol was a new member to ABA in 2020. 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 letters going out in a timely manner. Nancy tries to give us information about the new members which allows us to create more personal letters. Most letters are now sent by email. This has continued to increase communication between new members and the letter writers.

