

American Bell Association

Annual Reports

2023-2024

Annual Reports 2023-2024

American Bell Association International, Inc.

Executive Board

President: Jane Boldenow
First Vice President: Bonnie Tippery
Friends of ABA
Second Vice President: Ailene Pearce
Secretary: Kathleen Collins
Treasurer: Arlene Foreman (no report available at this time)
Immediate Past President: Sue Goebel
Member at Large: Shirley Russell
Past President Representative: Laura Murgia
Legal Advisor: Bill Kenworthy
Parliamentarian: Bill Kenworthy & Cathy Darnell

Committee Chairs and Appointees

Auction: Bruce Clayton
Audit: (no report at this time)
BEHOLD: (no report at this time)
Bell Tower Committee: Marie Varian
Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund: Ruth Ann Frank
Bell Tower Editor: Marilyn Grismere
Budget Committee: (no report at this time)
Bylaws Committee: Laura Murgia
Chaplain: Betty Goodson
Chapters and Regional Groups Coordinator: Sue Moore
Convention Committee: Carol Jurin
Corporation Representative: Marcia Andrus (no report)
Historian: Kathleen Collins
Hotel Coordinator: Alan Burgdorf
Job Description Coordinator: Cindy Knoblauch
Membership Coordinator: Nancy Kirk
Nominating Committee: Sue Wakat (no report at this time)
Outreach Committee: Sue Wakat (no report at this time)
Past Presidents' Group: Jane Davenport (no report at this time)
Social Media Coordinator: Shawn Wagner
Special Services Coordinator: Sue Wakat (no report at this time)
Tax Consultant: Bruce Clayton
Town Crier: Terry Laduke
Website Coordinator: Laura Murgia
Welcome Letter Writers: Mary Levins

Executive Board:

President Annual Report 2023 – 2024 Jane Boldenow

Since taking the oath to serve as ABA's President on June 30, 2023 in Omaha, Nebraska, I have carefully studied the Job Description and attempted to fulfill each duty.

At my first Executive Board meeting on June 30th the board approved my 'appointments,' which included 40+ ABA members to serve in various positions or on committees. Since the Omaha convention I have communicated with the Executive Board regularly via email or phone so that more than a dozen motions have been passed, and more are forthcoming. These motions are printed in *The Bell Tower* and will be summarized in the Secretary's Report at the Business Meeting at the annual convention in Pittsburgh in June, 2024. I have maintained close contact with the Pittsburgh Convention Coordinators and shall fulfill all convention duties. I will preside over two Executive Board meetings, all regular meetings, and designated meals during the convention.

It has been a great honor to serve ABA as President. Keeping our organization going is a effort which requires the dedication and efforts of many members who sometimes serve year after year, not because of desired recognition but because being involved with ABA is a labor of love.

First Vice President Annual Report 2023-2024 Bonnie Tippery

For the year 2023-2024, I participated in various Executive Board meetings online.

I have attended numerous Zoom meetings, including those of the Executive Board, the Convention Committee, the Outreach Committee, our North America Chapter, and the International Chapter. 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 2024, I will have identified members- and some chairpersons – to be appointed to the organization's many committees and functions. I am thankful for those many members who give so much of their time, expertise, skills, and energy to ABA. 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 Jane Boldenow and the Executive Board this year. I am grateful to Laura Murgia and Cathy Darnell for sharing their experience and expertise with me concerning bylaws so we can better utilize zoom for our organization.

At the convention in Pittsburgh I will honor the Past Presidents, present an overview of the Friends of ABA donations for the year, share a list of Major Donors to convention attendees and assist the President as able and requested.

Friends of ABA Annual Report 2023-2024
Bonnie Tippery, 1st Vice President
(Fiscal year April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024)

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 to the Treasurer Arlene Foreman and Membership Chairman Nancy Kirk who help make the fund administration run smoothly.

As of March 31, 2024, twenty-seven thank you notes were sent this fiscal year to donors. In addition, when the donation was designated 'In honor of,' or 'In memory of' a letter was sent to the family who was honored. The total amount of donations received this year is \$4,269.59. This figure includes \$938.76 of in-Kind donations. There will be expenses of \$51.48 for the printing of the Major Donor list handouts for convention. That will leave a net of \$4218.11. The total is down slightly from last year. There was one new Major Donor this year.

Second Vice President Annual Report 2023-2024
Ailene Pearce

As ABA Second Vice President for 2023-2024, I have performed my Executive Board duties throughout the year as required. I continue to learn ABA policies, position requirements, committee objectives, and attend ZOOM meetings to meet and interact with members. I have fulfilled my obligations by attending and participating in Outreach Committee meetings. When possible, I have presented ideas for acquiring new members as well as engaging and retaining current members.

With guidance and assistance from previous First Timer chairpersons, welcome letters, with a questionnaire to gather more information about them in advance in preparation of their meeting, will be sent to those attending convention for the first time. These will be sent early in order to get responses before convention. An agenda is being created for the meeting based on previous examples. I have been schooled on Mistress of Ceremonies duties during first luncheon at convention.

Green lanyards were recommended to the 2024 Convention Coordinators to be used to identify those attending convention for the first time.

Secretary Annual Report 2023-2024
Kathleen Collins

- Annual Record: Maintained the list and indices of all motions of the Executive Board. 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 2022-2023 Executive Board, both in person and on-line.
- During Convention: Presented the "Roll Call of States and Countries" at the Opening Ceremony.

- During Convention: Read a summary of the Executive Board motions throughout the year at the Business Meeting.
- Submitted a list of all Executive Board actions for each issue of *The Bell Tower*.
- Officer, Appointee, and Committee Reports: 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 Annual Report 2023-2024

Arlene Foreman

[Waiting for data.]

Immediate Past President Annual Report 2023-2024

Sue Goebel

My term as Immediate Past President began in Omaha Nebraska when I received my past president's pin and bell. What a wonderful evening.

As the Immediate Past President, I have attended in all executive board meetings and email conversations. I have voted on any issues brought before the board. I also offered any advice or guidance whenever asked by our current president.

I have moderated all of the North American and International Zoom meetings throughout the year, allowing me to meet some of our members who no longer travel to convention. I believe this is a worthwhile activity that should be continued. Even though many of those who attend are active members, it helps newcomers to meet and become familiar with other ABA friends (and it is fun to get together with our "bellatives").

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this wonderful organization.

Member-at-Large Annual Report 2023-2024

Shirley Russell

My term as Member At Large has been exciting. I have gotten a chance to meet new members, contacting them and see other members who are in ABA.

We schedule meetings for both national and international every two or three months. The scheduled time is set based on most availability of the members national and internationally. Sending out letters with the help of Sue Moore and/or reminders for the zoom meetings has been something I look forward to. Having to keep record of participants on zoom is exciting seeing and hearing their excitement in bells.

The zoom's 'Bell and Tell' gives us a chance to share and learn more about our collection. Example: I showed a bell gifted to me. During the zoom meeting, I learned another member had a similar bell in their collection and knew more about its history. Later, I received a picture and information where I could purchase more in that collection.

Looking forward to seeing more members on zoom and at the conventions.

Past Presidents' Representative Annual Report 2023-2024

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. I am also involved with the Outreach Committee.

I have been able to scan all motions and give a flash drive of them to the Executive Board. It is searchable and should replace most everyone's bulky paper books. The following will continue to also have a motions paper book: President (for the President's box); the Secretary (for the Secretary's box); the Historian; the chair of Bylaws Committee; and the Parliamentarian.

I have also been successful in scanning all minutes of ABA from 1974 until the current year. I will be combining these on a flash drive and make it searchable. I will give a flash drive to the President, Secretary and Historian.

It should be stated that the Historian still maintains paper copies of ABA's work and they should not be destroyed.

Parliamentarian Annual Report 2023-2024

Catherine M. Darnell

President Jane Boldenow appointed me to serve as ABA Parliamentarian for the rest of the 2023-2024 term, following the death of William Kenworthy.

Since that appointment, I have received and responded to email correspondence among the Board members related to motions, discussions, and votes on various issues. I have advised the President and Board, when consulted, offering opinions based on the ABA Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised in addition to my experience in parliamentary procedure, board development, and meeting planning.

I also consulted with both Laura Murgia, Bylaws Chair, and Bonnie Tippet, 1st Vice President, regarding needed updates to the ABA Special Rules of Order for email meetings and plans to draft policies for virtual technology (Zoom) meetings. This is an ongoing process.

It has been a pleasure to advise the ABA Board once again on matters of parliamentary procedure. I will attend the 2024 ABA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA and will assist the President to prepare for the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee plus the Business Meeting.

I am pleased to continue to offer parliamentary procedure advice when requested and assist the ABA President and Board in the conduct of meetings, both via email and in person. My thanks go to President Boldenow for inviting me to be of service to ABA.

Committee Chairs & Appointees

Auction Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024

Bruce Clayton

We had a very successful auction at the Omaha, Nebraska Convention, held on June 29, 2023. There were some outstanding bells up for auction. Our total auction sales amounted to \$ 15,470.00, which was down a little from the previous year. Everyone had a good time, and the auction was a success. There were a lot of good people that helped the day of the auction.

The auction sold 219 bells for a gross revenue of \$ 14,690.00. In addition, there were (17) items that were donated which sold for \$ 780.00. ABA received 100 % of the sales from the donated items. In addition, ABA received 15% from the sale of the 219 bells, which totaled \$ 2,203.50. We incurred \$ 125.06 in expenses, mainly printing the auction catalog. After expenses the net proceeds to ABA was \$ 2,858.44. The remaining \$ 12,486.50 was distributed to the sellers.

Audit Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

BEHOLD Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024

Ginny Goepfinger

Bell Tower Committee Chair Annual Report 2023-2024

Marie Varian

This year's annual meeting was held via Zoom on May 23, prior to Convention. All business items were handled so there was no need to meet again at convention. Members were very pleased with the efficiency. We are sad to report the loss of member Jim Cayey (NY) who passed away October 27. Jim served as Advertising Coordinator and did a fine job assisting members (and others) in preparing their ads for publishing in *The Bell Tower*. Jim even took a stint at taking notes at a meeting and did a fine job there, too, but declared he was not up for becoming a permanent Secretary! Jim is missed.

Ron Weaver (TX) announced in November that he intended to retire from his long-time Additional/Replacement *Bell Tower* Copies and Membership Database Custodian positions at the end of ABA's fiscal year.

No other BTC members wanted to take over any of the positions. We asked around and Ben "Chip" Davenport (ME) volunteered to join the Committee and take on both the Advertising Coordinator and the Additional/Replacement *Bell Tower* Copies positions. Ron was willing to stay on as Membership Database Custodian.

The BTC held an email meeting and unanimously voted for the above. Chair Marie emailed President Jane Boldenow requesting Executive Board approval. Pres. Boldenow emailed back on December 3 that the Board was in favor. BTC was back in full operation.

Ruth Ann Frank reports that donations to the Collins Memorial *Bell Tower* Fund were down this year: \$2527.00. The account's balance at the end of the year was \$3343.39. The Fund expends \$640 per each *Bell Tower* issue to help offset the cost of printing. Without sizeable donations, the Fund will run out of money next year, 2024-2025.

It is a well-known fact that annual dues do not cover the cost of publishing and mailing *The Bell Tower*. To help combat the problem, the Executive Board voted at its June 27 meeting to reduce the number of pages from 48 to 44, at a saving of approximately \$200 per issue (\$1200+/- per year) beginning January 2024. Other budget items that helped some this year were that postage rates didn't increase as much as expected and advertising brought in more than expected. As of the writing of this report (May 2024) the proposed 2024-25 *BT* budget shows a yearly cost of \$84.71 per each of the 308 addresses.

This Committee is very grateful to our Editor, Marilyn Grismere. She's an expert at her work and will never allow less than the best job possible. Thank you, Marilyn.

This Committee is very thankful to have our membership info in the hands of Nancy Kirk, our Membership Coordinator. It's a huge job keeping our mailing list up to date and accurate and to work closely with our printing house. Thank you, Nancy.

As Chair, I want to very sincerely compliment our committee. Everyone offers their opinions, answers emails promptly, helps wherever possible, keeps their particular jobs up to date, shares with others, and on and on.

Members: Ruth Ann Frank (MO), Collins Fund
Ron Weaver (TX), Database Custodian
"Chip" Davenport (ME), Advertising & *BT* Copies
Glenn Edwards (IL)
Rebecca Ryan (MN)

Ex-Officios: Marilyn Grismere (OH), *BT* Editor
Nancy Kirk (AZ), Membership Coordinator

Bell Tower Committee Collins Memorial Bell Tower Fund Annual Report 2023-2024 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 45 contributions to the Collins Memorial *Bell Tower* Fund totaling \$2,477.00. About 47 acknowledgements were printed and sent to the donors and to family members of those memorialized or honored.

My postage expenses incurred in handling this fund were \$34.16. I am asking for reimbursement of \$30.00 for printer ink since it has increased so much. I am still donating the cost of paper and envelopes.

Bell Tower Editor Annual Report 2023-2024 Marilyn Grismere

Thanks to the many article contributors who 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 m issue.

Jane Boldenow, "President's page"

Betty Goodson, "In Memoriam"

Sue Moore, "Chapter Chimes and Notes"

Nancy Kirk “For Whom The Bells Peal”

Ruth Ann Frank, “*Collins Bell Tower Fund*”

Bonnie Tippery, **Arlene Foreman**, “Friends of ABA”

Monica Wagner “Kids Corner”

Marie Varian—And last but not least, the continual support of the chairperson of *The Bell Tower* Committee, and my proofreader. It takes a team to get *The Bell Tower* issues into your hands, and I thank every one of the contributors and authors.

The Bell Tower issue articles for this year are:

July-August 2023

🔔 “French Bohemian Glass Bells (1820-1850)” presented at the 2018 Convention

🔔 “Strawberry and Currant Mystery Bells” by **Ailene Pearce**

🔔 “Who Made this Bell?” by **Carl Zimmerman**

🔔 “The History of St. Clair Glass, Elwood, Indiana” by **Ilo Mae Spears**

🔔 “Gift of Sound” by **Sue Goebel**



🔔 **September-August 2023**—Convention issue; group pictures of the activities at convention, including pictures of the auction bells.

November-December 2023

🔔 “June 23-28, 2024—78th Annual ABA Convention” by **Nancy Santory & Kathleen Collins**

🔔 “U.S. Semiquincentennial Bell” by **Bonnie Tippery**

🔔 “Silver Table Bells” by **Alan Burgdorf**

🔔 “Bells Ancient and Unusual” by the late **Bill Kenworthy**

🔔 “Bell’s Bells are the Secret Formula, C.S. Bell Co.” by **Tim Koehl**

🔔 “Duncan’s Clock/Bell, Duncan, BC, Canada” by **Roma Croy**

🔔 “1974 Past President Martha Inness by **Betty Goodson**

🔔 “Timeless Beauty of Porcelain Bells” by **Shari Geimer**

January-February 2024

🔔 “The Bell with the Sun Disk Handle” by Larissa Franczek

🔔 “Exploring Visual Signatures of Bell Tones by Vincent Smithers

🔔 “Bells from Russian Museums, Part I; “Bells from Moscow” by Larissa Franczek

🔔 “June 23-28, 2024, 2024—78th Annual ABA Convention” by Nancy Santory and Kathleen Collins

🔔 “WHO IS JOEL” by Ailene Pearce

🔔 “Fenton’s Indiana PA Connection” by Luida Shearer

🔔 “Bells of Falmouth by Author Ken Pal, Book Review” by Carl Zimmerman

🔔 “The Debt We Owe Winston Churchill” by Secretary Appeals, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

March-April 2024

🔔 “She Bought a Colorful Vase at a Goodwill Store for \$3.99; It Sold at Auction for \$107,000 by Ben Finley, Associated Press submitted by Mickey Varian

🔔 “Big Joe and the Bells of Southern Ohio” by Tim Koehl

🔔 “June 23-28, 2004—78th Annual ABA Convention” by Nancy Santory and Kathleen Collins

🔔 Part II: Bells from Moscow Museums Bells from Russian Museums and Part III: Roman Bell, the Bell from the Chicago Museum” by Larissa Franczek

🔔 “Bells of Lighthouses” by Mary Levins

🔔 “Bell Riddles” by Larissa Franczek

May-June 2024

🔔 “June 23-28, 2024—78th Annual ABA Convention” by Nancy Santory and Kathleen Collins

🔔 “Mechanical Marvels—The Unusual, and the Rare by Shari Geimer”

- 🔔 “Bells of the Great Porcelain Houses of the World—Part I” by Nancy Kirk
- 🔔 “Chase Company Tea Bells” by Alan Burgdorf
- 🔔 “Bell Riddles” by Larissa Franczek
- 🔔 “Floribunda—Sculptured Flower Bells by Shari Geimer
- 🔔 “The Other Sarnas, Bells provided by Pauline and Wade Prentice

🔔 **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 reprint to encourage new membership in the organization.

Budget Committee Annual Report 2023-2024 **Arlene Foreman**

Bylaws Committee Annual Report 2023-2024 **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.

There are no changes to be put forth to members at the 2024 Convention. We are however working on some for next year.

We were deeply saddened to learn of our member Jane Clayton’s death. She was an important member and helped with our processes. Arline Webb and I will be looking for a 3rd member and will suggest someone to our incoming President.

Chaplain Annual Report 2023-2024 **Betty Goodson**

As Chaplain during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, I have submitted reports to the Bell Tower Editor for the In Memoriam column which includes obituaries for members we have lost during that time.

Sometimes I have been fortunate to learn of these deaths in a timely manner which enables me to gather information to be able to properly honor them in our magazine. The Chaplain relies on other ABA members, families of the deceased, and especially our Membership Chairman, Nancy Kirk to furnish this information. Please, anytime you hear of a member’s death, please do not assume someone else has notified the Chaplain, notify him/her anyway. So much better to have multiple notices than for time to go by with no information. Time is important to be able to contact the funeral home, the newspaper or the family for information. I really appreciate all the help I have received over the years.

Chaplain’s duties at convention are directed by the President and usually includes, Opening Prayer, Closing Prayer and the “In Remembrance” Program to honor those we lost in the current year. I was able to perform these duties at the convention in Omaha, NE. in 2023. As I will not be able to attend convention this year, Sue Moore has graciously agreed to perform those duties. I will be compiling the list for “In Remembrance” for her.

ABA Chaplain needs to be able to attend convention most of the time as these duties are important. As this has become more difficult for me, distance, age, etc. I have requested our incoming President replace me as Chaplain. I do want to say it has been an honor to serve ABA in this role for several years and I truly appreciate the help I have received to do this job properly, especially our Bell Tower Editor, Marilyn Grismere and as I mentioned earlier, Nancy Kirk, our Membership Chairman.

Chapters Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024 **Sue Moore**

Activities accomplished during my eleventh term:

- ❖ Corresponded with chapter reporters prior to each upcoming issue of *The Bell Tower*
 - Responded to emails, questions, and submitted reports
 - Requested chapters send in meeting announcements, chapter news, photos, bios or favorite bells of chapter members, and other items of interest, especially if the chapter did not have a meeting report
- ❖ Communicated with editor Marilyn Grismere and prepared “Chapter Chimes” column for all issues of *The Bell Tower*
 - Initiated new format for “Chapter Chimes”
 - Communicated with Board and in *The Bell Tower* the background of the format change
- ❖ Attended all International and North America Zoom meetings
 - Sent minutes to attending members and ABA Board
 - Reported on meetings in “Chapter Chimes”
 - Worked with Member at Large to encourage attendance at Zoom meetings and to facilitate the meetings
- ❖ Responded to questions and requests sent to the Chapter Coordinator most of which involve information on a nearby chapter or help with disposing of a bell collection
- ❖ Included ABA Board members in meeting invitations, minutes, and pertinent correspondence
- ❖ Kept current a chart of the chapters’ officers and contact information
- ❖ Kept an updated list of chapter meeting dates and sent those the list to the ABA Webmaster and the Social Media Coordinator
- ❖ Conducted chapter representatives meeting at Omaha, Nebraska, convention
 - Requested status update for all chapters to determine which chapters remain active
 - Representatives at the meeting voted to streamline the format for the “Chapter Chimes” reporting only on active chapters
 - To Be Completed for the ABA website: Create a historical list of all inactive and disbanded chapters with beginning and ending dates

These chapters are designated as active and are included in each “Chapter Chimes.”

Arizona Desert Bells	Gateway Arch
Great Lakes	Heart of America Chimers
Heart of Ohio	International (Zoom)
Minnesota	New England
North America (Zoom)	Pacific Northwest
Pittsburgh	Southern California Campanology Club

Two newer “chapters” meet exclusively on Zoom. The International Chapter held its first meeting on March 27, 2021, initiated by David Elliott, and has met three or four times a year since. Time zone differences complicate setting meeting times, but a core of attendees and ABA Board members has developed.

The North America Zoom Chapter met for the first time on April 2, 2022, and has met three or four times a year with attendance ranging from 13 to 24. This chapter is designed for Canadian and American ABA members without chapters or who are unable to travel to chapters but is open to anyone interested.

Interestingly, each Zoom meeting has had a new ABA member or a new Zoom member in attendance. This underscores the importance of the Zoom meeting option.

The following chapters are inactive but still have a member willing to serve as a contact person and remain open to reigniting. The contact person often responds to the pre-issue emails and attends the chapter representative meeting at convention.

Bell Collectors of the British Isles
Colorado
Greater Chicago West

Incoming President Bonnie Tippery has asked me to continue in this position for another year. My goals remain:

- 1) Find ways to keep chapter members involved through electronic and other means
- 2) Continue 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. Through chapters we convey the joy of bell collecting and bell friendship, have an important communication conduit, and bring new members into the ABA.

Convention Committee Annual Report 2023-2024

Carol Jurin

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

The Committee met, in person, at the annual 2022 Charleston, West Virginia Convention, discussing the current convention; planning for 2023, including appointing Ailene Pearce 2023 Convention Coordinator; and the future 2024 convention site. The discussion led to Pittsburgh, PA becoming the location of choice for 2024. Specifically, after a hotel search and signed contract, Pittsburgh, PA, Sunday June 23-Friday June 28, 2024, at the Double Tree, Cranberry, PA.

This year the committee met 8 times, via zoom, taking an active role in convention planning. Ailene Pearce, 2023 Convention Coordinator, led the convention planning with combined help from both the ABA Convention Committee plus additional members of the Annual Convention Committee. The combined committees helped raise the awareness level of what goes into convention planning. Plus presented new convention ideas, the second year of the Road Show, asking for community donations to the Sweepstakes, publicizing the convention as a destination vacation and adding a Bell and Tell Table.

The committee was charged by the ABA Executive Board to address "potential restructuring of the Convention format for future conventions." Preliminary discussions have begun, but at this time no formal recommendations have been made.

The Committee keeps records of past conventions and is custodian of ABA properties. An updated listing of ABA Properties and Locations is attached to this report.

Each year a survey is taken at the end of convention to determine what went well, what needs change and what can be added. This year's last question is Would you be interested in serving on a committee? i.e., any ABA committee including the convention committee!

2022-2023 committee members:

Voting Member: Carol Jurin Chair; Nancy Kirk, Secretary; Ailene Pearce, 2023 Omaha, NE Convention Coordinator; Chris 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: Sue Goebel, ABA President and Alan Burgdorf, Hotel Coordinator.

AMERICAN BELL ASSOCIATION II PROPERTIES

Working copy – June 1, 2024

ABA President – Jane Boldenow

- President's Box
- General Grant Bell with stand and carrying case
- Wooden Bell-shaped gavel
- Logo registration records (2005-2011)
- BT Logo paper file, patent documentation and archives

Auction – Bruce Clayton

- 2 adding machines
- Camera tripod (Sunpak 5858D)
- Video Camera (Canon Vixia HE R700)
- Clip-on (TP Lighting)
- Projector and case
- Three section back drop
- Wooden turntable

BEHOLD – Ginny Goepfinger

- Books by Dorothy Malone Anthony
 - The World of Bells 1,2,3,4,5
 - Bell Tidings
 - The Lure of Bells
 - World of Collectible Bells
 - More Bell Lore
 - Bells, Now and Long Ago
 - Legendary Bells
 - Bell Treasures
- Books by Al Trinidad, Jr.
 - Collectable Glass Bells of the World
 - American Glass Bells

Bylaws Committee-Laura Murgia

- Motion Book, hard copy
- Printed By Laws workbook.

Convention Committee-Kathleen Collins

- ABA Banner
- Registration area banner
- Group of small international flags
- 16 place card holders

- 48 desk name plates
- 2 collapsible easels

Historian-Kathleen Collins

- Collectible Bells by Donna Baker (book)
- 12 bell books by Dorothy Anthony (book)
- 2 glass bell books by Al Trinidad, Jr (book)
- A Pictorial History of Northern California, 1969-2000 (book)
- A Treasury of Archaeological Bells by Nathaniel Spear (book)
- Bells Do Talk by Pacific Northwest Chapter (book)
- Bells of the Australian Bush by Cooney (book)
- Large Bells of America by Neil Goepfinger (book)
- Nostalgia Bells by Lew Hayes (book)
- One Hundred and Eight Bells by Foley (book)
- T. Trezezak: Sculptures of Vienna by Blecker (book)
- That Vanishing Sound by Louise Springer (book)
- ABA Book 1, Book 3 (2), Book 4 (2), Bells of the World (3)
- ABA General Information (scrapbook)
- ABA Songs (scrapbook)
- Convention Bells (scrapbook)
- Historian Correspondence (scrapbook)
- Liberty Bell (scrapbook)
- Miscellaneous Memorabilia (scrapbook)
- Town Crier (scrapbook)
- Past Presidents pictures and Bios 1940-present
- President's pins (20)
- ABA Motion Book
- Hazel Young's account of First Four Conventions (cassette tape)
- Microfilm of membership, 1942-1970
- Group photographs from various conventions
- Slides from 1854-1961
- Introduction to Bell Collecting by the Glasscoes (4) (booklet)
- Heart of Illinois Chapter (1980-1985) (booklet)
- Bell Tower Index (1960-1996) (booklet)
- Greater Chicago West Chapter 20th Anniversary (booklet)
- New England Chapter (booklet)
- Ontario Chapter (booklet)
- Smithsonian Christmas Tree 1985 (booklet)
- York Penn Chapter 20th Anniversary (booklet)
- By Laws (file)
- Corporation File (file)
- Education Endowment (file)
- Job Description (file)
- Long Term Planning Report (file)

- *The Bell Tower* bound volumes 1940-2011)
- *The Bell Tower* , unbound) 2012-present
- *The Bell Tower, supplements*, bound, 4 volumes
- Anne and Irving Bell Collection (video)
- Bell Vista, the Walkers (video)
- Convention Home Tours Pittsburgh, 1996 (video)
- Jingle Bells (video)
- Lois Springer Bells (video)
- Louise Collins, 1995 (video)
- Meet the Past Presidents (2 video)
- National Geographic Explorer: The Bells of the White Christmas (video)
- Swedish Bell Ringers, Pittsburgh 1996 (video)
- ABA Convention Bells 195?-present
- ABA Convention Programs 1944-present
- Convention Reports 1980-present
- ABA Membership Directories 1947-present

Membership-Nancy Kirk

- HP - 15.6" touch-screen laptop - Intel Core i5 - 12GB memory

Parliamentarian

- Motions Book, hard copy

Secretary – Kathleen Collins

- Connecticut Certificate of Incorporation Bylaws and Standing Rules
- Executive Board and Plenary Meetings minutes 2010-2023
- ABA Annual Record 2010-present
- Secretary's Box

Special Services-Sue Wakat

- Interesting Glass and China Bells by Florent Wagner (slides and tape)
- Lowell Davis, inspiration of Davis' works and making his bells (CD)
- Todd Warner Bells (CD)

Tax Consultant-Bruce Clayton

- ABA Tax returns 2013-present

Town Crier – Terry Laduke

- Town Crier Bell with wooden handle 11 ¾" presented to ABA by New England Chapter

Corporation Representative Annual Report 2023-2024

Marcia Andrus

Historian Annual Report 2023-2024
Kathleen Collins

All copies of *The Bell Tower* are preserved.

The Bell Tower editor forwarded copies of current issues to the Historian and Website Coordinator for safekeeping.

During this year I have received 8 separate requests for a total of 31 articles from *The Bell Tower*. Twelve copies were mailed, 19 copies were emailed.

I have requested Past Presidents' resumes for those who have yet to submit.

Hotel Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024
Alan Burgdorf

For 2024 we return eastward to Pittsburgh PA. Local resident Nancy Santory and I visited several hotels and met with their sales reps. After further negotiation, Nancy and I recommended the DoubleTree Cranberry. In Omaha we had been hit with greatly increased food prices due to recent inflation, but DT Cranberry guaranteed to honor the current menu prices, and the hotel contract was approved by the ABA Executive Board. Nancy Santory and Kathleen Collins will serve as joint Convention Coordinators.

For 2025 I solicited bids from hotels in Lexington and Covington, Kentucky. Marilyn Grismere and I visited and considered the Lexington Embassy Suites and the Covington Radisson. After negotiation, we recommended the Covington Radisson, and the hotel contract was approved by the ABA Executive Board. The Radisson guaranteed 2025 food prices, and we will offer specific menu choices for all the convention meals. The Northern Kentucky CVB will pay \$2,000 as an incentive to hold the convention in their area. Marilyn Grismere will serve as Convention Coordinator.

The 1986 convention was held in Springfield, Missouri. The Heart of Missouri-Chimers (HOAC) Chapter has offered to host a 40th anniversary 2026 convention again in Springfield. That location is under consideration, and would of course depend on a local hotel offering a suitable contract.

2025 ABA Convention Covington, KY June 22 - 27

2025 JUNE ABA Convention-300 Room Nights-Activity						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 15
22 35	23 50	24 50	25 50	26 50	27 48	28 2
Arrive	Tour	Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront Conv1	Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront Conv2	Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront Conv3	Conv4	Depart

<https://www.choicehotels.com/kentucky/covington/radisson-hotels/kv029?mc=llgoxpx>

Radisson Cincinnati Riverfront
558 West 5th Street
Covington, KY 41011
(859) 777-0008

220 rooms, each with balcony



View from revolving restaurant



Revolving restaurant on 18th floor

Rooms: 1-King or 2-Queen
Room Rate: \$139 (single/double/triple/quad)
Free parking, free WiFi, free buffet breakfast.

Job Description Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024 Cindy Knoblauch

All Job Descriptions remain on the website in the Member's Area.

Requests were sent the first of March to all job holders requesting a review of their current Job Description. Job Descriptions have been reviewed and several were updated this year and uploaded. There are a few that will need further updating after this year's convention.

Membership Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024 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 2023-2024, ABA had 310 memberships: 284 US and 26 International. During the year, 31 memberships were removed. Two others lost one of the members but the other continued the membership. We welcomed 26 new memberships—25 US and 1 International. **Net loss for the fiscal year was 5 memberships.** Last year's net loss was 14 memberships.

Of our US members, roughly two-thirds paid by check and the other third online, either by credit card or PayPal. This was similar to the payment methods last year. Of our 26 international members, six paid by check, the others online. Those paying by check were from Canada or payment was being made in the US.

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 the magazine by bulk mail, US members receiving it by first class mail, and international members.

To notify the Website Coordinator of all changes in the database 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 as requested for a project.

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

To participate in email, zoom, and/or in person meetings and 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 2023-224
Sue Wakat

Outreach Committee Annual Report 2023-2024
Sue Wakat

Past Presidents Group Annual Report 2023-2024
Jane Davenport

Social Media Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024

Shawn Wagner

As this is the second year for the Social Media Report. It has been a full year. Now, that we have some new data, lets get into this. The data is not an complete year. This is only the last 90 days, the numbers are down, but after convention they spike.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
People we have reached	580	381
Engagements	388	162
Net Followers	12	7
Review of Videos	53	31

Who is looking at the ABA by Gender?

Women:	69.5%	70.7 %
Men:	30.5%	29.3%

The countries that are looking at the ABA.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
United States	442	497
Canada	17	20
United Kingdom	16	17
Australia	12	15

I would like to close this report on a positive note. We will use Facebook to connect with other members. We will also use Facebook, to share information that is coming up. We have added another member to the Social Media team to help out and engage with others.

I would like to stay on as the Social Media person. I enjoy connecting with other members and the public.

Special Services Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024

Sue Wakat

Tax Consultant Annual Report 2023-2024

Bruce Clayton

I received the fiscal year, April 1, 2022-March 31, 2023, financial statement prepared by the ABA II treasurer, Arlene Foreman.

I then prepared the fiscal year end, March 31, 2023 non-profit tax return form 990 EZ, 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 2023-2024

Terry Laduke

I have been to Knoxville, Charleston, and Omaha as your Town Crier. This has been a wonderful experience. I am getting into the spirit and the responsibilities of the job.

I want to let everyone know that some of my functions also include being the “contact person” for announcements and lost and found.

My wife and I are looking forward to seeing you all in Pittsburgh this year.

Website Coordinator Annual Report 2023-2024

Laura Murgia

I have created our Convention 2024 pages and have updated other pages on the website. I continue to show member bells at the bottom of the home page. I have updated the Bell Tower site and have included a few complete archived articles on the site for anyone to see.

The Members Only section continues to not have much traffic. The Membership Directory, Bylaws, Job Descriptions and Reports are updated as needed. The Chapter News and Information forum where chapter meeting minutes and other information can be placed is updated as information is sent. This year we added the posting of motions after they were printed in the Bell Tower.

The forum was going to need to be changed this past year since the new one is no longer supported by WordPress. I have obtained the program and have been working with it a bit but I don't think it will meet our needs. Even though WordPress does not support the forum, it continues to function without a problem.

I updated our U-tube site with videos of BEHOLD displays from the 2023 convention. Other videos submitted by members are welcome but so far have received none. I would like to put some ‘bell sounds’ on the utube. I may try to coordinate this with some of the BEHOLD presenters at convention this year to see if one or two would allow gentle touching and ringing.

At the 2022 and 2023 convention I was able to record a few of the program presentations. I will be working soon to upload one or two to our U-tube site. The quality of the recordings for sound is not good on most of them. I'm not sure how to better record them at convention but have updated my tablet for better recording so hopefully this will help. I will also try a different placement of the equipment at this coming convention.

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

Welcome Letter Writers Annual Report 2023-2024

Mary Levins

For the fiscal year the Welcome Letter Writers have written letters to twenty three new members and to two returning members. This was an increase of seven from last year. Several were gift memberships to relatives of ABA members. The new members were from 19 different states and one foreign country. With the acknowledgement they receive from the membership chairman and the letters from us, we hope to make them feel truly welcome.

Carol Mannchen, Betty Goodson and Annette Hunt served on the committee with me.

Most letters are now sent by email. This has continued to increase communication between new members and the letter writers.