

# **The American Bell Association International, Inc.**

## **Job Descriptions**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President**  
**First Vice-President**  
**Second Vice President**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Member at Large**  
**Immediate Past President**  
**Past President on the Executive Board**

### **APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

**Auction Coordinator**  
**Audit Committee**  
**BEHOLD Displays Coordinator**  
**Bell Tower Committee**  
**Bell Tower Editor**  
**Budget Committee**  
**Bylaws Committee**  
**Chaplain**  
**Chapters Coordinator**  
**Convention Committee**  
**Convention Coordinator - Annual**  
**Corporation Representative**  
**Historian**  
**Hotel Coordinator**  
**Job Description Coordinator**  
**Legal Advisor**  
**Membership Coordinator**  
**Nominating Committee**  
**Outreach Committee**  
**Parliamentarian**  
**Social Media Coordinator**  
**Special Services Coordinator**  
**Tax Consultant**  
**Town Crier**  
**Website Coordinator**  
**Welcome Letter Writers Committee**

## **President Annual Report 2024-2025**

### **Bonnie Tippery**

When I was asked to consider taking a second term going through the chairs to become President again, I wasn't sure how to respond. I wanted to make sure that the American Bell Association continued and decided that I would be willing to serve in that role again. It has been an interesting year. I have kept busy with various matters. I appointed a special committee to examine how we can collaborate with other bell and/or collectors' organizations. They have come up with a flyer that can be used at other conventions that tells others about ABA in the hopes of recruiting new members for ABA. We will see how this effort goes.

As your president, I had the opportunity to attend several Heart of America Chimers meetings and a meeting of the Minnesota chapter. I have participated in several of the National Zoom calls. We started the zoom calls in 2022 when COVID kept many chapters from meeting. It has become a fun time of sharing. I have participated in the Outreach committee calls and the Convention Committee calls. My husband and I were able to spend a couple of days in the Covington area along with the convention coordinator to explore the area.

In my official position, I chaired the Executive board meeting held at convention and plan to have a zoom meeting prior to the convention. I have communicated with the Executive Board several times concerning issues that needed to be addressed, and several motions have been passed. I have maintained close contact with the convention coordinator and will fulfill all convention duties.

It has been an honor to once again serve ABA as President. I look forward to being part of ABA for many more years.

## **ABA FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025**

### **AILENE PEACE**

As First Vice President, I reviewed the job description for President and the Bylaws to become familiar with the duties required in the event that it would be necessary to assume that position. Gratefully, it was not necessary. Duties for administering the Friends of ABA Fund were performed with respect and in a timely manner.

I participated in all board meetings initiated by President Bonnie, electronically and otherwise, and responded quickly to those held by email, adding any ideas to discussions that I thought were pertinent.

Previous budgets were studied for a better understanding and to be prepared to discuss the budget as presented by Treasurer Arlene for 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Making appointments for 2025-2026 has not been the easiest task. Many that currently hold positions have graciously agreed to continue that work, but there have been resignations that have proven difficult to fill. I have been encouraging current appointees to enlist an interested member as a trainee/assistant to fill their position when they decide to resign. It has been an objective in filling positions to appoint someone who has not previously served to encourage more participation at conventions and possibly meeting requirements for serving on the board. I appreciate Judy Blake stepping forward to serve as Chaplain and thanks to Diana Meaney for joining *The Bell Tower* Committee and serving as administrator for CMBTF.

If needed, I will assist President Bonnie at the Covington convention as requested. A list of attendees has been requested from the Convention Treasurer to identify Past Presidents in attendance to prepare for recognizing them at convention. Notes are being taken in preparation for the agenda at my first board meeting at convention, and a list of board members and appointees names and contact information is being created to share.

The year ahead as president of ABA is scary for me as never having served in a lead position previously, but I know that I have a solid and experienced team behind me all the way.

**Friends of ABA Annual Report 2024-2025**  
**First Vice President Ailene Pearce**

It has been my privilege as First Vice President to administer the Friends of ABA Fund this year. It was done by showing appreciation to the donors and sympathy to the families of those remembered. I chose not to use a form letter but to write a personal message. Notifications from Nancy Kirk and Arlene Foreman were clear, and my letters to the donors and family members were done quickly. There were no new Major Donors added to the accumulative list this year.

Donations from 12 donors totaled \$2,927.56. Of that amount, there were 8 ceramic, 2 porcelain, 1 brass, 1 bronze, 1 in-kind, and 1 continuing Major Donor. The cost of printing the Major Donor list for the 2025 convention in Covington, KY will be deducted from the total above.

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Sue Goebel**

Since I was appointed by President Bonnie Tippetty midway through the year, I have responded to any issues that have come up via email and have voted when appropriate. I also am serving at her pleasure on a special committee to investigate other collector clubs or organizations, in the hope that we can learn from others on how they attract and maintain their membership.

I am in the process of putting together the letters and notices for our “first timers” at convention. I will host them at a meeting when convention starts and introduce them at lunch.

It has been an honor to act as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President again for ABA Int’l, Inc.

**ABA Secretary Report 2024 – 2025**  
**Carol Jurin**

Following the election of the 2024 – 2025 ABA Executive Board, the minutes of the First Executive Board were transcribed and approved. Approved Board Motions were recorded and sent to *The Bell Tower* editor for inclusion in the magazine’s Executive Board column.

In April, emails were sent out to the appropriate committee coordinator and/or chair to write a report of their yearly ABA activity, to be included in the yearly ABA Annual Report.

The convention Board and Business meetings will be attended and minutes transcribed, approved and sent out to appropriate people. At the close of convention, using the Annual Reports, an Annual Record Book will be compiled including the yearly ABA activities.

In addition, the Secretary keeps an up-to-date copy of the Charter, Bylaws and Standing Rules. The Secretary also maintains an up-to-date Secretary’s Box to be passed along upon the term’s completion to the incoming secretary.

**Immediate Past President**  
**Jane Boldenow**

It has been my pleasure to serve ABA as Immediate Past President during the 2024 – 2025 term. I feel that I have fulfilled the duties as presented in the Job Description. Specifically, I have attended Executive Board meetings, responded to emails from the President, and will conduct the installation of newly elected officers at the convention. As always, I am impressed with my fellow ABA members who give so much of their time and energy to our organization. Together, we strive to keep the wheels of ABA turning, into the future.

**ABA Member at Large**  
**Shirley A Russell (California)**

I have thoroughly enjoyed the meetings I've attended both North American including Canada, and the International Meetings.

We were scheduled to have meetings every three months on zoom. The North American one month and the International the following month. Turnout for the International meetings became less members from other countries. I found it harder to get my computer going and later learned the problem was my computer and me waking up. Later, we decided to combine both meetings into the North America time zones. As for now, the meeting is called North America / International Zoom Meetings. We still have our meetings in February, May, August and November. We are looking at times that most accommodate our members. Although I had to be logged into zoom at 05:00 AM, I almost made all of the meetings. The international meetings had a few members from Italy, Scotland, Australia and others. Most members were from North America.

Our meeting in May 2024, was about Flower Bells. They were bells shaped like flowers and bells with flowers on them. The meeting in August 2024, was about what bells did you purchase on your travels to and from the convention, and what bells did you purchase at the convention. The meeting in November 2024 was about the autumn or fall, Halloween, and Thanksgiving. The meetings are fun, especially when we get to see bells that represented other countries. I am hoping in the future, we can have a Bell & Tell, about holidays in other countries.

This year, we had our meeting in February. The theme was figural handles and figurine (full body) bells. In May, our theme was flowers on bells, or bells shaped like flowers. Our next meeting will be August 30, 2025 at 03:00 PM Central Time. The theme is your latest or favorite bell you purchased at the convention.

My biggest surprise is how much knowledge our members have and catalog their bells. I don't have even a clue on knowing how to or where to start.

Attendance has improved from nine or ten members to fourteen to sixteen members. We have had a few new members and it has been a joy. Anyone can attend and we will be glad to have you. There's lots to learn about bells, people to meet who collect bells, and friends you only see at conventions.

I am planning on attending the convention next year. I miss seeing everyone and attending some of the sessions on bells.

Shirley A Russell (California)

**Past President on the Board Report**

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 was open to calls from Officers and members to discuss items and/or answer questions.

I have requested Jane Davenport to inquire if another Past President will step in and be the Representative on the Board next year. I have done this for many years and think it is time for me to step back. I will always be available to any phone calls from Officers and members.

**Auction Coordinator  
2024-2025  
Bruce Clayton**

We had a very successful auction at the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Convention, held on June 27, 2024. There were some outstanding bells up for auction. Our total auction sales amounted to \$ 12,113.60, which was down 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 184 bells for a gross revenue of \$ 11,965.00. In addition, there were (3) items that were donated which sold for \$ 130.00. Monetary donations and in-kind donations amounted to 18.60. ABA received 100 % of the sales from the donated items. In addition, ABA received 15% from the sale of the 187 bells, which totaled \$ 1,794.75. We incurred \$ 213.60 in expenses, mainly printing the auction catalog. After expenses the net proceeds to ABA was \$ 1,729.75. The remaining \$ 10,170.25 was distributed to the sellers.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025  
Cindy Knoblauch**

Upon the death of Jane Clayton, I became the Acting Audit Committee Chairman for the 2024 ABA convention in Pittsburgh, PA. With the help of Janie Hendzlik, Sue Moore and Ginny Goeppinger, I audited the April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 books of the Treasurer. The audit included the bank statements, canceled checks, paid invoices and statements, savings account records, the treasurer's checkbook and general ledger.

I reported the accuracy of the income and expenses at the annual ABA meeting and made a motion on behalf of the audit committee that the Audit Report be approved

**BEHOLD Displays  
Ginny Goeppinger, Coordinator**

Last year the BEHOLD ROOM had eight exhibits, all given by program presenters making it possible to see the actual bells up close and personal. It gave attendees a better feel for size and detail. Some displays were pictures due to bell size constraints. The displays were as follows:

Bonnie Tippetery – Owl Bells

Ailene Pearce – Who Is Joel

Larissa Franczek – Painted Wooden Russian Bells

Peggy Hays Nelson – Sights and Sounds of Old Western Pennsylvania

Carl Zimmerman – Fulton Bell Foundry

Alan Burgdorf – Historical Ukraine Bells

Laura Murgia – Lynn Chase Bells

Jaan Whitehead – Bells, Music, Art, Culture & Politics From Around The World (Book)

I want to thank all of those who did the displays and helped me through my first year as BEHOLD Coordinator.

## ***Bell Tower* Editor July-August 2024-May June 2025 Report** **Marilyn Grismere**

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

The following individuals provide contributions to each issue.

**Bonnie Tippery**, “*President’s page*”

**Mary Lou Dayton**, “*In Memoriam*” and next year this will be *Judy Blake*

**Sue Moore**, “*Chapter Chimes and Notes*”

**Nancy Kirk** “*For Whom the Bells Peal*”

**Ruth Ann Frank**, “*Collins Bell Tower Fund*” and next year this will be *Diana Meany*

**Ailene Pearce, 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, one of my proofreaders. It takes a team to get *The Bell Tower* issues into your hands, and I thank every one of the contributors, proofreaders, and authors.

*The Bell Tower* issue articles for this year are:

### **July-August 2024 issue**

- 🔔 “*Learning with Native Bells*” by **Laura Murgia**
- 🔔 “*Blue and White Bells*” by **Kathleen Collins**
- 🔔 “*Weird(!) and or Wonderful (?)*” by **Alan Burgdorf**
- 🔔 “*Bells of the Great Porcelain Houses of the World—Part II*” by **Nancy Kirk**

- 🔔 **September-August 2024**—Convention issue; group pictures of the activities at convention, including pictures of the auction bells.

### 🔔 **November-December 2024 issue**

- 🔔 “*What’s Next for the Bell at the 2024 Paris Olympics*” captured from the Internet
- 🔔 “*Bells in the Art Institute of Chicago*” by **Larissa Franczek**
- 🔔 “*ABA Covington/Cincinnati Convention 2025—“Rolling on the River”* – June 22-27-2025 by **Marilyn Grismere**
- 🔔 “*Do You Remember*” by **Sue Wakat**
- 🔔 “*Things That Go Hoot in the Night*” by **Bonnie Tippery**
- 🔔 “*Hark! The Herald—Angels*” by **Shari Geimer**
- 🔔 “*Bells of the Great Porcelain Houses of the World, Part II*” by **Nancy Kirk**
- 🔔 “*TOSHIKANE (to-shee-hab-nay)*” by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 “*Antiquing Excursion Yields Unique Find*” by **Shari Geimer**

### 🔔 **January-February 2025 issue**

- 🔔 “*Bells of Kosiv Ceramics*” by **Irina Koltakova, Ukraine**
- 🔔 “*Pilgrim Glass—The First of the Story—Part I*” by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 “*Operation Reindeer*” by **Tim Koehl**
- 🔔 “*ABA Convention/Cincinnati Convention 2025—Rolling on the River*” by **Marilyn Grismere**
- 🔔 “*Bruce Clayton Donated Bells to Santa’s Workshop*” by **Gary Childress**
- 🔔 “*The Trash that Made the Litter Bell*” by **Paul Ash**

### 🔔 **March-April 2025 issue**

- 🔔 “*Pilgrim Glass—The Rest of the Story—Part II (Continued)*” by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 “*Do You Shop at Antique Stores? Here’s a Way to Shop for Prices on Google in the Store*” by **Shawn Wagner**

- 🔔 “*ABA Convention/Cincinnati Convention 2025—Rolling on the River*” – June 22-27, 2025 by **Marilyn Grismere**
- 🔔 “*Parts of a Bell Design*” by **Doug Sturomski**
- 🔔 “*Early Sea-Saw Bell Toys*” by **Robert Watrous**
- 🔔 “*A Rare Dated Parcel-Gilt Bronze Temple Bell and A Stand*” by **Alan Burgdorf**
- 🔔 “*Reviving Tradition: Bells Ring Again at Boys Town Dowd Memorial Chapel*” reprinted with permission of **Kara Neuwerth, Director, Media Relations, Boys Town**

🔔 **May-June 2025 issue**

- 🔔 “*Rolling on the River, 79<sup>th</sup> Annual ABA Convention, Cincinnati Covington 2025, June 22-27, 2025*” by **Marilyn Grismere**
- 🔔 “*Bells in Western European Paintings*” by **Larissa Franczek**
- 🔔 “*Marriage Cups— Their Unique Story Toasting the Bride and Groom!*” by **Shari Geimer**
- 🔔 “*St. Patrick’s Bell and Shrine*” by **Kathleen Collins**
- 🔔 “*Door Bells*” by **David Pike**
- 🔔 “*Pilgrim Glass—The Rest of the Story—Part III (Cont’d.)*” by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 “*Parts of a Bell Design – Part II*” by **Doug Sturomski**
- 🔔 “*God, Glass, and Glory*” by the late Nancy Von Klemperer

🔔 **Goals for Next Year**

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

**Collins Memorial *Bell Tower* Fund Report  
2024 / 2025 Fiscal Year  
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 88 contributions (an all-time high in the 27 or more years that I have been doing this job) to the Collins Memorial *Bell Tower* Fund totaling \$4,421.20. About 69 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 \$97.83. I am asking for reimbursement of \$40.00 for printer ink since it has increased so much. I am still donating the cost of paper and envelopes.

**Bylaws Committee Report  
Laura Murgia 2024 – 2025**

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.

The changes approved at the 2022 ABA Convention were updated and placed on the website and officers were sent a copy.

The Bylaws Committee is myself as Chair, Arline Webb, Neil Goeppinger, and Catherine Darnell as Parliamentarian.

We have proposed changes to be voted on by the membership at the 2025 Convention. They were printed in the March/April issue of *The Bell Tower*.

## **Proposed Changes to Bylaws, Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order to be voted on by the members present at the 2025 ABA Convention:**

### **1. ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEES**

#### **SECTION 2. MEETINGS**

Each committee shall hold a meeting **around** **at** the time of the annual convention. **Special** Meetings may be held by electronic means, including email, under the procedures set forth in the Special Rules of Order.

### **2. SPECIAL RULES of ORDER**

There are scattered changes and additions to the current Special Rules of Order –

**Changing Old:** 1. PROCEDURES FOR E-MAIL MEETINGS AND VOTING.

**Adding New:** Special Rules of Order II. PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF A MOTION BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT and III. PROCEDURES FOR ZOOM MEETINGS.

Rather than do the cross-outs and underlining of the first article, the Bylaws Chairman will make a motion to **Amend the Bylaws Special Rules of Order by Substitution**. Then the entire new Special Rules of Order (I., II., III.) will be presented to the membership for a vote.

### **3. Standing Rule Change:**

Note: Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote or be amended or rescinded by a two-thirds vote at the annual business meeting. If members were given prior notice of the proposed action, the rule may be amended or rescinded by a majority vote. (This is your prior notice)

The Board has passed a Motion to “recommend to the Membership at the Annual Business Meeting the elimination of the position of Special Services Coordinator by striking Standing Rule #29.”

*29. SPECIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR - provides ABA programs, bells, or bell related items for rent or sale to members and Chapters.*

Rational:

The position no longer sells or rents bells or related items. Some programs are available on the website or from the individual persons making them.

# THE AMERICAN BELL ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

## SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

### I. PROCEDURES FOR E-MAIL MEETINGS AND VOTING

#### General Provisions/Rules

- All votes are ratified at the next face-to-face meeting •
- All participants must have appropriate hardware, software, and email capabilities
- Everyone agrees to check their email at least every other day, unless they have notified President/Chairman
- All emails are sent to all participants (unless confidential votes are desired; see #8)
- A subject line identification is established to be used in all subsequent emails for that topic.
- All email IDs start "ABA"
- All agree to follow established procedures
- One subject/motion at a time
- Discussion must be germane to the subject
- A quorum is necessary for discussion and voting

#### Process:

- (1) Anyone can start a discussion on a topic that they want the Board/Committee to address.
- (2) The President/Chair gives notice of an issue that needs discussion with possible motion and vote. The topic is introduced with an ABA subject line identification. This ID is to be used on all further emails on this topic. President/Chair may ask for a motion at this time or answer requests for further clarification of the topic.
- (3) Any member can respond with a motion (first responder "wins").
- (4) Any member can second the motion (first responder "wins").
- (5) President/Chair states motion and asks for discussion, questions, and/or further information and sets a time frame for end of discussion. Discussion should be germane, concise, and to the point.
- (6) Amendments to the motion can be proposed but need second and are then processed by President/Chair (discussion and vote on the amendment). If amendment passes, President/Chair asks for continued discussion on motion as amended, using same time frame or extending it with general consent.
- (7) President/Chair asks if there is any further discussion. When there is no further discussion, the President/Chair closes discussion at that time and calls for the vote setting a deadline for votes (usually within 3-5 days for email).
- (8) All members vote using a simple yes or no. No further discussion or commentary should be included. Note: The maker, seconder, and President/Chairman can all vote. If a confidential vote is desired as in a ballot versus voice vote, the votes could be sent just to the President/Chair and the Secretary. (Used rarely)
- (9) At the end of that time or when all members have voted, President/Chair closes voting and announces results stating the number for and against and resulting action and then adjourns meeting.
- (10) Secretary records for "minutes" and for actions to be ratified at next face-to-face meeting.
- (11) President/Chair or designee notifies any committee(s) or individual(s) affected by vote.

## II. PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF A MOTION BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

### General Provisions/Rules

- Procedure can occur during email, face-to-face and other electronic meetings
- A motion passed by 'unanimous consent' does not mean 'unanimous vote.' No vote is taken.
- This is an alternative to an actual vote. All other processes remain the same.
- The general procedures for email meetings are used for a 'unanimous consent' motion by email.

### Process:

- (1) Background of the issue is presented.
- (2) There is a motion and second
- (3) Have a discussion, people ask for more information.
- (4) End of discussion
- (5) The President/designee may then suggest adoption of the motion by unanimous consent and states "If there is 'no objection' (by the XXXXXX date and time for email), the ABA Executive Board approves the following motion: (state motion)."
- (6) There are two actions members can take:
  - a. Reply stating "no objection."
  - b. State "I object."
    - i. The President/Chair will then restate the motion and call for additional discussion.
    - ii. The motion then continues through the usual process for motions.
- (7) If the motion is passed by unanimous consent, the President announces this and the Secretary records it as a motion passed by unanimous consent.

## III. PROCEDURES FOR ZOOM MEETINGS

- Time and date of a Zoom meeting is set by President/Chair or Zoom administrator
- Zoom Invitation is issued by President/Chair or Zoom administrator
- All participants must have appropriate hardware, software, email, and Zoom capabilities
- Everyone agrees to check their email at least every other day, unless they have notified President/Chair
- All emails are sent to all participants
- A subject line identification is established to be used in all subsequent emails for that topic
- All email IDs start "ABA"
- All votes are ratified at the next face-to-face meeting
- All agree to follow established procedure
- One subject/motion at a time
- Discussion must be germane to the subject
- A quorum is necessary for discussion and voting

### Process for Zoom meeting:

- Confirm that President/Chair and Secretary are present
- Review Zoom etiquette or procedures – use of mute, camera, shared screen, reaction buttons
- President conducts meeting as if in person
- Agenda or purpose - shared by sending out earlier or on shared screen
- Call To Order
- Introductions, if there are guests or new members
- Approval of Minutes, if needed (sent earlier or share screen)
- Other reports as necessary: financial (sent earlier or share screen); committees, etc.
- Business of the meeting – motions introduced and seconded if needed
- Discussion on each motion or item, managed by president/Chair - using visual recognition or reaction buttons
- Vote taken – can be done by unanimous consent or show of hands (visual or button) or using Polling feature on Zoom. (Votes are ratified at the next face-to-face meeting of the Executive Board)
- For secret ballot – use the anonymous part of the Polling feature on Zoom
- Finish regular meeting process – announcements, set next meeting, etc.
- Adjourn

**ABA Chaplain's Report**  
**Mary Lou Dayton, Chaplain**

I have served as Chaplain of ABA during the past year of 2024-2025. It has been a privilege and also a time of some sorrow as one recognizes the friends we have lost. One learns that each person had more than just a love of bells but other gifts and interests and areas of service that we were perhaps not aware of. It is hard to say good-bye to our bell friends. Each member that we are aware of passing has been remembered in the 'In Memorium' column in the Bell Tower and where an address is known, a note of sympathy sent to a family member.

The Chaplain provides invocations at the National Convention as requested by the President, usually including the Opening Prayer and "In Remembrance" program where each member lost since the last convention is remembered with their name read followed by the sounding of a bell by the Town Crier.

**2024-2025 Annual Report**  
**Chapters Coordinator**  
**Susan Moore**

Activities accomplished during my twelfth 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,
- ❖ Communicated with editor Marilyn Grismere and prepared "Chapter Chimes" column for all issues of *The Bell Tower*
- ❖ Attended all International, North America, and ABA Chapter 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 Mars, Pennsylvania, convention
  - Requested status update for all chapters to determine which chapters remain active
  - Received feedback on new "Chapter Chimes" format implemented last year; made minor changes

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	Minnesota
New England	Pacific Northwest
Pittsburgh	Southern California Campanology Club

The two Zoom "chapters" (International and North America) have been combined into the ABA Zoom Chapter and will meet quarterly. They are open to all ABA members but specifically designed for international members, members without a local chapter or who cannot travel to their chapter meetings, and Executive Board members.

A core of attendees, including ABA Board members, has developed and new ABA members or new Zoom members continue to attend each meeting. Three Zoom attendees were first timers at the 2024 convention and one has joined a chapter. The Colorado members on Zoom continue to express interest in reviving the chapter and two snowbirds attended the Arizona chapter meeting for the first time.

I wish to acknowledge the work and support of Carl Zimmerman, Sue Goebel, Laura Murgia, and Shirley Russell in arranging, conducting, facilitating, and announcing the Zoom meetings.

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 Ailene Pearce 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
- 3) Create a historical list of all inactive and disbanded chapters with beginning and ending dates for the website and Historian files

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 2024-2025**  
**American Bell Association**  
**Kathleen Collins, Chair**

The Convention Committee members include: Nancy Kirk (Membership Coordinator/Secretary); Nancy Santory (2024 Convention Co-coordinator); Judy Blake (2024 & 2025 Convention Treasurer); Connie Clark (Convention Photographer); Larissa Franczek; Shirley Russell (Member at Large), Alan Burgdorf (Hotel Coordinator); Marilyn Grismere (2025 Convention Coordinator); Bonnie Tippetery (President) and Kathleen Collins. Convention Chairs for 2026 (Monica Wagner & Cindy Knoblauch) were invited to attend Zoom meetings, as well as Laura Murgia, ABA Website Coordinator.

The Committee met four times via Zoom (August, October, January, and February) and also communicated via email for time-sensitive decisions. Marilyn Grismere, 2025 ABA Convention Chair, shared details of the convention and kept us informed about the progress and challenges of the 2025 convention planning. As Marilyn has chaired many conventions previously, she understands the many and various duties.

Following the 2024 convention in Pittsburgh (Cranberry/Mars) the Committee reflected on events; thanks to our anonymous donor, we could offer Sunday evening's Meet & Greet meal which was a great success, with Penny and Frank Clouse providing many Martian paraphernalia. The same anonymous donor paid for Tuesday morning's cruise on the Gateway Clipper.

Plans have begun for the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Springfield, MO June 21 – 26, 2026. This will be at the University Plaza Hotel, the same hotel as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1986. Alan Burgdorf, Hotel Coordinator, was instrumental in contract negotiations. Convention Co-Chairs will be Monica Wagner and Cindy Knoblauch.

**Historian Annual Report ABA 2024-2025**  
**American Bell Association**  
**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 7 separate requests for a total of 32 articles from *The Bell Tower*. Eighteen copies were mailed, 14 copies were emailed.

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

**Hotel Coordinator Annual Report FY 2024-25**

Alan Burgdorf – ABA Hotel Coordinator – alanburgdorf@hotmail.com

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. Registration as of 5 May 2025 is 77 Early Bird, 6 First Time, and 10 Part time.

The 1986 convention was held in Springfield, Missouri, at the University Plaza hotel. The Heart of Missouri-Chimers (HOAC) Chapter offered to host a 40th anniversary 2026 convention again in Springfield. I solicited bids from local hotels, and the University Plaza was again the most attractive. Gary Childress and I met with the hotel and sales managers, toured the hotel, and recommended it to the ABA Executive Board which approved the contract. The Springfield CVB and Missouri Tourism will pay \$1,800 as an incentive to hold the convention in their area. Monica Wagner and Cindy Knoblauch will serve as Convention Coordinators.

# 2026 ABA Convention Springfield, MO June 21-26, 2026

2026 JUNE ABA Convention—300 Room Nights—Activity						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 15
21 35	22 50	23 50	24 50	25 50	26 48	27 2
Arrive	Tour	Conv1	Conv2	Conv3	Conv4	Depart

**University Plaza Hotel**  
333 S John Q Hammons Pkwy  
Springfield, MO 65806

<https://upspringfield.com/>



**Room Rate: \$119 S/D, \$124 Triple, \$129 Quad (+17% room tax)**

**Rooms: 1-King or 2-Queen**

**Free buffet breakfast, mini-fridge & Keurig coffee maker**

**Free airport shuttle**

**JOB DESCRIPTION COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025  
Cindy Knoblauch**

Requests were sent on February 20, 2025 to all job holders requesting a review of their current Job Description. Follow up requests were sent in March and again in April for any Job Descriptions that were still outstanding. All returned Job Descriptions have been reviewed and several were updated this year and uploaded by the Website Coordinator to the Members area of the website. There are a few that will need further updating after this year's convention.

**Legal Advisor Report - ABA 2024 - 2025  
Carol Mannchen**

During the past year, the legal advisor reviewed and approved the contract for the convention hotel. The legal advisor also approved the contract for the convention bell.

## ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 2024, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

### ABA MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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 2024-2025, ABA had 285 memberships: 261 US and 24 International. During the year, 35 memberships were removed. Seven others lost one of the members but the other continued the membership. We welcomed 12 new memberships. **Net loss for the fiscal year was 23 memberships.** Last year's net loss was 5 memberships, the previous year 14.

Of our US members, roughly 60% paid by check and 40% online, either by credit card or PayPal. This was slightly more online payment than last year. Of our 24 international members, four 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy D. Kirk  
ABA Membership Coordinator  
May 2, 2025

## 2024-2025 OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Ailene Pearce for Sue Wakat

The Outreach Committee has been meeting quarterly by ZOOM to discuss ideas and strategies for marketing ABA and to encourage more involvement of current members.

Another bell group was identified, and a link was added on our website to them, and Facebook information was shared between the two.

Displays in libraries have been done previously, but it was discouraged unless a locking case was available. It was suggested that a poster might be used instead, but no action was taken. Giving a program at a library or community park was discussed. President Bonnie Tippery used the idea to give a program at her grandson's day care and gave all a bell.

Interaction with other collectors' groups is encouraged, and Peggy Nelson and Luida Shearer will set up a table at the National Fenton Glass Society convention in July. They have also invited another Society member to attend our convention in Covington. Ailene Pearce will also set up a display at the Fenton Art Glass Collectors of America (FAGCA) convention in July.

President Bonnie Tippery appointed a Special Committee in March to explore ways ABA could collaborate with other bell collector organizations. Awaiting report. She also appointed Carl Zimmerman to be the ABA representative to work with the National Bell Festival in a synod. Awaiting report.

An ad for our 2025 convention in Covington was published for free in the FAGCA publication *Butterfly Net*, and a complimentary one for their convention in July was placed in the July/August issue of *The Bell Tower*.

Ailene Pearce experimented with doing a voice recording on a PowerPoint and sent it to Laura Murgia for possible publication on YouTube. Laura used an AI program to add subtitles before publishing it. Others are encouraged to do the same.

The Committee has been making progress, little by little.

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## **ANNUAL REPORT of the PARLIAMENTARIAN**

**2024-25**

**Catherine M. Darnell**

President Bonnie Tippery appointed me to serve as ABA Parliamentarian for the 2024-2025 term.

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 Tippery, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, regarding the 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 2025 ABA Convention in Covington, KY 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 Tippery for inviting me to again be of service to ABA.

## **ANNUAL PAST PRESIDENT'S GROUP REPORT 2024/25**

**Jane Davenport**

As Chairman of the Past President's Group, I continued to work closely throughout the year with the past Chairman Betty Goodson continuing to learn the duties of the position. Betty made herself readily available at any time she was needed. I am truly grateful to her as new things seemed to pop up regularly and she has been ready immediately to guide me as needed. Thank you, Betty!

I am happy to report that there were no Past Presidents that passed away during the year. We continue strong!

The Group was notified as to Past Presidents' upcoming birthdays or illness. Presidents were given an updated Past President Address/birthday list created by Laura Murgia- Thank you Laura! .

The agenda was prepared for our 2025 meeting at Convention.

Packets were prepared and sent to Past Presidents unable to attend Convention in 2024. Packets contain copies of Convention reports, 2024 Convention Schedule, meeting minutes, and other relevant items.

All Past Presidents were ready throughout the year, as needed, to assist whatever issue came our way. Thank you to everyone!

**Social Media Report  
Shawn Wagner**

This has been an interesting year. The ABA seems to be growing. I would first like to thank all the members that have helped this past year. This has been a truly busy year.

	2025	2023	
People we have reached	1471	580	
Engagements	39	388	Net
Followers	625	12	
Review of Videos (3 min).	53.3 %		
Review of Videos (1 min).	26.7 %		

Who is looking at the ABA by Gender?

70 % Women            29.5 % Men

The countries that are looking at the ABA.

United States	83%
Canada	3%
United Kingdom	3%
Australia	2%
Russia	2%
Ukraine	1%

Top Cities

Moscow, Russia	1.3%
New York, New York	.8%
Brisbane, Australia	.6%
Columbus, Ohio	1%

I would like to close this report on a positive note.

**TAX CONSULTANT  
2024-2025  
Bruce Clayton**

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

I received the fiscal year, April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024, financial statement prepared by the ABA II treasurer, Arlene Foreman.

I then prepared the fiscal year end, March 31, 2024 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 REPORT 2024-2025**

**Terry Laduke Town Crier**

I have been to Knoxville, Charleston, Omaha and Pittsburgh as your Town Crier. Being able to help with smooth running of a convention.

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

I enjoy being the focus “in uniform” to represent the ABA. I am getting into the spirit and the responsibilities of the job. This has been a wonderful experience.

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

**Website Coordinator**  
**LauraMurgia 2024 - 2025**

I have created our Convention 2025 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.

We experienced a severe problem in January with a major increase of robot registrations for the Members Only Forum. The program set up by David Elliot sent a ‘welcome’ email to all who registered. Those emails bounced back to our server. For years I was deleting them but the increase was noted by the server (Shock Hosting) and our emails were suspended. Michael Lawson and I worked to try to resolve the issue. However, since the program had features that only an unknown person Dave used as ‘founder’, we were not successful. Eventually we had to remove the forum program. With that removed, Shock Hosting reinstated our webmail address.

A new forum program that was supported by WordPress (our main website program) was uploaded and I spent quite a bit of time over the next few weeks learning more about it. (And am still learning) It is more complicated than the old one and requires more work to maintain. One feature is that I had to individually enter members for the site and remove persons no longer members. In order to be registered, people had to have an email. The site then sent a welcome email to the member and invited them to change the password. Currently we have 272 persons registered and only 47 who have entered the Members Area.

In the Members Area are ABA Documents such as Bylaws, Member Directory, Job Descriptions, Motions and Annual Reports. I have also set up a Bell Talk with a couple of articles, Chapter and Member News and Interesting Bells to see while traveling. Anyone can enter another or add to those set up. So far, no one has. I will try at the 2025 Convention to get more people involved with the site.

I updated our U-tube site with videos of BEHOLD displays from the 2024 convention. Other videos submitted by members are welcome and we have received one – Bells and the Color of Fall. I was also able to place several convention programs on our YouTube site

Due to some issues with the programs presentations and recording at the 2024 Convention, some of the programs are not able to be placed on YouTube. Hopefully things will go better this coming year.

I am looking at finding someone who will agree to start learning about the website program. I’ve made a few inquiries but have not yet identified someone.

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

**Welcome Letter Writers Chairman's Report**  
**Mary Levins**

For this fiscal year the Welcome Letter Writers have written letters to ten new members and one returning member. The new members were from eight different states. With the acknowledgement that 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 allowed for better and quicker communication between the new members and the letter writers.