

The American Bell Association International, Inc.

Job Descriptions

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
First Vice-President
Second Vice President – Office Vacant
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
2025 – 2026 ANNUAL REPORT
AILENE PEARCE

It has been an honor to serve as the President of the American Bell Association International, Inc.® (ABA) for the year 2025-2026.

My first ABA Board meeting held during the 2025 convention met quorum, and it went well. Members were reminded about confidentiality, proper expense reporting, and Zoom meeting protocol. Contact information for all Board members was reviewed and accepted. I pointed out my email change to gmail for all ABA communications in order to be able to read them on my phone and respond quickly. There was no old business to discuss, and the only new business was my Board and committee appointments. They were approved.

Several motions were addressed by the Board following email meetings protocols with success. Three meetings of the Board were held using Zoom protocols. Two of them were to expressly address the future of ABA and to formulate a plan to submit to the membership.

Carol Mannchen resigned from the Board as Legal Advisor in December 2025. Other than making a request for someone to fill the position in my January/February message in *The Bell Tower*, no other actions were taken to replace her.

Vacancies on the Outreach and Nominating Committees occurred after the passing of Sue Wakat. My appointment of Roger Cusick to serve on the Outreach Committee was approved by the Board. Luida Shearer was approved by the Board to serve on the Nominating Committee. As an ex-officio member of all committees, except Nominating and Audit, I was able to attend most committee meetings that were held using Zoom. After the loss of Sue Wakat, I did communicate with Annette Hunt on the Nominating Committee to suggest people who I thought might be contacted to serve on the Board.

I attended most chapter meetings that were held using Zoom. Husband Chris and I joined the Pittsburgh Chapter in Sugarcreek, OH for their spring meeting in April. I gave a program about Royal Bayreuth Sunbonnet Baby bells.

Zoom meetings held by HOAC were attended to provide input for convention planning. I visited the University Plaza Hotel in September with their representatives to review rooms and convention space. Names of members to do invocations at convention and banquet seating arrangements were provided to the Annual Convention Coordinators.

With much regret, the Board received the resignation of Nancy Kirk as Membership Coordinator on April 28, 2026. After discussing possibilities with Marie Varian, *The Bell Tower* Chairperson, finding and filling the position was designated as under the Committee's prevue and was delegated to them. Posting an ad in the convention program was suggested as an approach for the search.

My name with year was engraved on the brass plate on the base of the stand for the General Grant bell. The President's "box" has been updated as needed with "thanks" to Secretary Carol Jurin. It will be turned over to Sue Goebel at the 2026 convention, as well as the ABA checks and the General Grant Bell.

First Vice President
Sue Goebel

This year I have managed the recording of donations to “Friends of the ABA” and have provided the information to the Bell Tower for publication. I have participated in all of the on-line discussions held with the board on various topics. I have been working to fill appointed positions for the coming year but have been having difficulties in finding people to agree to hold various positions. Although not a duty of the 1st VP, I have had the honor and pleasure to act as moderator for our quarterly International Zoom meetings. It gives me a great way of getting to know members who don’t live in my area or attend convention.

Report on Friends of ABA 2025-2026

One of the duties and privilege of serving as the 1st Vice President is to respond to donation to the “Friends of ABA”. This is a way that members can donate monetary gifts to ABA in honor or memory of friends or just give to help support ABA. As 1st VP I have acknowledged these gifts and sent personized “Thank You” notes. During the 25-26 fiscal year of ABA 20 donors gave gifts that totaled \$4,155.32. The gifts ranged from \$12.95 to \$1000.00 showing that large or small, our gifts to ABA add up to help make this organization stronger.

Respectively Submitted;
Sue Goebel 1st VP

ABA Secretary Report 2025– 2026
Carol Jurin

After attending the 2025 ABA Cincinnati, Ohio Convention, the minutes of both the Executive Board and General Membership meetings were transcribed, approved. and sent out to appropriate people. Approved Board Motions were recorded and sent to *The Bell Tower* editor for inclusion in the magazine’s Executive Board column.

The Secretary also recorded all motions approved online during the year and updated the ABA Motion Book.

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 Book, available in hard copy at the Convention and electronically on the ABA web site.

The Secretary worked hand in hand throughout the year with ABA President, Ailene Pearce to notify the appropriate people when motions were approved and research topics brought before the Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Jurin, ABA Secretary 2025 - 2026

Member at LARGE

Shirley Russell

I continue to enjoy the Zoom meetings for the North American, including Canadian, and international groups.

We changed the name of the meetings to include both groups. Instead of being called the North American Zoom Meeting, and the International Zoom Meeting, the meetings are now called the ABA Zoom Meeting. I like the new time the meetings are scheduled, because I get to sleep a couple more hours. Meetings are still scheduled every three months on the third Saturday, in February, May, August and November on zoom.

The May 2025 meeting was about Bells with Spring Flowers, and Flower-Shaped Bells. We counted sixteen attendees. The meeting in August 2025 was about the latest bell(s) purchased and/or your Favorite Bell(s). The meeting in November 2025 was about bells representing autumn (fall), or a favorite bell. The meeting in February 2026 was Who Came to Live with You, and Bells for the New Year. It has been a delight seeing bells representing other countries. In May of this year, our theme was Armed Forces Day.

I am really looking forward to the next meeting scheduled for August 15, 2026.

I look forward to learning more about the bells I have and given the chance to show bells I received as gifts, purchased, and found during my travels.

We have some faithful members attending. We are hoping to have more members attending zoom meetings. It was a joy seeing members living a distance away. 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)
ABA Member at Large

2025-2026 Immediate Past President Report

American Bell Association

Bonnie Tippery

As Immediate Past President I participated and voted in all ABA Board meetings throughout the year including the first meeting of the 2025-2026 Executive Board in Covington, Kentucky.

At the request of Ailene Pierce, I set up two zoom calls for the Executive Board during the year. I have offered advice or guidance whenever asked by our current president throughout the year. I was an ex-officio member of the nominating committee. I have participated in most of the ABA member zoom meetings this year which has allowed me to meet some members who have not been to convention recently or at all. My last duty will be the honor of installing ABA's new officers at the Convention banquet in Springfield. It has been an honor to serve on the board of the ABA for a second time and to work with the many dedicated members of our organization.

Past President on the Board Report 2025 - 2026

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.

Last year at the convention, I requested another Past President to step up and be the Representative on the Board this past year. No one was able to and at their urging I did continue. I have done this for many years it is time for me to step back. I will not accept the position for next year.

I will always be available to any phone calls from Officers and members.

Auction Coordinator 2025-2026 Bruce Clayton

We had a very successful auction at the Covington, Kentucky, held on June 26, 2025. There were some outstanding bells up for auction. Our total auction sales amounted to \$ 17,135.00, which was an increase of over four thousand dollars 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 238 bells for a gross revenue of \$ 17,040.00. In addition, there were (2) items that were donated which sold for \$ 95.00. There were no monetary donations nor in-kind donations. ABA received 100 % of the sales from the donated items. In addition, ABA received 15% from the sale of the 238 bells, which totaled \$ 2,556.00. We incurred \$ 210.00 in expenses, mainly printing the auction catalog. After expenses the net proceeds to ABA was \$ 2,441.00. The remaining \$ 14,484.00 was distributed to the sellers.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce A. Clayton,

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026 Gregg Keurian

I became the Audit Committee Chairman for the 2025 ABA convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. With the help of Vicki Keurian, I audited the April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 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 REPORT
2024 – 2025
Ginny Goeppinger, Coordinator

The BEHOLD ROOM in 2025 had 11 exhibits. Six were displays of programs given during the convention, the remainder were all the way from whimsical to historic, which made for an interesting and fun visit.

Those that gave programs and had a display were:

Alan Burgdorf – Whiskey Bells –Glass and Ceramic Decanters to Bells

Arlene Foreman - My Past Made Me Do It

Sue Moore – Limited, Limited Editions

Ailene Pearce – So Ugly, They're Cute

Bob Watrous – Early Seesaw & Swing Bell Toys

Tim Koel – Battle Bells

Those that had a display only were:

Marilyn Grismere – English Kings and Queens

Marilyn Grismere – Brass/Bronze Scrubbers

Charles Robinson – Trained Mice Play Christmas Songs on Bells

Bob Watrous – Teddy Roosevelt Bell Toys

Penny Hunt – Nodders

I want to thank everyone who helped and contributed to make the BEHOLD ROOM fun and memorable.

***Bell Tower* Editor July-August 2025-May-June 2026 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.

Ailene Pearce, *"President's page"*

Judy Blake,

Sue Moore, *"Chapter Chimes and Notes"*

Nancy Kirk *"For Whom the Bells Peal"*

Diane Meany *"Bell Tower Fund Report"*

Ailene Pearce, Arlene Foreman, "Friends of ABA"

Monica Wagner *"Kids Corner"* - Monica contributes this article for the kids and hopefully let their parent or grandparent read her column to her children/grandparents

Marie Varian—And last but not least, the continual support of the chairperson of *The Bell Tower* Committee, one of my proofreaders.

Mary Ann Bell—Mary Ann was an English teacher and I respect her knowledge to help with The Bell Tower.

I thank every one of the contributors, proofreaders, and authors.

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

July-August 2025 issue

- 🔔 "Green Cow Bells" by **George Matthew, Jr.**
- 🔔 "Save Our Bells! (Is the Bell in Our Court?)" by **George Matthew, Jr.**
- 🔔 "Birds As Bells—Birds On Bells" by **Shari Geimer**
- 🔔 "Bells from Different Chicago Museums" by **Larissa Franczek**
- 🔔 "Pilgrim Glass—The Rest of the Story-Part IV" by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "Bells on Stamps" by **Mary Ann Bell**
- 🔔 "Hoboken Ferry Company 1899 Bell, Meneely Bell Company, Troy, NY" by **Andy Comer**
- 🔔 "As Clear As A Bell: A Legacy & A Life Path" by **Monica Street**

- 🔔 **September-August 2025**—Convention issue; group pictures of the activities at convention, including pictures of the auction bells.

November-December 2025 issue

- 🔔 "Pilgrim Glass—The Rest of the Story—Part 5 (Concluded)" by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "Iliia Nakashidze: Bell Collection from the Republic of Georgia" by **Larissa Franczek**
- 🔔 "Bells, Bells, Bells, & Stamps" by **Mary Ann Bell**
- 🔔 "Every 40 Years in the Queen City, Springfield, MO, Convention" by **Monica Wagner & Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "The Watrous Mfg. Co., Teddy Roosevelt and the Mystery Rider Bell Toy" by **Robert Watrous**
- 🔔 "Tale of Two Bells" by **Nancy Kirk**

January-February 2026 issue

- 🔔 "The Amazing Bells of Duke" by **Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "Historical Ukraine Bells" by **Alan Burgdorf**
- 🔔 "Lladro Porcelain History-Made in Spain" by **Marilyn Grismere**
- 🔔 "Every 40 Years in the Queen City, Springfield, MO, Convention" by **Monica Wagner & Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "Bell Founding in the 13 Colonies" by **Tim Koehl**
- 🔔 "Meiji-Period Japanese Okimono" by **Jaytae Lee**

March-April 2025 issue

- 🔔 "Women in History – Part I" by the late **Beverly Blake, Former President of ABA**
- 🔔 "Limited, Limited Editions – Part I" by **Sue Moore**
- 🔔 "On One of the Most Iconic Russian Porcelain Trademarks" by **Larissa Franczek**
- 🔔 "Every 40 Years in the Queen City, Springfield, MO, Convention" by **Monica Wagner & Cindy Knoblauch**
- 🔔 "The Nazi Plunder of Church Bells Changed the Sound of Europe" by **Nina Siegal, the New York Times, December 27, 2025**
- 🔔 "Bell Pushes by Faberge" by **Alan Burgdorf**
- 🔔 "In Memoriam of Past President Sue Wakat" by **Judy Blake**
- 🔔 "Koudbounia History/Morphology Manufacture of Bells" by **Rober Harris, nephew of George Matthew Jr."**
- 🔔 "The Collection Became the Art" by **Jaytae Lee and Bruce Clayton**
- 🔔 "Bell Fever" by **Shawn M. Wagner**

🔔 **May-June 2025 issue**

🔔 “*History of Bells in Downtown Chicago*” by **Larissa Franczek**

🔔 “*Unusual Brass and Bronze Bells*” by **Marilyn Grismere**

🔔 “*Unique One-of-a-Kind Bells!*” by **Shari Geimer**

🔔 “*Women in History – Part II*” by the late **Beverly Blake, Former President of ABA**

🔔 “*Every 40 Years in the Queen City, Springfield, MO, Convention*” by **Monica Wagner & Cindy Knoblauch**

🔔 “*Fitz and Floyd Company Bells*” by **Laura Murgia**

🔔 “*Limited, Limited Editions II*” by **Sue Moore**

🔔 “*WWII Iron Battle Bells—The Little Foundry That Could*” by **Tim Kohl**

🔔 “*Coats Country Museum*” by **Ailene Pearce**

🔔 “*Pittsburgh Amish Weekend*” by **Kathleen Collins**

🔔 **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.

Bylaws Committee Report

2025 – 2026

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.

The changes approved at the 2025 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 no proposed changes to be voted on by the membership at the 2026 Convention.

ABA CHAPLAIN'S REPORT, 2025-2026

Judy Blake

It has been my privilege to serve as Chaplain for the year 2025-2026.

This has been a time of sorrow as I learned of all those who have past, but also a time of learning so much about bell friends and their lives.

Each member that I was aware of received a Mention in *The Bell Tower* and a note of sympathy. This was not always easy as the information was often difficult to find.

As Chaplain I gave the invocation at the banquet and expect to give one at the Opening Service where I will read the list of names and state or country followed by the ringing of the General Grant Bell by our Town Crier.
Judith Blake, Chaplain

2025-2026 Annual Report
Chapters Coordinator
Susan Moore

Activities accomplished during my thirteenth 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 ABA Zoom meetings
 - Sent minutes to attending members and ABA Board
 - Reported on meetings in “Chapter Chimes”
 - Used the ABA Zoom account to set up and conduct meetings
- ❖ Responded to questions and requests from the public, 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
- ❖ Updated the chapter meeting dates and informed the ABA Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator
- ❖ Conducted the chapter representatives meeting at Covington, Kentucky convention
 - Focused on ways chapters are keeping members involved and active

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 (status is uncertain)	
Pittsburgh	Southern California Campanology Club	

The ABA Zoom Chapter meets quarterly. It is 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 has developed, and new ABA members or new Zoom members continue to attend each meeting. Three meetings had 14 or 15 attendees, and one had 22 members.

I wish to acknowledge the work and support of 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 Sue Goebel has asked me to continue in this position for next 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 for the website and Historian files

I have enjoyed the coordinator job as it allows me regular correspondence with ABA members throughout the world. Chapter membership may decline, but those members remaining still enjoy getting together and sharing about their bells. Through chapters we convey the joy of bell collecting and bell friendship. Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moore

Convention Committee Annual Report 2025-2026
American Bell Association
Kathleen Collins, Chair

The Convention Committee members include: Nancy Kirk (Membership Coordinator/Secretary); Judy Blake; Larissa Franczek (Convention Photographer); Betsy Lincicome; Shirley Russell (Member at Large); Alan Burgdorf (Hotel Coordinator); Marilyn Grismere (2025 Convention Chair) and Kathleen Collins, Chair.

The Committee met one time via Zoom (August, 2025) and also communicated via email. Monica Wagner and Cindy Knoblauch, 2026 ABA Convention Chairs, shared details of the convention and kept us informed about the progress of the 2026 convention. Because the HOAC has many active and experienced ABA members, and has hosted several ABA conventions in the past, only minimal involvement with the Convention Committee was needed.

The 80th Annual Convention will be held in Springfield, MO June 21 – 26, 2026. This will be at the University Plaza Hotel, the same hotel as the 40th 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 2025-2026
American Bell Association
Kathleen Collins

All copies of *The Bell Tower* are preserved.

Laura Murgia continues to update the ABA flashdrive, and make the copies available to ABA members.

During the year I have received 10 separate requests for a total of 24 articles from *The Bell Tower*. Three articles were mailed, 21 articles were emailed.

I sent Marilyn Grismere, *Bell Tower* Editor, photos and information of past presidents who have died this year, to be included in *The Bell Tower*. I continue to request Past Presidents' bios from those who have yet to submit them.

Hotel Coordinator Annual Report FY 2025-26

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

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.

As of 4 May 2026, registration is 80 Full Time, 5 First Time, 1 Part Time, and 274 room nights.

For 2027 I considered the Iowa-Illinois Quad Cities, and solicited hotel bids through the local CVB. Bonnie Tippery volunteered to serve as Convention Coordinator, and Sue Goebel will be ABA President. We all visited and toured the area with a CVB rep, and stayed in two hotels. We recommended the Holiday Inn in Rock Island IL to the ABA Executive Board, which approved the contract. Some details are shown below.

2027 ABA Convention Rock Island, IL June 20-25, 2027

2027 JUNE ABA Convention—300 Room Nights—Activity						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 15
20 35 Meet & Greet	21 50 Tour 8 hrs	22 50 Tour Conv1	23 50 Conv2 Programs	24 50 Conv3 Auction	25 48 Conv4 Banquet	26 2 Depart for Home

Holiday Inn Rock Island
226 17th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201
309-794-1212

<https://holidayinn.com/rockislandil>



Room Rate: \$129 including breakfast (+13% room tax)
Rooms: 1-King or 2-Queen (tub shower with grab bar)
Microwave, mini-fridge, & Keurig coffee maker
Free airport shuttle

**Job Description Coordinator
Charlie Robinson**

One charge this year was to draft a PD for the Assistant Treasurer.
Because of schedules and personal conflicts, three agreed to meet late in May to review a draft AT PD.

Thus, there is nothing yet to report on that.

But the issue with all ABA PD's goes far deeper.

Many, like the one for the Treasurer, are filled with pages of detailed minutiae that should be in a Policies and Procedures Manual.

Most have no reporting lines or a clear at-the-top method of election or appointment.

A proposed header for the AT PD might be:

Appointed by: ABA President Reports to: ABA Treasurer

Serves on: Finance Committee (with Voice and Vote) [Term, if appropriate]

All PD's should have such a header.

That stuff now gets buried in text.

As The PD coordinator, I ask ABA leadership to bring to the membership a motion that:

1. Amends the bylaws to allow for the establishment of a Policies and Procedures addendum.

These are different from ABA's Standing Rules.

a. Where one or more P&Ps can be accepted or modified by a simple majority vote at the convention or by electronic means (if allowed), or

b. Once the initial package is approved, further changes to any P&P can be approved by the officers, with notice being given at the convention.

c. Legal advice might be needed.

And, if that is approved,

2. Simplify all PDs so that each contains only top level duties, with a reference pointing to detailed duties as specified to a distinct P&P.

This will require help from many within ABA, legal scrutiny, and a membership vote.

**Nominating Committee Report for 2025-2026
Annette Hunt**

I have made about 30 phone calls trying to get officers. I have left several messages for a few that never returned my phone call.

2026-2027 Slate of officers

President.	Sue Goebel
1st Vice President.	TBD
2nd Vice President.	TBD
Recording Secretary.	Carol Jurin
Treasurer	Arlene Foreman
Immediate Past President.	Ailene Pearce
Member at Large.	Shirley Russell

I do not plan to be on this committee next year.

Nominating Committee

Annette Hunt, Jane Davenport, Luida Shearer, Bonnie Tipperry

PARLIAMENTARIAN 2025-2026

Catherine M. Darnell

This ABA member was appointed by President Aileen Pearce to serve as ABA Parliamentarian for the 2025-2026 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.

It has been a pleasure to work with the 2025-2026 Board members. I plan to attend the 2026 ABA Convention in Springfield, MO and, if asked, will assist the President to prepare for the meetings of the Board and Executive Committee plus the Business Meeting.

I am happy 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 Pearce for appointing me to be of service to ABA.

Catherine M. Darnell, Parliamentarian
Member of Colorado and National Association of Parliamentarians

TAX CONSULTANT 2025-2026 Bruce Clayton

I received the fiscal year, April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025, financial statement prepared by the ABA II treasurer, Arlene Foreman.

I then prepared the fiscal year end, March 31, 2025 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.

Website Coordinator

2025 – 2026

Laura Murgia

I created our Convention 2026 pages and have continued to update other pages on the website. I continue to show member bells at the bottom of the home page. I have added more complete Bell Tower articles.

I started a section called 'Bell Tidbits' that includes sections 'Interesting bells to see when traveling', The Kid's Corner and a few interesting articles.

The new forum program ABA Members area that was placed last year is regularly updated with new members and removing persons no longer members. It is more complicated than the old one and requires more work to maintain. I do maintain an updated Membership List, place pictures and information from chapter bell meetings and have ABA motions, Bylaws and Standing Rules and Job Descriptions on it. A member must have an email for me to input. The site then sends a welcome email to the member and invited them to change the password. Currently we have 284 persons registered. 26 persons have entered the Members Area from January 1 to March 31, 2026. There were many that entered last year.

In the Members Area are ABA Documents such as Bylaws, Member Directory, Job Descriptions, Motions and Annual Reports. There is also a forum for Chapter and Member News. Anyone can enter another or add to those set up.

I updated our U-tube site with videos of BEHOLD displays from the 2024 convention. Other videos submitted by members are welcome. I was also able to place several convention programs on our YouTube site. The problem with some of the programs given at convention is that the recording is sometimes unable to pick up specific words. I've invested in a new tablet that will hopefully give clearer recordings.

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.