



MINUTES | ABVE General Membership Meeting

Friday, August 28, 7:00am PT | 8:00am MT | 9:00am CT | 10:00am ET

Video Conference via Zoom

Call to Order to General Membership Meeting 2020-2021

The meeting was called to order by Chrisann Schiro-Geist at 10:00 am EST.

Opening Remarks

Chrisann thanked several people behind the scenes that made this conference a reality. Terry Leslie was thanked for his dedicated service in bringing the annual conference to life despite the unusual roadblocks presented in 2020. Stephanie Munoz at BTF Enterprises was also thanked for her services as were the Board of Directors as this year was especially challenging in providing the high level of service to our Members while protecting our financial assets amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minutes

Motion to approve the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting minutes by Chrisann Schiro-Geist. None were opposed. Motion passed.

Financials

Dan Wolstein provided the Treasurer's Report to the Membership. Dan explained that over the years, ABVE has strived to maintain a healthy financial reserve, to have one year's worth of operating expenses saved should something unexpected occur. He indicated our reserves have come in handy during these times as we had to cancel our annual in-person conference, may suffer Membership retention issues, and overall tough economic times in the months ahead. With the quick work of the Conference Committee, we were able to pivot to a virtual event and were able to make up the loss of revenue from the canceled conference earlier in the year. Dan cautioned that it is impossible to predict what our Membership drive and 2021 conference will look like, so he and the Board are monitoring this closely and have funds set aside should ABVE need them during these challenging times.

Expense trends were addressed as 2020 has proved to be a very atypical year. The bulk of the organization's expenses are found in administrative costs, Membership development, and conferences. Typically ABVE's expenses increase closer to the annual conference as funds are spent on conference-related items; however, due to the fact our annual in-person conference was canceled in 2020, ABVE did not have as expenses as high as if we would have had our usual conference. He reiterated that the Board continues to spend conservatively and make smart financial decisions to maintain a healthy financial status.

Most of our revenue comes from membership fees and conference registrations. Dan noted the bulk of ABVE's income came in October through February, due to the Membership drive and conference registrations, with much of this income covering the organization the rest of the fiscal year.

Awards

Timothy Field was honored with the David S. Frank Lifetime Achievement Award for his active participation in the field and immense contribution to ABVE.

The Scott E. Streater Educational award acknowledged Betty Kohlenberg's significant contribution to the learning and educational base of the ABVE Membership.

Presidential citations were awarded to the following individuals:

ABVE BOD Meeting (continued)

- Sara Statz, ABVE Secretary, for her work in SSVE outreach and helping navigate the recent changes.
- Rona Wexler, ABVE Certification Chair, during an incredibly difficult year given the influx of applications.
- Terry Leslie, 2020 Conference Chair, for managing to deliver an excellent annual conference despite several challenges. It is due to Terry and his committee that ABVE has a conference in 2020.

Retiring Board Members

Former Board Members Scott Stipe and Maui Garza were recognized for their service as ABVE Board Members who recently retired off the Board in 2020.

Welcome New & Returning Board Members

Mark Anderson was welcomed to the Board while Ron Smolarski was recognized for agreeing to a second term.

Thanks to the entire ABVE Board

Chrisann took a moment to thank the entire ABVE Board, noting their leadership and contributions have been invaluable to the organization.

Committee Openings

Chrisann encouraged all Members to get involved with committees. Several committees meet regularly to move ABVE forward in its mission. She asked that all interested Members contact ABVE for more information. All current Members serving on committees were also thanked for their continued service.

Save the Date- 2021 Annual Conference

The 2021 Annual Conference will be held in beautiful San Diego, CA on 3/19-3/21. Chrisann said the Conference Committee is currently seeking presenters for this conference and encouraged all to apply on the ABVE website.

Member Questions

A Member asked a question regarding the lack of APA CEU's in the organization. Chrisann stated the CEU credits were significantly more expensive and time-consuming and appeared to have lacked a demand by Members.

Another Member asked if the 2021 conference would be both live and virtual for those Members not willing/able to travel in early 2021. Chrisann said there were no answers yet but added that the Board has discussed moving to a virtual or hybrid conference and is ready to be flexible. Due to contracts with the hotel, the Board is planning to attend in-person, though if the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we will pivot as necessary for the safety of our Members.

There was a question on the status of test standardization at testing centers, as finding a proctor has been challenging for some. Chrisann said they are working on standardizing the exam and hoping to have a version ready for testing centers in the future.

A Member asked about the status of our study abroad trip to Ireland in 2021. Chrisann explained the trip was still on for 5/2021 as the hotel allowed our group to reschedule. She said the central issue the group faces is the unknown of whether Ireland will allow us into the country at that time.

ABVE BOD Meeting (continued)

A question was asked about whether the organization has changed its requirements for SSVE applicants. Chrisann explained there was an initial surge of applicants spurred from the recent SSA changes, though applications have remained steady. She said ABVE is not simply certifying individuals because they have a BPA. She reinforced that ABVE has not changed its standards to accommodate the influx of applicants, nor intends to in the future. Chrisann affirmed the “gatekeepers” are holding standards high, refusing certification to new Members who have not met our high standards.

Chrisann recognized the recent loss of Howard Caston, former Board Member, and longtime ABVE Member.

Logo Update

Chrisann indicated a questionnaire/survey would be going out shortly to Members asking for input or artistic drawings for a new organizational logo.

Adjourn meeting

Motion to adjourn the ABVE Board of Directors made by Chrisann Schiro-Geist. None opposed, the meeting closed at 10:32 am EST.