DRAFT

Advancement Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2026
9:30 – 11:00 AM
Via Zoom

Present: Steve Kenney; Brian Mullen; Joel Rainville; Gabrielle Rohde; Kristine Smyth

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Marjie Blevins

The meeting began on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:34 a.m.

Meeting Intention: Led by Joel.

DEI Statement: Steve read the DEI Statement.

Minutes: The January minutes were reviewed. It was suggested that the first two paragraphs under "Advancement Director's Remarks/Updates" be placed in a new section and labeled "President's Remarks". With this change, Brian moved to approve the amended minutes and Steve seconded. Four out of five committee members voted to approve the amended minutes, with Kris abstaining due to an excused absence.

Advancement Director's Remarks/Updates
Financials/Accola Response Fund: Andrée provided the committee an update on the YTD Advancement financials. She reviewed grants, unrestricted and restricted donations, and estate gifts. The Accola Response Fund has led to an increase in donations. Due to this fund, Accola has surpassed its new donor goal (144), having reached 172 new donors who are located mostly out of state. There will be critical follow-up and cultivation to keep these donors engaged with Accola activities. Matt will include the Accola Response Fund news in his next Board update. Andrée and Matt attended a meeting with Otto Bremer Trust and were invited to submit a capacity-building grant application. Matt stated that the application approval process will conclude in April. Andrée added that members of Otto Bremer and Blake School have been invited to attend the Breakfast in April.

Database: Andrée reported that the new database is almost ready. The transition from Razer's Edge to Bloomerang will hopefully take place in the next few weeks. This transfer will help connect Accola's programs, manage volunteers, and increase the ability to cultivate donors.

Website: Andrée reported that a revamp of the Accola website is progressing. This website will integrate all programs and contain more impactful messaging.

Volunteers/Partnerships: Andrée reported that Accola has obtained forty new volunteers over the last two months. This is in response to what is going on in the community. Julie is meeting with these volunteers and placing them in the appropriate program.

Andrée stated that she and Julie are reaching out to local faith communities and organizing meetings centered around the work Accola is doing and possible partnerships.

Breakfast Update – April 21, 2026

Sponsors: Andree reported that sponsorship packets have gone out to over 75 organizations, of which 60 are past gala sponsors. Advancement will follow up with phone calls. This packet is available for Board members on the Board Portal (under the Breakfast tab). She reviewed the different sponsorship levels. Andrée will follow up with Steve regarding possible sponsorships through US Bank and Target.

Table Hosts: Andrée reported that the Breakfast will hold 32 tables, of which there are commitments to fill 20. Andrée has met with Jill with regards to drafting a plan that will help the Sisters on the Board invite others to join the Breakfast.

Marketing/PR: It was reported that marketing and PR material have been uploaded to the Portal. This material can be found under the Breakfast tab. If Board members require additional material, please let Advancement know.

Action Items for Committee – Board Buddy: Andrée requested that committee members check in on Board members regarding the Breakfast. The committee discussed best ways to personally reach out to people who may be interested in attending the Breakfast. Andrée reported that the Advancement team visited the venue at St. Catherine University. She added that there will be a virtual option for donors who are out of state to attend the Breakfast.

It was reported that the next Accola Open House will take place at Learning In Style next Thursday, February 19. There will be a Spring Fundraiser for Sarah's and the Wisdom Ways Soul Conference will take place in June.

Work Plan/Charter

Joel reviewed the Advancement Committee Workplan. The committee is on target to meet its goals. The committee discussed Board member fundraising/financial responsibilities. Board member attendance to events is being monitored. The committee discussed the Board Buddy initiative and what this entails. It was suggested that a job description for this initiative be drafted so committee members know exactly what they are responsible for.

Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola