



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

Present: Marjie Blevins; Steve Kenney; Gabrielle Rohde; Kristine Smyth

Staff: Andree Aronson; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Matt Halley; Brian Mullen; Joel Rainville

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

Meeting Intention: Led by Andree.

DEI Statement: Andree read the DEI Statement.

Minutes: The February minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Gabi moved to approve and Kris seconded. Three out of four present members voted to approve the February minutes, with one abstention.

Advancement Director's Remarks/Updates

Financials: The March financials were reviewed. Andrée reported that Accola is heading in the right direction and the YTD goal is trending overall upwards. Restricted and unrestricted donations were reviewed and the total revenue brought in is at \$433,772.00. Andrée reported that new donors are coming in and this reflects engagement/outreach efforts. The committee discussed opportunities for long-term giving and donor retention. New donors are added to the Accola email list and will be invited to attend the virtual part of the Impact Breakfast. Andrée reported that volunteer numbers have decreased this month, but Julie is working on ways to make the volunteer process smoother. Andrée continues to reach out and engage with potential partnerships.

The committee discussed the presentation that will be developed for the Breakfast and how it can be made impactful while still being respectful of privacy. It was suggested that subtitles be added to the program.

Database: Andrée reported that the database will soon be live.

Cheryl's Party: Cheryl's party is planned for Friday, March 20 from 4-5:30 p.m. This party will be at Sarah's.

Breakfast Update – April 21, 2026

Sponsors: Andrée reported that there have been five sponsors so far, for a total of \$7,500.00. The venue has been donated by St. Catherine University.

Table Hosts: Andrée reported that Board and staff have committed to filling 23 out of 32 tables at the Breakfast. There was a discussion about the location of the ballroom. Andrée stated that more detailed

information will be provided for the Table Hosts and to those attending the event. The Breakfast will be plated. The program will involve community song leaders. Matt and Comfort will speak. The closing speaker is still being determined.

There will be opportunities both before and after the program for people to learn about Accola's programs, as well as an "action" that attendees can take.

Andrée reported that she continues to have conversations about Accola with the Sisters and donors. Additional information allows for greater understanding and leads to reconnection. Donors do ask hard questions, but this creates greater clarification as to who and what Accola is. Andrée referenced the latest article she wrote for the Province magazine, *Together*.

Andrée encouraged committee/Board members to continue making connections and bringing people in. There was a discussion about the number of emails people get. Andrée reviewed Accola's process for sending emails out.

Other Business

Andrée and Lacy will add Board members to the *Together* mailing list.

Adjourn: The committee adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola