Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, July 22, 2026; 8:00 – 9:30 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Joel Rainville; Sandy Vargas; Anne Weyandt; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Matt Halley; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absence: Kristine Smyth; Jill Underdahl, CSJ

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, July 22, 2026 via Zoom. Acting Chair Steve Kenney called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

DEI: Read by Joel.

Spiritual Centering: Steve led the committee in spiritual centering.

Agenda: The May agenda was presented for approval. Hearing no changes to the agenda, Anita moved to approve the agenda and Joel seconded. All present members voted in favor of the agenda.

Sandy expressed interest in creating a Human Resources Committee. She also requested feedback from Board members regarding the skills they bring to the Board. These topics will be added to a future agenda.

Minutes: The May minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Kevin moved and Anne seconded to approve the minutes. All present members voted to approve the minutes.

<u>Open Discussion</u>

Wisdom Ways/One Year Review/Process for Board Engagement & Action

Matt presented a review of the status of Wisdom Ways in FY26. This presentation will be presented at the Board Education Session on Thursday, July 23. The presentation contains a comprehensive analysis of Wisdom Ways' viability challenges, revealing significant participation declines from 786 participants in 2024 to 154 in the most recent year, with financial data showing the program costing $511,000 while generating only $20,000 in revenue. The Programs & Opportunities Committee has conducted extensive research, which validates how Wisdom Ways fits within Accola’s mission. It was noted that Wisdom Ways has struggled with market competition, COVID impacts, and challenges in building community engagement. Matt outlined potential restructuring options regarding Wisdom Ways moving forward. Jean suggested including the number of program offerings available to participants in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The Executive Committee discussed organizing a timeframe for the Wisdom Ways decision-making process. Matt will present his PowerPoint at the Education Session and there will be room for discussion at the August Board meeting. The Programs and Opportunities Committee will refine the feedback and propose a recommendation at the October Board meeting. The need for confidentiality was emphasized.

Jean highlighted the historical significance of Wisdom Ways and its potential evolution into a community-building organization separate from CSJs. The committee discussed Wisdom Ways programming and how it is marketed.

Hearing no further discussion, Anne moved that the Executive Committee will move forward on this topic at the Education Session with the understanding that the Board will make a decision regarding Wisdom Ways at the October Board meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. Six committee members voted in favor of the motion, with one member opposing and another abstaining. The motion carried.

Jean suggested that the Executive Committee rethink how Education Sessions are used.

President's Report
See above section.

Committee Updates
Finance & Audit: Steve reported that the Finance Committee is reviewing its goals and comparing them to FY26. The May financials will be added to the Portal. Revenues exceeded those of FY25. The audit is underway and a new audit firm will be selected next year.

Advancement: Joel reported that the Advancement Committee remains focused on strengthening fundraising efforts. The committee is working on its goals for FY27 and the Integrated Fund Development Plan.

Nomination & Governance: Anita requested an end-of-year report from all committee chairs. A document on Building An Inclusive Board will be emailed out to all Board members. Committee survey results for FY26 will be emailed out to committee chairs.

Mission Education: No report.

Programs and Opportunities: No report.

Investment: Mary reported that the Investment Committee has established its FY27 goals. She reviewed the SMHC dispersal and how this impacts the Endowment.

Executive Session: 9:31 a.m.

The meeting adjournment after the Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola