Accola Executive Committee
Wednesday, September 23, 2026; 8:00 – 9:30 am
Teams Virtual Meeting

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

Staff: Andree Aronson; Matt Halley

Excused Absence: Lacy Sietsema

The Accola Executive Committee convened on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 via Zoom. Chair Sandy Vargas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

DEI: Read by Sandy.

Spiritual Centering: Kevin led the committee in spiritual centering.

Agenda: The September agenda was presented for approval. Hearing no changes to the agenda, all present members voted in favor of the agenda.

Minutes: The July minutes were presented for approval. Hearing no changes or corrections, Mary moved and Kevin seconded to approve the minutes. Seven out of nine members voted to approve the minutes. Two members abstained.

Open Discussion

Wisdom Ways

Anne provided an update on the Wisdom Ways work. The Programs and Opportunities Committee has met and reviewed the four scenarios and is moving forward with next steps. Challenges (audience/market reach, program sustainability, etc.) have been reviewed. Current data suggests that communities are looking for different things as it relates to spirituality. Various criteria will impact the Program and Opportunities Committee recommendation:

- From the Finance/Audit Committee: a reduction in financial expenditures is needed – what is the right number? There needs to be testing/program assessment to determine long-term viability and self-sustainability.
- From the Mission & Education Committee: not everything that Accola does remains in its portfolio unchanged or untested forever – how is this talked about with regards to WW? How do is this discussed as a committee and how does Accola carry WW into the future?
- WW needs to continue to express spirituality and social justice as a positive aspect embedded in all that Accola does. How is this expressed that in ways that bring more

people to Accola and draw it deeper into community?
- From the Advancement Committee: This work needs to be done in partnership – Accola has good allies in the work and partners that it can learn deeply from (immigration, healthcare justice, etc.). What is a concrete partnership out there that can better integrate into WW and Advancement?

Sandy suggested keeping the idea of bringing people together and encourage community building at the forefront. It was acknowledged that community engagement does not necessarily mean an increase in funding. This topic needs to be addressed with all committees. It was suggested that this topic be discussed with the referenced committees and then be brought back to the next Executive Committee meeting. Anita suggested partnering with the Justice Commission. Jean asked for clarification on how the Programs and Opportunities Committee got to its' decision regarding the scenario it is leaning towards/possible recommendation. Jean provided an update on the new 501c3 that the Province is developing to continue moving the CSJ mission into the future. It was suggested that Accola would have a lot to offer this new organization in terms of partnership.

Committee Updates

Mission Education: Kris reported that the CSJ Mission Education Committee is working to instill the CSJ spirit in all Accola committees. The committee will be asking how Board members see the spirit continuing in this work. Kris reported that the CSJ Mission Education Committee has been charged with providing the Spiritual Centering for Board meetings. She asked if it would be acceptable to have a Consociate join the Board meeting only for the Spiritual Centering portion. She would also like committee involvement in onboarding new members. She also encouraged greater communication regarding Province movement.

Sandy suggested adopting the suggestions as outlined by Kris. Anita moved and Joel seconded adopting the CSJ Mission Education Committee suggestions. All present members voted to approve.

Finance & Audit: Steve reported that year-end preliminary financials are almost complete and this is looking better than expected. Tiffany has almost hired another member of her Finance team.

Advancement: Joel reported that Advancement performed well last year despite not making its goal.

Nomination & Governance: Anita reported that onboarding process needs to be revised. She would also like to look at committee goals in an effort to create broader support across the Board.

Programs and Opportunities: None.

Investment: None.

Executive Session: None.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lacy Sietsema, Accola