I. Call to order – President Tom Cleveland called the Board Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He opened with a prayer.

Those present included Tom Cleveland, President; Helen Grathwohl, Vice President/Treasurer; Barb Nitschneider, Secretary; Susan Reeves, Office Manager, Candy Moltz, and Tom Olsavicky, President of Peninsula LCC.

II. ISSUES

1. Bylaws on Committee

The Board of Directors has changed in the last few years with its declining numbers. The whole group has been discussing and completing the work of various committees as a group, rather than as a separate and different committee. It was determined that the Bylaws should be revised and simplified to reflect the actual workings of the Board. The Bylaw Committee needs to be activated as a Task force to rewrite and rework the Bylaws.
Tom Cleveland, as President will appoint this task force. The necessary revisions will need to be completed in a timely fashion to meet the deadlines if presentation and voting is expected to meet at the 2018 Delegate’s Meeting.

2. **Board Meetings prior to the Annual Meeting.**

Susan and Candy suggested that the time needed for Directors Meeting could be reduced if we used our time wisely and each member came prepared. Instead of coming in on Sunday and beginning the Board and committee meetings on Monday, it was determined and agreed that all day Tuesday and half a day on Wednesday would allow enough time to complete the necessary business of the Board. This would also lessen the amount of time off work, for those still employed.

3. **Services offered by the IAL**

The Board agreed they had all been asked, “What does the IAL do for me?” The following was itemized in an effort for the board to realize the many things that are accomplished by the IAL for its membership.
• The website offers a geographical list of SLPs who can offer assistance around the country.
• The IAL offers a quarterly newsletter and the IAL Website.
• The IAL thanks those that help the laryngectomee population with annual awards and certificates.
• The newsletter has a suggestion box and contact information available to all who read the News.
• The IAL trains speech pathologists and health professionals in the care and rehabilitation of laryngectomees.
• The IAL hosts an excellent annual meeting and voice institute.
• The IAL formally trains visitors.
• The IAL posts “First Steps” on the website as well as the updated “Visitor Training Manual.”
• The website has been revised with countless hours by Katherine Hampton and David Cleveland who is now our Webmaster. The IAL website is now much easier to navigate and has received many complements.
• It was noted that David Blevins and Katherine Hampton should be thanked for all their help with The IAL News through the years and facilitating the transition to new editors.
• The board brainstormed several other ideas, including: offering speech therapy through
SKYPE, consistently updating the SLP geographical list, announcing what is available on the website to better inform the membership, and offering and advertising VI scholarships through *The IAL News*.

4. **How to Expand the Board**

The Board of Directors has been running the business of the IAL with fewer members than needed and called for in the Bylaws. Health professionals (doctors, SLPs and nurses) are busy but can be very helpful to the Board but they need prior knowledge/experience with the IAL to serve on the Board. With club membership waning and meeting attendance struggling, new ideas are needed. A lengthy discussion of how to expand the IAL Board found that present members agreed that it was acceptable to allow more non-laryngectomees as long as the majority remained laryngectomees, including the President and the Vice President. A change in the bylaws would be required to make this change. The delegates would need to have proper notification prior to next year’s annual meeting to allow for a vote to implement this change. If Brian Mitchell decided to resign the Board of Directors (or completed his term but did not run again) and remained the IAL
Medical Director, it would leave room for two additional non-laryngectomees on the board. There are two candidates presently running for the Board of Directors: Dan Konz and Kyd Dietrich. They will likely be elected during the annual Delegate Meeting on Saturday morning.

Another issue was how to facilitate the board staying in touch and abreast of the business of the IAL inexpensively. A monthly Skype meeting was suggested and will be investigated with the help of David Cleveland who has been instrumental in completing our website. Tom Cleveland agreed to discuss this with David.

We need to know all of the US clubs, and how many clubs are from Canada and abroad.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nitschneider, Secretary