# **Wyoming Council of the Blind**

Minutes from February’s Regular Board Meeting held via phone

on February 9, 2021

The February regular board meeting was called to order by President, Sherry Leinen, at 7:02 pm. Roll call indicated that there were 5 members were present, thus a quorum.

Officers Present:

President – Sherry Leinen

Secretary/Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt

Board Members present:

Jacquie Flatley, Chris Johnson, and Cheryl Godley

Guests: Sharon Byers

Absent:

Vice President – Mikaela Piasecki

Board Members – Dolores Dolbare, Kendall Bays

Minutes from January’s meeting were emailed to the board by D’Anna Feurt prior to the meeting. No corrections or additions to January’s minutes. Jacquie Flatley moved to accept January’s meeting minutes as presented. 2nd by Cheryl Godley. M/C

January’s Treasurer’s report was also emailed prior to the meeting. No corrections or additions to the January treasurer’s report. Jacquie Flatley moved to accept November and December’s treasurer reports as presented. 2nd by Cheryl Godley. M/C

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Convention –

Survey results discussed as to doing an indoor or outdoor format. D’Anna informed the board that since only 6 responses had been received so far that it would be best to discuss at next month’s meeting. Based on the results received, most prefer in person format. Jacquie informed the board that the larger outdoor venue is more removed from traffic and use of a PA system would help with the ability to hear speakers. Cheryl stated that she believed that some people had trouble hearing even indoors during the 2019 convention. Chris and Cheryl believe a hybrid of in-person and virtual setting could be done and Chris would be willing to help with it. Jacquie suggested Racca’s restaurant in Casper for the meeting since they have a meeting room. She also suggesting lowering convention fee and allowing everyone to pay for their own meal. Jacquie will stop by and check on space and pick up a menu and email it to the board.

Fundraisers – Sherry doesn’t see the need to do any fundraisers right now as we don’t need to raise funds for the convention.

Scholarships – D’Anna contacted webmaster, Annette, to update the website and application with new information. Annette didn’t respond to the initial email, so a follow up email was sent last week. Annette responded and sent the application. D’Anna will update the application and get it to Annette to update the website. D’Anna will get applications sent to contacts on email list by end of the week.

Advocacy –

White Cane Law – Sherry stated that they are at a standstill for now. They have not heard from anyone to date. The monthly meetings are currently on hold as there isn’t anything new to share. Sherry will try to reach legislators again after the legislative session is over.

Talking Books Program – Sherry and Tom had a meeting on January 28, 2021 with Bob Walter, an attorney with the Protection and Advocacy Group, regarding doing a white paper. He contacted the department of education and was referred to Makenzie Williams with the Wyoming Attorney General. He requested reports from department of education regarding the budget spent on the program. Jacquie obtained records of the history of the Talking Books program from the 1920’s to the present. Bob is also researching ADA issues as well. Once the white paper is done, they can forward it to the Governor, legislature, etc. Cheryl had a SILC meeting today and learned that in one of the eastern states’ citizens filed a class action lawsuit against the state for not providing services for the disabled. She also informed the board that as of 1/20/2021, only dogs will be allowed as service animals on flights and that the person must provide information on the service animal to the airline 48 hours prior flight so they can decide whether they will allow the animal.

Sherry has another Talking Books meeting scheduled this month. She believes it is the 18th, but she will check her notes and email everyone about the meeting.

Website – None

OLD BUSINESS

Brochures – D’Anna researched prices for cardboard brochure holders and went over the results with the board. The prices range from $40 for 25 white holders to about $1.00 each for colored. The board thought colored holders would be better and more eye catching than white. The board decided to go with blue holders. D’Anna can print labels for the holders with the WyCB logo and name for the front. Cheryl suggested asking VOS to hand out brochures to new older blind clients. Sherry will call and talk to Leslie with VOS about this suggestion. D’Anna made a motion to approve the purchase of 50 blue brochure holders to start with. 2nd by Jacquie Flatley. M/C. D’Anna will get the holders order as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

Next regular board meeting is Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.