# **Wyoming Council of the Blind**

Minutes from May’s Regular Board Meeting held via phone

on May 13, 2021

The May regular board meeting was called to order by President, Sherry Leinen, at 7:06 pm. Roll call indicated that there were 4 members were present, thus a quorum.

Officers Present:

President – Sherry Leinen

Secretary/Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt

Board Members present:

Jacquie Flatley and Cheryl Godley

Guests: Sharon Byers

Absent:

Vice President – Mikaela Piasecki

Board Members – Dolores Dolbare, Chris Johnson and Kendall Bays

Minutes from April’s meeting were emailed to the board by D’Anna Feurt prior to the meeting. No corrections or additions to April’s minutes. No vote required as there were no corrections or additions.

April’s Treasurer’s report was also emailed prior to the meeting. No corrections or additions to the April treasurer’s report. No need to vote on treasurer report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraisers – Not doing any fundraisers right now, so no updates.

Scholarships – D’Anna will email Ainsleigh Belveal and let her know that she was selected for the scholarship and that more information will follow soon.

Advocacy –

White Cane Law – Nothing new to report at this time.

Talking Books Program –On May 4th, Tom and Sherry had a meeting with Bob Walters and Jenny from the Protection & Advocacy Group and discussed the white paper. The white paper will be no more than 10 pages. Sherry asked the board to email her if there was anything they feel need to be included in the white paper. They plan to explain the history of the program and point out the needs of the aging adults in Wyoming and that the number aging adults will continue to rise since people are living longer. They also found some good language in their own contracts that can be used in support of the program. They plan to have the white paper completed by June and would like to have a big media campaign for the program. The contract is written for every 2 years so when they initially planned to defund the program for 2021, the program had already been funded through 2022 so Department of Education didn’t “find” money to continue the program through 2022. If anyone has input, plan to have bullet points to Sherry by next week. Cheryl has some statistics for population aged 65 and over that she will send to Sherry as well.

Convention –

July 24, 2021 was selected as the date for the convention. The plan to have it at Racca’s may be a problem as we cannot get in early to set up as planned. Sharon and Jacquie plan to visit a couple other possible venues such as The Hangar for the convention, so the board decided to hold a special convention meeting on Friday, May 14th at 5:30pm. Minutes from that meeting will be sent separately.

Website – Sherry asked D’Anna to contact Annette about getting an updated membership application added to the website as she was unable to find one.

OLD BUSINESS

Brochures – Labels have been purchased for the brochure holders, but not yet printed. Sharon’s daughter lives in Cheyenne and will be heading to Casper next week. She will have her daughter pick up some of the holders from D’Anna and take them to Casper and then bring back brochures for D’Anna to get distributed in Cheyenne. Jacquie would like to have 30 holders, so D’Anna will get the labels printed and put on the holders in time for Sharon’s daughter to pick up.

NEW BUSINESS

-Election of board members – Sherry asked which board members will be staying on the board. Tom Lealos is ready to get back on the board. Cheryl stated that she asked Mikaela Piasecki and she is no longer interested in being on the board. Sherry will stay on the board. Sharon Byers agreed to be a board member. Jacquie will stay on and D’Anna will also stay on.

ACB – Sherry attended an ACB President’s meeting yesterday and learned that most affiliates are having a hard time with membership. She learned that there is a group named POSSE through ACB that is available to help affiliates increase membership and that those affiliates holding community events seem to do better with membership. Some of the affiliates are using POSSE volunteers to make calls to current and former members about rejoining. All agreed this would be a tremendous help to our council as many of us don’t have the time to do the extra work. The ACB convention is virtual this year and will be held July 23-30th. Voting can be done virtually this year. As she understands it, everyone that has an email address on file will be allowed to vote and that ACB will be sending stuff on voting in the next few weeks. Sherry also created a recording for the opening of the convention.

No other new business.

Next regular board meeting is Thursday, May 10, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.