**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**November Board Meeting**

**November 8, 2022**

**The November board meeting was called to order by President, Cheryl Godley, at 7:01 PM. Those in attendance were as follows:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Directors: Debra Thompson**

**Members: Chris Johnson and Jacquie Flatley**

**Four members were present, thus constituting a quorum.**

**There was one correction in the October meeting minutes. The ski for light event needs to be changed to the “end of year activity through the Department of Education for children”. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Sherry 2nd, minutes approved.**

**Treasurers Report**

**Beginning balance: $3653.74**

**Ending balance: $3592.02**

**Old Business**

**Cheryl sent a sympathy card to Lois Boyd on behalf of WyCB.**

**White Cane Safety**

**On October 15, Melissa Walker, an orientation and mobility specialist was interviewed by Brendon La chance from Oil City News. The article is available to read online.**

**Tom put together a group email list that includes 23 newspapers and three radio stations. The article that was written about White Cane Safety Day supposedly reached all corners of the state.**

**Newsletter**

**Articles for the newsletter need to be sent to Tom L in 18 point bold font, preferably Arial. Tom L will copy and paste the articles together then send them to Tom Smythe who will format the newsletter. Tom S will send the completed newsletter to Jacquie. Jacquie will get the newsletter to Ambi to be mailed. Everyone needs to get their articles to Tom L by the middle of December. Tom L will put articles together about White Cane safety Day, the convention, and the National Library Service not sending out monthly catalogs. Chris will send a tech article. Sherry will send our webmaster Annette a copy of the newsletter to be put on the website.**

**Braille Transcription**

**Cheryl called the minimum-security prison again but hasn’t heard back from them. Cheryl found a Braille embosser but it needs a new driver. Cheryl and Chris will work together to see if they can get it working. Tom suggested we ask the NFB of Wyoming State coordinator to see if they can help us with Braille transcription. Cheryl will check the School for the Deaf and Blind in Colorado Springs. Sherry will check with a teacher in Moorcroft to see if they have an embosser. It was suggested that if we get an embosser to work and use then WyCB should purchase a box of Braille paper.**

**White Cane Law Committee**

**The group met last month. A solicitation and cover letter was put together. It was sent October 31, 2022 to 26 newspapers, Leslie with the VOS, Amy with WIL, Steve with WISL, the active low vision support groups in the state, and the senior center in Powell. Tom and Sherry’s contact information was included. Our next meeting is next week. We will be working on making subtle changes to the proposal and looking into what committees and or legislators should be sent the proposal. Sherry is looking in to the new animal cruelty laws. It was discussed about whether to change the wording to include different colors of canes or stay with white cane. It was decided that we stick with “White Cane”. We have one testimonial from before from Jesse. Debra and Cheryl will write their testimonials. Brendon with oil city news added information about the White Cane Law and asked for testimonials. We should have an update by the December board.**

**New Business**

**Membership Drive**

**Cheryl asked D’Anna to send applications to Katherine Morris and Melissa Walker. Jacquie gave Cheryl a past membership list.**

**Thankful Thursday/Fundraiser**

**Drew Kirby from KWYY in Casper sent an email to Sherry asking if we would be interested in being put on the schedule for either April 6 or April 13, 2023. Sherry let Drew know that we were having a board meeting on November 8 and we would make a decision then. He needs to know our decision by November 11, 2022. It was discussed and April 6, 2023 was the date we chose. Sherry will send an email letting Drew know. It was discussed that we put together packages/gift baskets like we did for a past fundraiser. Jacquie will look for the list of packages from the past fundraiser. Jacquie and Sherry will work together on this fundraiser. It would be helpful if each board member could put together a package. We need to work on getting the word out about this fundraiser so it can be successful.**

**Grants**

**Cheryl has been researching grants through the Wyoming Community Foundation. You have to be very specific about how many individuals will be impacted by the grant in each county. She will continue to research grants and talk to individuals who have written grants before. Jacquie suggested that Betsy from the Casper library might be able to help find information about grant writing and available grants. Cheryl will also talk to Amy Burns to see if she has any suggestions. Jacquie suggested talking to Rick Geringer with WIL. Jacquie will call and talk to him.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen, Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**