# **Wyoming Council of the Blind**

Minutes from January’s Regular Board Meeting held via phone

 on January 10, 2023

The January regular board meeting was called to order by President, Cheryl Godley, at 7:05 pm. Roll call indicated that there were 5 members were present, thus a quorum.

Officers Present:

President – Cheryl Godley

Vice President – Tom Lealos

Secretary – Sherry Leinen

Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt

Board Members present:

Debra Thompson

Guests: Jacquie Flatley

Absent:

Board Members – Sharon Byers

Cheryl asked if Chris Johnson had sent his dues in yet and D’Anna advised that he emailed her prior to New Year’s advising that he was out of town and would get a check to her soon. As of date of the meeting, D’Anna had not received his payment. Cheryl then asked about addressing missed meetings and excused absences and “in good standing” according to bylaws with regard to Chris Johnson and unpaid dues. D’Anna suggested to reach out to him again and inform him that the 2022 dues of $20 and also $20 for 2023 needs to be received by February meeting or he’s no longer on the board. D’Anna also advised the board that she would be absent from next month’s meeting as she will be on vacation; however, the treasurer report will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Minutes from December’s meeting were emailed to the board by Sherry Leinen prior to the meeting. Sherry was late getting on the call and no one had a copy to read to the board. Debra Thompson motioned to postpone approving the minutes until the February meeting. 2nd by Tom Lealos. M/C.

December’s Treasurer’s report was also emailed prior to the meeting; however, D’Anna also read it aloud to the group. Cheryl informed the board of John Groves memorial and that he was a former member and president of WyCB. His daughter advised Cheryl that another approximately $2,300 will be sent to the council. D’Anna advised that checks should be received and deposited this week. No corrections or additions to the December treasurer’s report. Treasurer’s report accepted as written.

Cheryl also wanted to discuss the WyCB cell phone. She now has the cell phone from Sherry and advised everyone to give out that phone number to anyone with questions or concerns rather than her personal number.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter – Jacquie advised the board that she sent the newsletter to Katie at AMBI and D’Anna will coordinate with her on the number of hard copies needed. Jacquie said she has not heard back from Katie as to whether she received it or not. Cheryl asked about whether the free matter is used for these mailings. D’Anna said that she can update the mailing list with those that are eligible for free matter mailing. D’Anna asked who we want to include in the mailing. Cheryl suggested sending email copies of those we have email addresses for who are not paid up and not send hard copies. Cheryl also asked about how many copies would be sent a hard copy. D’Anna advised that it would be less than 20. The board members agreed to accept email copies of the newsletters except for Sharon who doesn’t have email. A hard copy will be sent to her.

Fundraisers – Thankful Thursday update – Jacquie still needs to go to the radio station to get more information. We are scheduled for April 6th; however, Tom, Sherry, Debra and D’Anna will not be able to attend or help as it will be held in Casper. Cheryl asked whether we can pull it off in the timeframe we have left. Detailed discussion of the even ensued. Questions were asked about the type of items that have drawn interest for bidding at other events. Jacquie suggests adding something to newsletter regarding Thankful Thursday. Tom asked if we had gotten the credit card issue set up/resolved. Cheryl said Mikaela and Tessa stated that they would help and that we could use Mikaela’s square reader but suggested we set up our own account. D’Anna will look into setting up an account with square. Jacquie also suggested putting something reaching out to WIL, Lions and Kiwanis for volunteers to help at the event. There was also discussion about asking WIL to create a post on their Facebook page that could be shared by others. A committee was formed to work on the fundraiser and get the word out. D’Anna volunteered to be on committee for Thankful Thursday. Debra also volunteered to be on the committee. Cheryl asked Jacquie to send an email out to the board about how many packages are needed. Cheryl proposes getting together by January 23rd or 24th to discuss. D’Anna and Debra are available on the 23rd at 6:30pm. Cheryl and Sherry will try to be on our call. Tom suggested we write up something and add it to the newsletter before it goes out. Tom will draft something up and send it to D’Anna to add to the newsletter.

Membership – D’Anna will get updated lists of members and sent to Cheryl as well as sending old lists. D’Anna will separate current paid up members from lapsed members. Cheryl suggested we let everyone know about WyCB and that it’s not just for those that are blind or visually impaired but could include friends and family members of those that are blind or visually impaired. The board discussed changing dues for partial year vs. full year. The board agreed to just leave it @$20 no matter when someone joins to make it easier for the treasurer. Cheryl also asked about the two applications that were sent out to potential members and D’Anna advised that they have not been returned to date and no response to the email that was sent out with the applications.

Advocacy –

Talking Books Program – Cheryl asked if we need to contact someone to make sure they know we are still concerned about continued funding beyond 2024. Tom will make the contact with someone.

White Cane Law – Sherry advised that the legislators start back today so she will be sending proposal to the chairman of the Transportation Committee and the driver’s manual update will be sent to the program manager at WyDOT.

New Business:

Convention – Committee formed to include Tom, Sherry and Debra. The majority of the board liked the September dates; however, D’Anna advised that our tax year runs from July 1 to June 30 and therefore the convention should probably be held sooner so that elections can be held for upcoming vacancies on the board. The committee will meet and decide on the date, theme, location and platform for the convention.

Website – Cheryl spoke with Annette and she advised that we are not using our website to our advantage even though we are paying for it. It was suggested that we use it to change names, newsletters, pay for membership, sales, etc. Cheryl will schedule time for Annette to speak at our March meeting.

Grant Writing – Cheryl spoke with someone about instructing us on grant writing to apply for grant to get additional funding to use for various services such as mobility instruction for someone in need who is on a long waiting list.

Cheryl tabled the discussion on the braille transcription device until we talk with VOS. Cheryl will get in touch with Leslie Van Orman to find out what they have planned for their embosser.

No other new business. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.