**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from April Regular Board Meeting held via phone on April 11, 2023**

**The April regular board meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Godley at 7 PM. Roll call indicated that there were six board members and one member present, thus a quorum.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Board members present:**

**Debra Thompson, Sharon Byers**

**Members present:**

**Jacquie Flatley**

**Guest:**

**Annette Carter – Webmaster**

**Minutes from March’s meeting were emailed to the board by Sherry Leinen prior to the meeting. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes as sent, second by Debra. M/C.**

**Treasurers report:**

**March 2023**

**Beginning balance: $5666.51**

**Ending balance: $5428.15**

**The treasurers report was sent via email by D’Anna before the meeting. Accepted as sent.**

**Jacquie will be contacted and asked to send receipts and leftover money, from the Thankful Thursday money she was provided, to D’Anna.**

**We need two invoices from Annette Carter.**

**D’Anna set up a square account that could be used on the phone or an iPad. You get one free reader and can purchase additional readers. They charge a fee for all transactions at 2.6%. Others can use it. We had to order additional readers for those that didn’t have iPhones.**

**Membership**

**D’Anna updated the ACB list. She added new names and took old ones off.**

**$55 is owed for ACB dues.**

**We currently only have 11 members.**

**Cheryl suggested that everyone work on enlisting new members.**

**D’Anna will send the membership information to Tom Smythe so he can make a new membership list spreadsheet.**

**Our 501C3 status was questioned by Tito’s in Casper when they went to donate $500 to Thankful Thursday.**

**D’Anna files by postcard on the IRS website since we make less than $50,000.**

**In 2015 our 501C3 status was revoked but it was reinstated right away. D’Anna went on to the IRS website and has documentation that are 501C3 status is fine. D’Anna requested that it be investigated in 30 days.**

**D’Anna will be stepping down as treasurer in June, she will think about staying on the board.**

**Cheryl approached Tom Smythe (her office manager). She explained to him what the duties of the treasurer were: membership renewals, convention registrations, monthly and annual reports, IRS forms with the state, and ACB dues and report.**

**Tom S stated that he would be willing to become our treasurer. Cheryl will pay for his membership dues. D’Anna will put all of the information together for Tom S. She has a spreadsheet she uses and will make sure that he has all the information he needs.**

**D’Anna will finish through June and do the annual report for our convention.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee Reports**

**Thankful Thursday**

**Last Tuesday Cheryl had an interview with Drew Kirby. Casper had a horrible snowstorm and received 37 inches. Cheryl and Drew discussed concern about people not being able to get out and go to the Thankful Thursday at the Beacon. It was decided to postpone the event. The next available slot for the next season will be the first or second week in September. Businesses that donated vouchers that have expiration dates on them need to be contacted. They need to be asked about donations in the future, either changing the dates on the vouchers we have or providing new vouchers. Everyone will let the vendors know when the new date is. Amy Burns with WIL will put the event information on their website as it gets closer to the new date.**

**Newsletter**

**The deadline for articles is mid-June. The newsletter will be sent out by mid-July. It would be helpful if each person could write about something. Everyone needs to think about articles. Tom suggested that we have a section where folks can talk about coping with an issue or task.**

**Articles for the newsletter will include: Pres.’s statement, upcoming convention, thankful Thursday postponed, and other articles that talk about Script Talk and the Red Cross offering free smoke detectors and other submitted articles.**

**Convention**

**Tom, Debra, and Sherry met on March 21, 2023 at 5 PM.**

**The theme will be “Challenging Ourselves”.**

**The registration fees will be $20 for everyone whether you come in person or on zoom.**

**The convention will be held at a WIL meeting room in Casper. WyCB will not provide lunch. Those attending in person can either bring their lunch or have lunch delivered. The convention committee will continue to work on checking out food places close to WIL. People can use Door Dash or Grub Hub and have food delivered. If we pick one place then everyone can split the cost of delivery fees.**

**All of the speaker spots are filled.**

**Speakers: Leslie Van Orman with VOS, Laurel Henry (SEED), Mellissa Walker O&M, Ryan Rousch WATR-non-tech phones, Zelda Gebhart ½ hr CCLVI & ½ hr Terri Penchinko ACB affiliate AAVLI.**

**Annual business meeting.**

**It was decided that we will give out 4-$25 Walmart gift cards as raffle items.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Website**

**Annette Carter our Webmaster was our guest speaker. She talked to us about how we can better utilize our website. She is constantly checking the accessibility, our routine content and updates on our website. She makes sure that our web forms for membership, convention, and scholarship are up-to-date.**

**She suggested that we set up a form of payment, such as PayPal, so that individuals can fill out and pay for their membership on our website. The system can email the membership form to individuals in payment can be done on the website. The treasurer would be notified if someone fills out the membership form. She suggested that we have donation buttons everywhere on our site. On the donation page it should explain what WyCB does. We could also add a fundraising page. She can make it so that the person donating can either be anonymous or leave their name. The more membership options you have the more possible members you can have.**

**Right now we have one email and one email list. We could have another list that would include members. She suggested that we add the WyCB website link at the bottom of emails. That way we can advertise who we are every time an email is sent.**

**She suggested we beef up our resource page. She suggested different ways to download items: TXT – PDF – Word Docs.**

**She suggested that we update our logo. She suggested that we look at DC Council of the Blind and Missouri Council of the Blind logos.**

**More members = more income = more services we can provide.**

**We need to do more research between using the Square Account and or PayPal for payments on our website.**

**Tom asked about how difficult it would be to set up a social media account like Facebook. We would need to make it professional – an information and resource page – not for chatting. Annette said she could set up the logo but someone else would need to set it up and monitor the Facebook page.**

**Annette mentioned that her monthly fee is $25 right now. Other affiliates are paying $50-$75 monthly. We need to maximize our website. Everyone needs to process this information and think about our options.**

**We reminded Annette that we need two invoices from her. She said she would send them to D’Anna.**

**Membership Drive**

**Everyone needs to work on getting individuals interested in becoming members. We need to talk about what we do.**

**Cheryl wants to contact members on old membership lists and asked them what we can do to help them and see if they are interested in joining again.**

**It was suggested that board members in different areas get together and do activities.**

**Jacquie suggested that we find descriptive videos pertinent to vision loss and have possible get-togethers at WIL.**

**Tom mentioned that ACB and CCLVI have zoom support groups every week.**

**We could use our conference call number and have a support group. We could have a topic and have discussions. It could be done weekly – biweekly – monthly. We could have activities and topics geared towards sighted/B/VI individuals. We could come up with a catchy name and have a consistent day and time. Send your ideas to Tom. At our next monthly meeting we can decide on a name – date – time.**

**Sherry mentioned that Terry Pacheco with VISAbilities will add affiliate convention and fundraising information on their website. Sherry will make sure that Terry has our convention and fundraising information.**

**Sherry talked about the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) work group that she’s a member of. The workgroup is responsible for working with all of the communities in Wyoming to make sure that they have Emergency Preparedness Plans in place and that every individual in their community can be evacuated, especially those that can’t evacuate themselves.**

**It was suggested that the emergency contacts for every community be put on our website.**

**It was suggested that we might want to send her convention information to the Colorado Center for the Blind and the Montana affiliate and individuals in Idaho.**

**We still need someone to do the scholarship for this year.**

**Cheryl contacted Chris about his board status.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen, Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**