**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from May Regular Board Meeting held via phone on May 9, 2023**

**The May regular board meeting was called to order by Pres. Cheryl Godley at 7:03 PM. Roll call indicated that there were five board members and two regular members present, thus a quorum.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Directors present:**

**Debra Thompson, Sharon Byers**

**Members present:**

**Jacquie Flatley, Nate Appledorn**

**Absent:**

**D’Anna Feurt – excused**

**Minutes from April’s meeting were emailed to the board by Sherry Leinen prior to the meeting. Since there were members present that hadn’t received the minutes prior to the meeting Sherry read them. Tom made a motion to accept the minutes as read, 2nd by Debra. M/C**

**Treasurers report:**

**Since D’Anna was going to be absent from the meeting Cheryl went over the treasurers report.**

**Beginning balance: $5428.15**

**Income: $0.41**

**Expenditures: $223.73**

**Ending balance: $5204.83**

**Sharon made a motion to accept the treasurers report as read, 2nd by Tom. M/C**

**Cheryl will get a membership list from D’Anna so Tom Smythe can get him the spreadsheet made.**

**Arrangements have been made for D’Anna to transfer all of the information to Tom Smythe the Friday before Memorial Day.**

**D’Anna checked into PayPal. An email was sent prior to the meeting. The email was read and discussed.**

**The fees for PayPal are 1.5% of the transaction amount plus $0.49 per transaction for nonprofits. These are lower than Squares. Square charges 2.49% regardless of tax status. D’Anna will work on getting the PayPal account set up.**

**The board agreed to move forward with PayPal.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Debra is our new scholarship director. She will contact Ginny Chidsey with VOS and let her know about our scholarship. She called Dolores Dolbare, who is a past member, but she hasn’t heard back from her. D’Anna has some scholarship information so Debra will contact her. There is a training with VOS staff on Thursday so she will get to talk to the staff that works with kids.**

**Grant Possibility**

**Cheryl spoke with Teresa Ralph who is the Grant Writer for hospice. They talked about two possible grants for us to look at. She will help come up with a plan of action.**

1. **Technical grant – this could cover the cost of a new phone, and Annette’s fees. In order to identify a plan of action on updating our website we would need Annette to identify what we want her to do. (Donation page, leadership, fundraisers, resources, trainings, Facebook page). We would need a financial proposal identifying her cost. The grant will not cover the cost of maintaining the site only building it. Annette could build a Facebook page for us but we would need to maintain it. If we need to pay someone a monthly fee to maintain our Facebook page that is what we need to do. We need to identify the cost of doing both Website (maintaining) and social media (maintaining). Cheryl suggested we look at SILC’s social media page as an example. Cheryl will contact Annette and get more information. She will send an email to the board after she talks to Annette. Annette suggested that we beef up our logo. We need to decide whether to keep or change our logo. We have a lot of brochures that have our logo on it. It was mentioned by Jacquie that we aren’t recognized by our logo. Cheryl mentioned that if you have a good logo that is how people begin to recognize you. After much discussion it was decided that we will stay with what we have for now. Tom mentioned that we discussed having our own Zoom account. He asked if that could be added to the technical grant? We would need someone who could run it as the host. One advantage is we could have our own support group calls. Cheryl will talk to Annette about zoom. ACB or WIL could possibly train us to be a zoom host. Cheryl will ask about having zoom included in the technical grant. It was also mentioned to check about including a Braille Embosser, computer, and printer in with the technical grant.**
2. **A foundation would fund a project for us. Montana Association for the Blind has an immersion program (Summer Orientation Program, SOP) for adults who have recently lost or are losing their sight. They would get concentrated training in independent living skills. We would have to contact Montana to see how much it would cost to send 2-3 people through their immersion program. We would then ask the foundation if they would provide the funds to send several people.**

**We need to look into having our books audited by a CPA volunteer or pay someone to do it. Some grantors ask if your books have been audited.**

**There is training available about grant writing in Natrona County.**

**Cheryl mentioned that there is an International Conference in Denver Colorado in July on Low Vision Rehabilitation and mental health and blindness.**

**Sherry mentioned that Allan Peterson sent her an email about the annual ACB raffle. He asked if we would be interested in buying a ticket again.**

**Sherry made a motion to buy an ACB raffle ticket from Allan Peterson, 2nd by Tom. M/C**

**Sherry suggested that we order pens &/or chapsticks with our logo and WyCB information.**

**Sherry will get information on this and get back with the board next meeting.**

**Teresa suggested that we put a wish list on our website.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee Reports**

**Fundraisers**

**Since Thankful Thursday was postponed please make sure that all the donors have been contacted about re-issuing coupons.**

**Newsletter**

**Everyone needs to think about an article. Please send it to Tom as a word document attachment by mid-June.**

**Website**

**Plans for moving forward were discussed.**

**Convention**

**Sherry read the Convention Planning Committee Meeting Minutes held on April 18, 2023. Tom, Debra, and Sherry were present. The theme is “Challenging Ourselves” and the registration fee will be $20 for everyone. We went over the rough draft and fixed a few typos. We will have 4-$25 Walmart gift cards for raffle prizes throughout the convention. Tom will get these from Walmart. The registration packet will include the program, registration form, and a blurb about each presenter. The zoom information will be sent to each individual after they register. The return envelopes need to be sent to Tom Smythe. Tom will get the WIL address from Amy. Sherry will work with Cheryl to get the agenda done for the annual business meeting. Committee reports for the annual meeting will need to be done and submitted. It was decided that WyCB will not provide lunch. Everyone will be responsible for their own lunch, they can either bring their own or order lunch. We will work on providing the name and number of a few places to eat that are close to WIL’s office. WyCB Will provide water and candy for the tables. Tom will contact Amy and make sure that WIL will provide the host. Tom will ask the presenters if they are coming in person. At the beginning of the convention Sherry will say the pledge and Tom will say the prayer. Our next meeting will be May 16, 2023 at 5 PM.**

**Jacquie mentioned that some Walmart stores don’t honor gift cards in store only online. Tom will check into this.**

**The following people will need to make committee reports for the annual business meeting.**

**Fundraising – Jacquie; Convention – Tom; Website – Cheryl; Newsletter – Tom; Membership – Cheryl; Scholarship – Debra; Grant – Cheryl; White Cane Law and White Cane Day – Sherry; Treasurers Report – D’Anna.**

**Last meeting Tom suggested that we have a support group with a catchy name and a consistent day and time that could include activities and topics geared towards sighted/B/V I individuals. Tom sent out a list of possible names for us to vote on. We voted and decided on WyCB Roundup. It was decided that it will be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7 PM for one hour. The first one will be held on June 28. We need to get the word out and put this on the website and in the newsletter. We could have a scheduled topic for part of the time and then just discuss and ask questions. We could get suggestions for topics from the participants. Anything goes. We could make a group email list for members so they could have information about ongoing events. Cheryl has started calling past members and she will let them know about these events.**

**Tom referred a woman named Donna and said she is interested in this group. Cheryl will check into this.**

**Sherry plans to go speak with a small support group in Gillette this summer and will try to recruit some new members.**

**Teresa suggested that we get other organizations to join WyCB, such as optometrists, VOS, and ophthalmologists. We will discuss this further.**

**Tom will send information about our new zoom event to the 24 newspaper editors on his list.**

**Cheryl mentioned that we need to look like we are being active.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen, Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**