**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from November’s Regular Board Meeting held via phone on November 6, 2023**

**The November regular board meeting was called to order by Pres. Cheryl Godley at 7 PM. Roll indicated that there were eight board members present, thus a quorum.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Treasurer – Tom Smyth**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Directors present:**

**Sharon Byers, Gary Olson, Debra Thompson, Sarah Sexton**

**Minutes from October’s meeting were emailed to the board by Tom Smyth prior to the meeting. Tom L made a motion to accept the minutes as sent, second by Debra. M/C**

**Treasurers report:**

**Beginning balance: $13,363.92**

**Income: $162.24**

**Expenditures: $2033.75**

**Ending balance: $11,492.41**

**Additional transactions were recorded at the bottom of the treasurers report.**

**Included with the treasurers report was a draft proposal for a new WyCB policy regarding acceptance and disbursement of gifts.**

**Information on Certificate of Deposits from several banks in Casper was also included with the treasurers report.**

**Hilltop Bank 3.5% six month**

 **3.25% one year**

**Credit Unions**

**WyHy 5.55% seven-month special**

**Uni Wyo 5.25% nine-month new account special**

 **2.7% six month**

 **2.8% one year**

**Wyo Central very low rates**

**Nuvision 3.4% one year**

**Cheryl stated that she preferred to stick with the six month so that WyCB is not locked in for a year.**

**Tom S suggested that we stick with Hilltop since he and Cheryl already bank there and their information is already at the bank.**

**Gary made a motion to deposit $5000 at Hilltop at 3.5% for six months. Second by Tom L. Unanimous vote. M/C**

**Tom S will need a copy of the minutes to take to the bank when signing up for the CD.**

**Tom S proposed a WyCB policy regarding acceptance and disbursement of gifts. Discussion and questions were asked. Tom L asked – “does writing cover electronically?” Answer – yes. Cheryl asked if we need to put in the proposal about needing to have receipts from a gift card that was used by WyCB? Maybe state “awarded or used by”. Tom S will write the policy and send it out after the meeting.**

**Debra made a motion to accept the new policy as written and sent by Tom S. Second by Sarah. M/C**

**WyCB Policy Regarding Acceptance and Disbursment of Gitts**

**All tangible donations, be they money, merchandise, gift cards, etc… shall be reported in writing to the Treasurer upon receipt. The Treasurer shall record these donations on the monthly financial report for the month in which they were received. Any tangible gifts, donations, prizes, etc… awarded or used by WyCB shall be recorded by the Treasurer on the monthly financial report along with any corresponding receipts for the month in which they were awarded.**

**Audit**

**Cheryl talked to Jacquie about a person to use for our audit. Jacquie suggested Liz Batton. She charges $25 an hour, depending on the length of time. She prefers paper bank statements. She will look at the income and expense sheets and make sure they balance. She will then write a letter with what she finds and any suggestions. She is not a CPA but she is an EA which is an agent with the IRS. She has taken courses from the IRS. A CPA will be more expensive, probably $100-$250 an hour. Cheryl suggested we have all of D’Anna’s term audited. Sherry will contact D’Anna and asked her when she became treasurer.**

**(Sherry contacted D’Anna the next day and she was voted in at the convention in June 2019).**

**Tom L asked “will the audit be legit if she is not a CPA?” Yes**

**Tom S stated that there is a checkbook ledger and paper trail going back to September 2017. He stated that there is a letter from an audit and he will look for it and report the date. Cheryl will talk to Liz Batton about doing the audit for WyCB.**

**Membership Report**

**Tom L stated that he talked to Ginny Chidsey with VOS. She stated that she was retiring. Tom L mentioned to her that we would love to have her on our board. Tom L sent her an email and asked her if she would become a member and be on our board as a director. He is waiting to hear from her. She is going to be a contracted O & M specialist. He will follow-up if he doesn’t hear from her soon.**

**Gary made a motion to approve Ginny Chidsey as a director on our board if she accepts. Second by Sharon. Unanimous vote. M/C**

**Old Business**

**Newsletter – Sightings**

**Tom L and Tom S did a great job on the newsletter. Cheryl said “Thank You” to those that wrote articles. Tom L stated that we can do the newsletter three times a year. Annette put the newsletter on the website.**

**WyCB Roundup**

**The next WyCB Roundup is November 22, the day before Thanksgiving. Tom S suggested that we move it. Tom L suggested we move it to the week of the 29th. The next WyCB Roundup will be November 29, 2023 at 7 PM. We need others to facilitate. Tom L and Gary stated that Bill Riley was on the last round up and was interested in becoming a member. Tom L mentioned that Gary Roadifer was resurrecting the Lions Camp on Casper Mountain and wants to include the Lions Club information on our website in the resource page. Sarah stated that she should be able to facilitate the next round up. Sherry also stated that she usually gets on and can help.**

**Scholarship – Debra Thompson**

**Debra has been looking at all the different schools around the state. There are two 4yr colleges in Wyoming. One private in Lander the other in Laramie. There are seven other colleges. She wants to get the information out to the schools by mid January. The deadline for getting the information back will be April 1. Tom L could send the scholarship information to the list of newspapers in his group list.**

**Talking Books**

**Tom L stated that he wrote an email to Megan Degenfelder, who is the Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction. He asked if there were any concerns with the talking books program and the funding for 2024. Her response was that there were no concerns at this time and they will let us know if there are any problems with the funding.**

**New Business**

**Clarification of membership each year:**

**Membership applications to be sent out January 15 of each year.**

**Applications to be returned by February 28 of each year so they may be tallied for ACB’s report on March 1 of each year.**

**A note will be placed on the application that if dues are received after February 28, the individual will not receive: the forum from ACB and will not be counted for voting for WyCB.**

**Tom S will write this as a policy and send it out.**

**Letterhead for WyCB**

**Annette suggested to Cheryl that we change our letterhead. Tom S stated that Annette would have a template set up that could be used to print things out. Debra stated that it needs to be appealing to the sighted. Tom L asked “what is it going to cost?” Any logo we adopt needs to be used across the board. After a discussion and questions it was decided that we will table this for now. Table for Now.**

**Goals for the Money**

**Website Resources Page**

**Cheryl stated that we need to work on a resources page on our website so that people can get on and find the resources that they need. Resources such as: VOS, WISL, WIL, VOC Rehab, WyCB Roundup, O&M instructor’s, Dog Guide Agencies.**

**Need to put together a committee.**

**The Resource Committee will consist of Sarah (chair), Tom L, Cheryl, and Sherry. The date and time will be decided on.**

**Sponsor Immersion Program for Newly Blinded Individuals.**

**Cheryl talked to Todd Folstrum who was the past Executive Director of the program. He gave her the new director’s name Jocelyn DeHaas. She stated that they have a four week Summer orientation in June. The cost per student is $4500 and it is in Great Falls Montana. 5% of the cost is paid by the Montana Association for the Blind. She thinks we could get a discount and maybe sponsor with another state. There is also a training center in Sioux Falls South Dakota. Cheryl will get more information on this. This is in the Premature Stage and will be discussed further.**

**Future Convention Dates:**

**Cheryl would like to find a consistent month and week that we would hold the convention. Tom L stated that we need to be aware of conflicts in June such as the College Rodeo in Casper and ACB’s convention. Debra stated that getting a motel was difficult for our last convention.**

**Sharon volunteered to go to the Chamber of Commerce in Casper and get a list of annual events.**

**Cheryl mentioned that a book titled “All the Light We Cannot See” is now a miniseries on Netflix and recommends everyone check it out.**

**Tom L talked about the audio descriptions**

 **in Wyoming. He suggested that everyone check with their internet providers and see if it is available.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Sherry Leinen-Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**