**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**minutes from December’s regular board meeting held via phone on December 11, 2023**

**The December regular board meeting was called to order by Pres. Cheryl Godley at 7:01 PM. Roll indicated that there were seven board members present and two regular members, thus a quorum.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Treasurer – Tom Smyth**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Directors present:**

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

**Absent: Sharon Byers**

**Members present: D’Anna Feurt, Nate Appledorn**

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

**Treasurers report:**

**Beginning balance: $11,492.41**

**Income: $0.97**

**Expenditures: $5156.95**

**Ending Checking Account Balance: $6336.43**

**Certificate of Deposit Balance: $5000**

**Total Funds: $11,336.43**

**Tom L had a question about Annette Carter’s $75 bill. Are we paying her monthly or quarterly? Tom S will talk to Annette about her bill.**

**The square account was swapped from D’Anna to Annette.**

**The CD was acquired and will be receiving monthly interest from the bank.**

**Audit completed. A letter was sent to Tom S by Liz Batton, which read.**

**Dab Hand**

**238 S Center**

**Casper, WY 82601**

**307-359-2277**

**11/17/23**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

**After a careful review of the information for Wyoming Council of the Blind from May 2019 to June 2023 I found no discrepancies.**

**All income and expenses were recorded and accounted for.**

**Thank you for your trust in doing this audit.**

**Liz Batton**

**Dab Hand**

**It was mentioned last meeting that all policies voted on need to be kept in a file. The secretary will print these off and keep them in a file.**

**Last meeting Tom S proposed a WyCB policy regarding acceptance and disbursement of gifts.**

**WyCB Policy Regarding Acceptance and Disbursement of Gifts**

**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.**

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

**Before this meeting Tom S sent out a draft for a membership policy.**

**WyCB Membership Policy**

**The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date list of all members in good standing that includes their contact information and noting the month in which they paid their dues. The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that all dues are promptly deposited and accounted for.**

**Membership in WyCB expires on February 28 in order to provide membership numbers to ACB on March 1. Members who pay dues after this will not receive the ACB Braille Forum and will not have ACB voting rights for that year.**

**The Treasurer will send out Membership Renewal Applications by January 15 to allow members sufficient time to renew their membership before the membership expiration deadline. Members who pay their dues after October 1 will have their membership prorated and they will be considered to be paid up for the following year.**

**There was some discussion about whether this should be a policy or a bylaw. It was decided to keep it simple and make it a policy.**

**Sherry made a motion to accept the policy as written, second by Tom L. M/C**

**Cheryl suggested that we send the membership applications by mail.**

**Sarah asked if the email version is a fillable form? She also asked if the application on the website was a fillable form?**

**Tom S will contact Annette to see if there can be a fillable form on our website.**

**Debra suggested that there be a box to check on the application if nothing has changed, just check the box and send in your money. Tom L suggested that we send out a reminder letter. Tom S will make the change on the application form and add a check box – no changes.**

**Old Business**

**Newsletter – Sightings (Tom L & Tom S)**

**If you plan to submit an article for the newsletter please have it in by January 15. We will send the newsletter out at the end of February.**

**WyCB Roundup (Tom L)**

**The next WyCB Roundup is scheduled for December 27 at 7 PM. Since this is so close to Christmas it was decided that we move it to December 20 at 7 PM. Tom L will send out a PSA.**

**Scholarship (Debra T)**

**Debra will send the scholarship information to Tom S. All she has to do is change the dates. It is important to have the applications in early so we can give the recipient their money before college starts in the fall. The deadline will be April 15. Debra is still working on the list of who to send the information to. Tom L will help her send a PSA out to the newspapers. Debra will get the information to Tom S by the next meeting, so he can give it to Annette to put on the website.**

**Convention**

**Sharon was supposed to report on activities in Casper for June through September. Since she is absent we will table this for next meeting. Cheryl will check with her before the next meeting.**

**Resource Page Project (Sarah)**

**The committee had their first meeting on November 27, 2023. We will start with Wyoming resources and eventually add national resources. Each committee member was assigned organizations to research and write about. We will email our reports to each committee member by Friday, December 15 and discuss our reports on Monday, December 18.**

**Immersion Program for Newly Blinded Individuals (Cheryl)**

**Cheryl sent out several emails that included correspondence regarding the immersion programs. One included information about the South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the blind in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They have three apartments for folks that they need to do background checks on, but the cost of the program is $3000 for the blind the skills, $1200 for housing and for the blindness skills, it is $250 (approximately) per week. Students need to provide their own lunch and they do not operate on the weekends.**

**The Montana Association of the blind has a four week program which is $4500-$5000 depending on the contracts. It goes five days a week, you get housing, food, training, and quite often they do things in the evenings and weekends. More information can be found at their website MAB: www.mabsop.org.**

**Cheryl stated that it would be nice if we could work on sponsoring one person in the future. We need to find out more information on the programs and we need to eventually find out if there are blind in Wyoming that would be interested.**

**Tom L stated that we don’t want to forget about the Lions Club camp on Casper Mountain.**

**Gary stated that most of the funding for the Lions Club camp comes from the Montgomery Trust Foundation. Other donations to the Lions Club camp is used for upkeep for the camp.**

**Cheryl will follow-up after the first of the year.**

**Fundraising**

**Everyone needs to be thinking about fundraising in the future.**

**Tom L stated that other organizations have 50-50 raffles often. We need to make sure that we identify where the funds are going, this helps people donate if they know what the money is used for.**

**Tom S stated that Liz Batton mentioned monthly luncheons with various organizations. During these luncheons they have presenters at times. Cheryl stated that she could do a presentation during a luncheon that could also include a 50-50 raffle.**

**Nate asked if we had access to Grant Station. Cheryl and Tom S stated that they have been working with an individual that works on grants for hospice. Annette mentioned to Cheryl that certain organizations affiliate themselves with a certain candy. Cheryl will ask Annette more about this. Tom L mentioned the Wyoming Optometric Association and that maybe they would be interested in donating to our organization. Cheryl stated that if you can show them the need and where the money would go it’s easier to get grants and potential dollars. Cheryl mentioned possibly having a bake sale. Debra mentioned that you can set up a fundraiser with specific retailers like Amazon and have a certain amount of money go to specific organizations.**

**Everyone needs to continue to think about fundraisers.**

**Sarah mentioned that we will discuss social media after the first of the year.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Sherry Leinen – Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**