**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**minutes from January’s regular board meeting held via phone on January 8, 2024**

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

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Treasurer – Tom Smyth**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Directors present:**

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

**Absent: Sarah Sexton (excused)**

**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 Tom S. M/C**

**Cheryl asked if 6 PM would work better for everyone versus 7 PM for the monthly meetings? It was decided that the meeting time will stay at 7 PM.**

**Treasurers report: Tom S**

**Checking Account Balance: $6336.46**

**Certificate of Deposit Balance: $5000**

**Total Funds: $11,336.43**

**Income Checking: $50.75**

**Expenditures Checking: $106.95**

**Ending Checking Account Balance: $6280.23**

**Interest on CD for December 2023: $14.38**

**Certificate of Deposit Balance: $5014.38**

**Total Funds: $11,294.61**

**Tom L made a motion to approve the treasurers report as written, second by Debra. M/C**

**There was one donation for $50 from Elizabeth Nunn. Cheryl sent a thank you note.**

**There were no donations on the square account.**

**Membership Renewal**

**Tom S proposed a draft for the membership renewal form. If members just want to send a check, Tom will fill out a form so they don’t have to.**

**ACB has added gender and ethnicity to their membership form. Cheryl asked “should we add them as optional”, since ACB is asking? Tom L asked if there are penalties if we don’t add them? After discussing this Gary made a motion to leave gender and ethnicity off of our membership form, second by Tom L. M/C**

**Tom S suggested that a statement be put at the top of the membership application that states that members can just write “no changes” on the application and skip filling out the form.**

**Existing members with no changes to their contact information may just note “No Changes” to skip filling out this form. We will leave on the vision status, the preferred format for “ACB Braille Forum”, and the preferred format for our newsletter “Sightings”.**

**Tom L made a motion to approve the new form, seconded by Gary. M/C**

**Tom S will send the membership application copy to Sherry.**

**Tom S and Cheryl worked on a cover letter that is two pages, front and back, that states who we are and why you should join. This letter was read to the board.**

**Discussion – Tom L suggested that Wyoming be added to the first sentence. He also suggested that WyCB be added in parentheses in the heading. Gary worried about the length and worried about individuals reading it, especially those living in assisted living facilities. He worried that they wouldn’t have a way to read the cover letter. Tom L mentioned that individuals will get this in the format they have requested. Cheryl stated that we need to be able to present to individuals what we are doing. Tom S stated that it’s nice to let people know what we are doing.**

**Tom S made a motion to accept the cover letter with the changes, second by Tom L. M/C**

**The membership applications will be mailed to everyone.**

**Old Business**

**Newsletter (Tom L and Tom S)**

**All articles have been received. Tom L will be sending everything to Tom S and the newsletter will be sent out. A copy of the newsletter will be sent to WI L, VOS, WISL, and the senior centers in the state.**

**WyCB Roundup**

**The Round up is the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next one is January 24, 2024 at 7 PM.**

**Scholarship**

**Debra had to leave the call so Cheryl gave the report instead. Cheryl will check with Annette to make sure all of the information on the website is accurate. You can fill out an application online or print one out and send it in. They will run a fake application to make sure that everything is working. Tom L mentioned that Debra wrote an article for the newsletter about the scholarship.**

**Gary asked about the GPA on the scholarship application, is it supposed to be a 2.0, which is a C average?**

**Discussion**

**It was mentioned that we don’t want to exclude anyone. It was also mentioned that we want individuals to apply themselves. It was also mentioned that we don’t want to exclude somebody who may have had difficulties in high school or college. Since Debra was no longer on the call it was decided that we have a special meeting to discuss the GPA for the scholarship. The special meeting will be held Friday, January 12 at 7 PM. Cheryl will check with Debra to make sure that this works for her.**

**Resource Page Project**

**Since Sarah was absent Cheryl reported. Everyone has been working on some rewriting. The committee will have a meeting on Monday, January 15 to discuss these rewrites.**

**New Business**

**Cheryl received an email from ACB about changes DOT has made to the applications to fill out about traveling with a Service Dog. Everyone can forward this email. This is a national thing.**

**Social Media**

**Since Sarah is absent this will be tabled until next meeting.**

**Grants**

**No new information. Cheryl will be working on some grants after hearing from IVP. Tom S will help.**

**Tom S mentioned that we have one new member, Robin from Cody.**

**Cheryl mentioned that she ran into somebody at Hobby Lobby that had a grandchild who was blind. She told grandma about WyCB.**

**Everyone needs to continue thinking of individuals that we can send applications to.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Sherry Leinen – Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**