**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from February’s regular board meeting held via phone on February 12, 2024**

**The February regular board meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Godley at 7 PM. Roll call 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:**

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

**The minutes from January’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: Tom S**

**Checking Account Balance: $6280.23**

**Certificate of Deposit Balance: $5014.38**

**Total Funds: $11,294.61**

**Income Checking: $179.96**

**Expenditures Checking: - $172.95**

**Ending Checking Account Balance: $6287.24**

**Interest on CD for January 2024: $14.91**

**Certificate of Deposit Balance: $5029.29**

**Total Funds: $11,316.53**

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

**Membership: Tom S reported that there are 12 members at this time.**

**Tom S went through the ACB list and took off old members.**

**Cheryl suggested that we call or send out an email reminder to members to make sure they fill out their membership forms.**

**Old Business**

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

**The articles for the next newsletter are due by May 15, 2024. Send them to Tom L in Word format.**

**WyCB Roundup.**

**Fourth Wednesday of each month.**

**February 28, 2024 is the next one. Tom L will send a PSA.**

**Scholarship (Debra)**

**No responses yet.**

**Gary suggested that Debra call WDE and asked for a list of the Special Education Directors for all the High Schools in Wyoming.**

**It was suggested that Debra send the information to the Trade Schools and VOS.**

**Cheryl suggested that Debra contact the office of students with disabilities at colleges.**

**Gary will help with the scholarship list from WDE.**

**Cheryl mentioned that we need to keep track of the lists. (Radio, newspapers, scholarship list).**

**Sarah suggested we put them on Google drive.**

**Cheryl will ask Annette to put the scholarship information on the website.**

**Convention (Sharon)**

**Sharon contacted Casper’s Chamber of Commerce to get a list of their annual events for June and September.**

**The only available weekend in June was the 22nd.**

**The available weekends in September were the first and fourth.**

**After some discussion.**

**Gary made a motion that we hold our WyCB convention the fourth weekend in September, second by Debra. M/C**

**Our convention this year will be held Saturday, September 28, 2024 in Casper.**

**The convention committee will consist of Tom L, Gary, and Sherry. Sarah stated that she could help a little. Tom L will call and get a meeting scheduled.**

**Resource Page Project: (Sarah)**

**The committee has had several meetings and the resource pages look great. Everyone needs to email Tom S their lists. Tom S will get the resource information to Annette to put on the website.**

**New Business**

**Grants (Cheryl and Tom S)**

**Tom S and Cheryl spent time at the library and they have a good list for the grant proposals. They have an intro letter and they will send one grant proposal at a time and then wait for a response. Some require an audit letter, which we now have. They also have a list of different organizations to send some proposals to. They have been working on two different proposals.**

1. **Scholarship money – they will look for other sources that we can use to provide to our scholarship recipient.**
2. **Website – they will look for grant money to pay Annette to continue to develop our website and our social media.**

**They all have specific protocol that needs to be followed.**

**Fundraiser Ideas**

**Everyone needs to continue thinking about fundraising ideas. A few ideas were suggested (candy sales, gift shop, dinner in the dark).**

**Social Media**

**Sarah mentioned that she knows several individuals in the state that are young and blind who use social media. These are the individuals that we need to find. Tom L mentioned that if we are going to reach the younger folks we need to go where they are.**

**Sarah and Sherry volunteered to work on a Facebook account. They can work with Annette to get it set up. Cheryl will talk to Annette.**

**White Cane Safety Day – October 15**

**We discussed ideas on what to do for White Cane Safety Day. It would be nice if we would involve the grade schools. We could contact VOS to find out if they have any B/VI students at any of the schools. We could involve the press. Debra mentioned that last year she went to the elementary school in Rock Springs. Everyone could contact the schools in their area. It was mentioned that Guide Dogs for the Blind has brochures that we could give out. We could get some and use them as resources. Everyone needs to put some thoughts together for the next meeting.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted.**

**Sherry Leinen – Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**