**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from June’s Regular Board Meeting held via phone on June 11, 2024**

**The June regular board meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Godley at 7:01 PM. Roll call indicated that there were eight board members and one member present, thus a quorum.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Cheryl Godley**

**Vice President – Tom Lealos**

**Secretary – Sherry Leinen**

**Treasurer – Tom Smyth**

**Directors present:**

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

**Members present: Linda Woodruff**

**The minutes from May’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 Gary. M/C**

**Treasurers report: Tom S**

**Total Funds Last Month**

**$13,130.28**

**Total Monthly Gains**

**$7000.40**

**Total Monthly Expenditures**

**-$84.23**

**WyCB Monthly Total Gain/Loss**

**$6916.17**

**Total Funds 5/31/24**

**$20,046.45**

**Discussion: opening another CD was tabled by Cheryl from the May meeting.**

**Tom L asked the question “would we take money out of our savings account, say $5000?”**

**Tom S stated that the $5000 CD matures on November 8 and the $2000 CD matures on September 16. We have $11,600 in savings. We need to make sure that the money is available to pay Annette our Webmaster.**

**Cheryl stated that we need to stagger out the CDs. Tom S stated that the max we take out is $4000 and $3000 would be safer. Cheryl suggested $2500 be taken out and put into a CD.**

**Gary made a motion that we make another CD for $2500, second by Tom L. M/C**

**Tom S stated that July – June is our fiscal year. He will fill out the IRS and Secretary of State paperwork online at the same time. Tom S is the Person of Record and is the first person of contact for both of these.**

**Board positions and terms:**

**Officers**

**P-Cheryl 2022 – 2024 running again**

**VP-Tom L 2023 – 2025 stepping down (possible Gary or Sarah)**

**Sec.-Sherry 2022 – 2024 open (possible Gary)**

**Treas.-Tom S 2023 – 2025**

**Directors**

1. **Sharon 2022 – 2024 running again**
2. **Gary 2023 – 2025**
3. **Debra 2022 – 2024 running again**
4. **Sarah 2023 – 2025**
5. **Open 2024 – 2026 Sherry**
6. **Open 2023 – 2025 Linda**

**Possible positions open:**

**VP 2023 – 2025**

**Sec. 2024 – 2026**

**Cheryl mentioned that in past minutes there was a possible Bylaw change that was discussed. She asked if anyone recalls which bylaw this was. She thought that Debra was the one that brought it up. Sherry will look through past minutes and find what was brought up.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Sightings (Tom L and Tom S)**

**Tom L stated that there were nine articles and Tom S stated that the newsletter is 21 pages long. We put out three newsletters a year so the next one will be at the end of October. We need the articles for the next newsletter by October 1. Tom L will be stepping down so we will need to find someone to continue with the newsletter. If anyone is interested please let Cheryl know. Tom L can answer any questions if needed.**

**WyCB Roundup**

**Tom L stated that the interest in the Roundup has fizzled. People called in once but didn’t call again. Tom L made a motion to discontinue the WyCB Roundup, second by Gary. M/C We need to let Annette know to take it off the website.**

**Scholarship (Debra)**

**Debra has a list of the schools, she will get everything lined up as soon as her computer issues are cleared up. Cheryl sent her a list of the institutions. Please let people know that the scholarship is still available. The information is on our website. Leslie with VOS knows that our scholarship is still available.**

**Convention (Tom L)**

**The Convention is scheduled for September 28, 2024 in Casper. Tom L wrote a convention summary for the newsletter. We have five presenters and our annual meeting. We need to decide what ADA topics we want Tina Bennett to talk about. We would like them to be more specific to blindness. We would like her to talk about 2-3 of the hottest ADA topics. Sherry will contact Tina.**

**Tom L and Tom S will formulate the registration form. Cheryl will work on the Braille forms requested by individuals. She will also make sure that there are a few extra forms in Braille.**

**Gary will be the emcee.**

**Cheryl asked Gary about envelopes for mailing braille. Gary will check on these.**

**The registration packets will go out the first part of August.**

**We will have pizza for lunch which will cost $5. Sherry will order the pizza.**

**Resource Page Project**

**We need to send our photos to Annette. Tom S will send Sharon a mailing address so she can send in her photo.**

**Leslie with VOS will make little cards that has information about our resources to give to their consumers.**

**White Cane Day (Sarah)**

**Ginny Chidsey will look into getting permission to walk the Capital Square in Cheyenne on October 2. Individuals with white canes and guide dogs will walk the block. We are working on having Gov. Gordon sign a proclamation at the capital. If it ends up being cold Laurel Henry will check into the underground tunnel system.**

**Sarah contacted Misty Zimmerman with WyDOT about the drivers manual. Sarah will send images that will be used in the manual.**

**Tom L got an email from Ginny about the proclamation. Need to fill out paperwork and get it to the Gov.’s planner. Closer to the event we need to talk about getting the press involved and who will go down to March.**

**Social Media**

**Sarah, Sherry, and Mikaela Piasecki are the administrators. Something is posted every day by Sarah and/or Sherry.**

**Archiving Data**

**Everyone needs to start sending their information to Annette so that it can be archived.**

**Tom S will send Sherry a list of what copies of minutes he has. Cheryl stated that the more information we have archived the better.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Assist Transportation in Casper (Cheryl)**

**Cheryl stated that after the City of Casper took over the assist transportation they are down to four buses from seven. They can’t get enough drivers because the payment for the drivers isn’t good. They’re only transporting to medical appointments. She suggested that WyCB compose a letter discussing the issues. SILC wants to go to the city Council meetings and possibly get reporters involved. As many disability interest groups as possible needs to get involved and write letters (WIL, VOS, SILC, WyCB). Cheryl, Sarah, Sherry, and Tom S will work on composing a letter. It was suggested that representative Scott Smith be contacted. Gary asked if there is a Gov.’s Council that could look into this. Once the letter is composed it needs to be sent to the City Council, the Governor, the Attorney General, PANDA, and the Veterans.**

**Counterfeit Service Animals (Sarah)**

**Sarah talked about amending the law in Wyoming about if you are caught in public misrepresenting your pet as a service dog. Right now the fine is a misdemeanor with a fine of $750. Education is needed. 33 states have laws on this. According to the ADA you can ask an individual 2 questions about their service dog. Most people and businesses are afraid to confront individuals. We need to look into amending this law. We will discuss it more next meeting.**

**Fundraising**

**Everyone continue to think of fundraising ideas.**

**Sherry talked about the Wyoming Access project that an advocacy group (WyDPAC) with WI L is working on. They are working on developing a checklist with items to look for in businesses to see if they are accessible. If they are accessible according to the checklist they will be given a sticker to put in their window that states that they are accessible. Tom L suggested that once this is put together that the local Chamber of Commerce for different towns be contacted.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen – Sec.**

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