February 2025 WyCB Board Meeting :

* President Cheryl Godley called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm
* Roll Call: Present- President Cheryl Godley, Vice President Gary Olsen, Secretary Sarah Sexton, Treasurer Tom Smyth. Directors present: Robin Loen, Sharon Byers, Sherry Leinen was not present during roll call but joined the meeting soon after it started. Not present: Debra Thompson, Bonnie Harrison, Linda Woodruff.
* Cheryl announced that Annette Carter, our webmaster, will be joining our meeting at 6:45 to speak with us about fundraising ideas.
* Minutes for January board meeting require the following corrections
	+ :Sarah will change the wording of the minutes to say “Tom read the updated membership renewal letter”.
	+ There is an extra “ly” in Cheryl’s name in the roll call that needs to be corrected
	+ Robin noted that her name was spelled incorrectly as well, right after roll call. That will be corrected. .
	+ Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes, with the noted corrections for January. Tom made a second. The motion carried.
* Treasurer’s Report: Please see Tom’s report.
	+ Tom reminded us to renew our memberships, if we have not done so.
	+ Tom read an email from the art museum in Jackson, Wy. The curator at that museum reached out to get WyCB’s input about creating more accessible art exhibits. The museum is looking to create a focus group to assess their ideas. There will be 3D images, Braille, and audio descriptions of a set of displays. To partake in the focus group, participants must be low vision or blind and have a reliable ride to the museum and must also live in Jackson.
	+ Cheryl noted that we do have two members that live in Jackson; this information has been shared with those members.
* Linda Woodruff joined the meeting at this point. Cheryl caught Linda up to speed.
* Tom then read the Treasurer’s Report.
* Gary made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Sarah made a second. The motion carried.
* Cheryl sent a card and check to the Montgomery Trust Fund in memory of Linda Bectell. As a thank you, WyCB received a note in Braille from Linda Bectell’s children.
* Photo gallery: Get any photos of any events to Annette please.
* Sightings Newsletter: 25th or 26th of Feb.is when the upcoming newsletter should be ready for release
* Support Groups:
	+ Casper : Cheryl was not able to attend the support group today and nobody was in attendance. Cheryl also noted that a flyer is in circulation in order to boost group attendance.
	+ Cheryl did attend the most recent transportation meeting in Casper, via Zoom. The meeting was hosted by Wyoming Independent Living; aside from Cheryl, there were only two other consumers present at this transportation meeting. These consumers expressed their concerns.

Cheryl disclosed that it was suggested at this meeting that these consumers try using Para-Transit, which is only for those experiencing paraplegia.

* Buffalo low vision group: Wyoming Independent Living present at their most recent group.
* Sheridan: Linda reports that it is going well She also noted that Wyoming Independent Living will connect her with city council to expand education on etiquette. Cheryl requested the flyer that Linda has for interacting with a blind person.
* Robin suggested that the flyers that Cheryl is using for her support group be shared with the board so that we could all have access to it.
* Tom emailed the flyer to the group and will send paper copies to those who don’t use computers.
* Annette Carter joined the call at this point to discuss some fundraising ideas:
	+ Annette read us an example of a fundraising letter. She will send a copy of this to Cheryl for future reference.
	+ The letter detailed the cost of various occupational therapies so that donors know what they are contributing to.
	+ Annette can customize a PayPal account for WyCB for this specific fundraiser.
	+ Cheryl noted that we, as a board, need to decide what we will be fundraising for.
* Bonnie Harrison joined the meeting at this time.
	+ Cheryl stated that she and Tom have been discussing the idea of a Zoom platform, which will require funds ; having this technology option could provide people with the chance to join a support group virtually
	+ Annette left our meeting call at this point and we all agreed to think about what we need to fundraise for. .
	+
* Scholarships: The information about WyCB’s scholarship has been updated on the website.
	+ Cheryl stated that there were two scholarship applications completed and submitted but they appear to be scams.
* Resource Page Project: WyCB met all of the expectations for properly utilizing the grant funds from the Natrona Health Collective.
* WyCB Social Media: Sherry posted the updated scholarship information. It was discussed that posts could be scheduled so that it appears more often in people’s Facebook feed.
* Cheryl reminded us to keep sending things to Annette that need to be archived.
* WyDOT: Sarah has not received any communication from the two primary contact people that she has been working with. She will call WyDOT’s civil rights director and go from there.
* Lions Club update: Bonnie reported that the club decided to facilitate an adult camp this coming summer. She mentioned that she will still try to get WyCB on the schedule for a weekend team building retreat.
* Cheryl stated that advertising with Vision Outreach Services and on the WyCB website would be the best way to reach adults with late in life blindness.
* Cheryl and Robin plan on attending the Lions Club convention happening in Torrington on April 26th.
* Letter of Support for VOS: Robin read the letter to the board.
* It was then discussed that we have testimonials from the teachers who work with/teach children who are low vision or blind in our letter to strengthen it.
* Robin made some grammatical suggestions to polish it up.
* Braille postcards : Robin reported that 100 Braille alphabet cards would cost $20 through the American Foundation for the Blind
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* Cheryl suggested that we make this purchase so that we could have these cards at public events.
* Sharon made a motion to buy 100 Braille alphabet cards for $20. Sherry made a second. The motion passed.
* New Business: People are calling the WyCB phone mistaking the council for BOS.
	+ – Lions Club in Sheridan: Linda spoke with Don. It sounds like this coming spring will be when we can plan for a talk.
* - 2025 WyCB Conference Committee: It is planned for Saturday Sept. 27th.in Casper, with both an in-person option and a virtual option. Sherry will give the free conference call meeting information to Gary when they start having meetings
* Robin made a request to present to the board. She has a business selling adaptive technology for those who are blind or low vision. She wants to speak at the support groups being facilitated by the WyCB members. Robin also wanted to ask if it would be appropriate to be present as a vendor at the Lions Club convention in April.
	+ Cheryl asked the board to give their thoughts about this .
	+ Gary shared about the buying habits that Vision Outreach Services has and wanted Robin to know that she may be doing a lot of work and presenting only to have these potential customers turn around and go to VOS to get the device they want.
	+ Cheryl stated that she does NOT want WyCB to be seen as advertising on a bias for one company or one vendor.
	+ Sarah asked how to word an upcoming article for the newsletter in which Robin was present at the NRAER conference as a vendor and also serves as a director of WyCB.
	+ Cheryl noted that we should not have the products being sold specifically listed in the article.
	+ Tom pulled the article up on the spot and made the edits so that it was appropriate for WyCB’s parameters.
* Robin spoke on presenting to our support groups, stating that she would only come and present if she was requested by the group.
* Cheryl stated that we need to be aware of the potential conflict of interest.
* Robin spoke about how she would reach out to senior centers in various communities.
* The idea came up for Robin to simply be a vendor at various local health fairs and senior fairs, which would eliminate the potential conflict of interest because the business would be marketed to the community as a whole instead of the business being marketed specifically to low vision support groups facilitated by WyCB board members.
* Next meeting is: Monday March 10th at 6 pm.

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* + Something needs to be fixed around Debra Thompson’s name.