**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from Annual Membership Meeting held July 24, 2021 at Racca’s Pizzeria in Casper, Wy**

**The annual meeting was called to order by President, Sherry Leinen, at 1:30 PM. 11 people were in attendance.**

**Officers present:**

**President – Sherry Leinen**

**Vice President – vacant**

**Secretary – Jacquie Flatley**

**Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt**

**Board members present: Cheryl Godley, Chris Johnson, Tom Lealos (via zoom).**

**Regular members in attendance included Muriel McNeely, Jane Keeney, Laurel Henry, Sharon Byers.**

**One guest: Dr. Nick Brattis**

**No convention/annual meeting was held in 2022 due to Covid 19. Jacquie Flatley read the minutes from the June 2019 annual meeting. Cheryl Godley moved to accept them as read, 2nd by Jane Keeney. M/C**

**The 2020 – 2021 Treasurers Report was read.**

**Ending balance as of 6/30/2021 was $6138.19.**

**D’Anna Feurt moved to accept the report as read, 2nd by Cheryl Godley. M/C**

**Committee Reports**

**Advocacy**

* **Talking Books Program: Sherry Leinen presented information on Talking Books and what advocacy methods have been addressed. Discussion was held about the Department of Education continuing funding until 2023. Jane Keeney asked about the possibility of the Talking Books Program going back to the Wyoming State Library as several states have done. Sherry stated that she had talked to the head of the Wyoming State Library about this. He stated that it wouldn’t be cost-effective for them to take this over. The Utah State Library has all of the equipment and everything already set up.**
* **White Cane Law: Committee members have worked diligently to try to address the matter of strengthening/revising the current law. It is agreed by all in attendance that there should be a section in the State Drivers Education Manual addressing the topic so that students are better informed. Other options were to advocate for at least one question on the driver’s test. It was suggested that perhaps a group could be formed to speak to high school students. It would be helpful if we could find testimonials.**

**Brochures**

* **WyCB brochures have been distributed in various places throughout the state.**

**Communications**

* **Sherry is currently working on the newsletter until someone else takes over the editor position.**

**Fundraisers – no report**

**Membership**

* **Current number of members: 20**
* **It is Imperative for WyCB to focus on growing our membership. What needs to be done to increase membership? Jacquie agreed to head a membership committee. Jane Keeney, D’Anna Feurt, and Nick Brattis agreed to serve as committee members. The committee will try to meet within the next couple weeks.**

**Nick Brattis offered to get updated numbers/statistics for the brochure and expressed his intent to start providing brochures to each of his patients in order to provide more exposure for WyCB. He will contact Mountain States Lithographing to get updated pricing information. Nick also felt that it would be helpful to have a self-addressed envelope included in the brochure for returning the membership application. He will start searching for a small envelope that will fit inside the brochure.**

**Scholarship**

* **After the WyCB scholarship information was emailed to all Wyoming VOS service providers, we received only one application. The application met all of the requirements and was provided to all board members for review. The board voted to award the scholarship to Ainsleigh Belveal of Casper in the amount of $1000.**
* **The scholarship information indicates that the recipient needs to be present at the convention when the scholarship is to be presented. It was discussed how feasible this is if the conventions continue to move to a virtual format, rather than in person. Since the convention was planned with such short notice, Ainsleigh and her family had already planned to be out of state visiting family during the convention. We will award the scholarship to Ainsleigh without the required attendance at this year’s convention.**

**Website**

* **Updates are made as needed.**

**Unfinished Business**

* **Perpetual plaque – tabled**

**New Business**

* **2021 ACB Legislative Imperatives and the ACB Convention was explained by Sherry.**
* **Allan Peterson, Tom Lealos, and Sherry Leinen met with Congresswoman Cheney on March 1, Senator Barrasso on March 2, and Senator Lummus on March 11, via Zoom. We discussed the 2021 ACB Legislative Imperatives and the WyCB advocacy issues (The Talking Books Program and the White Cane Law).**
* **Time to Be Bold – Cheryl Godley talked about the Time to Be Bold Campaign. The Time to Be Bold campaign is designed to educate, engage and empower people who are 55+ with low vision to maintain/regain their independence by utilizing the free or low-cost services provided by the RSA – funded OIB programs. Go to** [**www.timetobebold.org**](http://www.timetobebold.org) **for a list of free or low-cost services in your state that will give you the tools, technology, training, and support you need to live your bold, best life.**
* **Bylaws Addition – Emergency Powers – Article V (F). The following bylaws addition was presented during the meeting.**

**Emergency Powers - In the circumstance where a quorum of the Board of Directors and/or members cannot readily be assembled in person, because of some catastrophic event, this organization is expressly authorized to exercise emergency powers. In the event that the annual convention cannot be held in person, the officers and directors, along with the membership have the authority to continue to conduct the business of this organization, including voting on amendments and the election of officers and directors by other means of communication. (i.e. video, mail, phone, email, and/or any other that is applicable).**

**Cheryl Godley moved to adopt the Amendment to the Bylaws as read, 2nd by D’Anna Feurt. M/C.**

**Election of Officers and Director**

**Officers**

**President – Sherry Leinen (2021 – 2022)**

**Vice President – vacant**

**Secretary – Jacquie Flatley (2021 – 2022)**

**Treasurer – D’Anna Feurt (2021 – 2023)**

**Directors**

**Director – Cheryl Godley (2021 – 2023)**

**Director – Chris Johnson (2021 – 2023)**

**Director – Sharon Byers (2021 – 2022)**

**Director – Tom Lealos (2021 – 2023)**

**Director-Write In-Dr. Nick Brattis (2021 – 2022)**

**It was moved and seconded that the officers and directors be accepted as read. M/C**

**A copy of all the committee reports will be included with these minutes.**

**Meeting was adjourned.**