**Wyoming Council of the Blind**

**Minutes from May’s regular board meeting held via phone on May 13, 2024**

**The May regular board meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Godley at 7:03 PM. Roll call indicated that there were eight board members 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**

**The minutes from April’s meeting were emailed to the board by Sherry Leinen prior to the meeting.**

**Tom L was unable to open the minutes so Sherry will resend the minutes to him.**

**Sarah made a motion to accept the minutes as sent, second by Gary. M/C**

**Treasurers report: Tom S**

**Total Funds Last Month**

**$13,173.08**

**Total Monthly Gains**

**$655.07**

**Total Monthly Expenditures**

**-$697.87**

**Total Funds 4/30/24**

**$13,130.28**

**There were three additional transactions listed on the treasurers report. The treasurers report is sent to all the board members before the meeting.**

**Allan Peterson sent an email to Cheryl asking if WyCB would like to buy an ACB raffle ticket for $50. The proceeds help with the printing of the Braille Forum.**

**Debra made a motion that we buy 2 raffle tickets instead of our usual one ticket, second by Tom L. M/C**

**Membership**

**Sherry spoke with Sandy Behounek, she sent her membership application in already. Laurel Henry asked if she could be sent a new application, Jacquie Flatley said no thank you, and D’Anna Feurt didn’t return the calls or texts.**

**We now have 18 members.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Tom L will not have everything ready to send to Tom S by the 15th.**

**Tom L asked Sarah if she would resend her article. Cheryl sent three articles. Tom L asked if Gary would write something up about the Summer Camp Program on Casper Mountain. Gary mentioned that the camp is for kids and that it might not be appropriate for our older audience. Cheryl suggested that we put an article about the scholarship and the newsletter to help get the word out. Tom L asked Sarah to write an article about White Cane Safety Day since our next newsletter will come out after October.**

**WyCB Roundup**

**The WyCB Roundup is the fourth Wednesday of each month. May 22, 2024 is the next one. Tom L will send out a PSA. The PSA information will be put on the Facebook page. Sherry sent a report on the Roundup.**

**Cheryl sent several emails to the board about a clarification after a discussion with a past member on the WyCB Roundup. If that individual wants to communicate with Cheryl or Tom L, that individual will be encouraged to communicate by email.**

**Scholarship (Debra T)**

**Michelle Hill is a possible scholarship applicant.**

**Debra will contact the University of Wyoming to let them know about our scholarship. Tom L asked if Debra had the contact information for the Catholic University in Lander? Debra stated that she did not. Tom L will get that information to Debra.**

**Convention (Tom L)**

**Everyone attending the convention this year will have the registration fee paid. A donation that was received will be used to pay the registration fees.**

**Tom L will put a blurb in the newsletter about the convention and will mention that the registration fees will be paid by a donation. The MC this year will be Gary. Tom L sent out a rough draft of the convention program. The committee needs the boards help to pick a theme. The three choices are: Breaking Barriers, Our Bright Future, or Overcoming Vision Issues. Everyone chose “Breaking Barriers” for the theme for this year’s convention.**

**Resource Page Project (Sarah)**

**We now have a contract with Natrona Collective Health Trust (NCHT). Tom S read the contract to the board. Cheryl wrote a thank you and Tom S delivered it in person.**

**Cheryl had a meeting with Annette to review the POA for following through with the grant (billing, projects); counting frequency of hits for the Resource Page and the Website. Annette asked if the board would be willing to put photos of themselves on the website? The majority of the board was fine with having their pictures put on the website. Tom S and Sharon would prefer that their pictures not be put on the website. Cheryl will ask Annette how she wants the pictures sent. Tom S stated that the resource articles have been sent to Annette. He will check to see if she received all of them.**

**White Cane Day (Sarah)**

**The committee is still working on an event. Ginny Chidsey suggested a march to the capital on October 1st or 2nd. They would march from the train station to the capital. They are working on getting the governor to meet them and sign a proclamation. They are checking on permits. Tom L stated that once the event is finalized we need to get the word out. We need to get as many Cane users and individuals with their guide dogs as possible to show up.**

**Sarah called WyDOT. She talked to the Drivers Education Manual supervisor about submitting information in the next education manual. She also asked about putting a question on the test.**

**Social Media (Sarah)**

**The administrators are adding posts every day. We are also getting more followers and likes daily.**

**Cheryl asked Sarah to post on Facebook the thank you to Mr. Graves and the information on the NCHT.**

**Tom L mentioned that we need to put a link on Facebook for membership. Debra stated that we can do the same thing for the scholarship.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Archiving Data (Cheryl) Annette**

**Cheryl spoke with Annette about people sending information to be archived. Everything needs to be clearly labeled and in Word Doc Format.**

**Delegate**

**Sarah has volunteered to be the delegate for ACB. ACB has been notified. If anyone wants to be an alternate please let Cheryl know. Debra might be interested.**

**Fundraising**

**Cheryl would like everyone to continue to think about fundraising ideas.**

**Cheryl talked about a possible grant proposal to send people from Wyoming to the immersion training program in Montana for the newly blind or vision loss.**

**Cheryl stated that we will go over which board positions need to be voted on at the convention at our next meeting.**

**Gary Olson talked about the Lions Club Camp on Casper Mountain. The camp will be held July 21- 26 for ages 9-18. The staff has been mostly hired. There are wonderful facilities for everyone to stay. There is a Braille Trail that was built by the Lions Club. It is a very safe pathway that has ropes to help individuals maneuver. It has descriptions along the way in Braille and print. It was funded by the Lions Club and MTF, but the Lions Club owns it.**

**Tom S mentioned that since we now have over $11,000 in savings we might want to think about putting some more money into another CD. Cheryl suggested that we wait a few more months since the grant money can only be spent for Annette. Gary agreed. It was decided that we will table this until next meeting.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen – Secretary**

**The next regular board meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7 PM. Please mark your calendar.**