January 2025 Meeting Minutes for WyCB Board Meeting:

Monday Jan. 13, 2025:

* President Cheryl called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
* Roll Call: Present: President Cheryl Godly, , Vice President Gary Olsen, Secretary Sarah Sexton, Treasurer Tom Smyth, Directors: Robin Loen,Bonnie Harrison, Debra Thompson,Sharon Byers, and Sherry Leinen. Absent: Linda Woodruff.
* Corrections for December’s minutes: Robin corrected her last name and clarified the abbreviation of NRAER conference title.
* Debra Thompson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Robin seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* Treasurer’s Report: please see Tom’s report.
* Tom read the updated membership renewal letter to our board. He asked for the board’s input for additional information. Cheryl added that we have a white cane day proclamation, NRAER representation, , Wyoming Women’s Business Network lunch, WyCB booth at the senior fair, various support groups around the state,
* Cheryl asked to include WyCB’s phone number to call if people have questions
* .
* Gary made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented; Sarah made a second. The motion carried.
* Cheryl spoke about Linda Bectell’s death at the beginning of January. Cheryl wanted to know how the board would like to recognize Linda’s work and support of Wyoming’s blind community.
* Gary suggested that WyCB make a donation to the Montgomery Trust Fund in honor of Linda Bectell.
* Debra made a motion that WyCB donate $250 to the Montgomery Trust Fund in memory of Linda Bectell; Robin made a second. The motion carried.
* It was decided that the council will send a card to Leslie , Linda’s daughter and that each person on the council could also individually send Leslie a note of condolence.

Sightings: Articles will be due by Feb. 5th. . Cheryl suggested that we put a memorial into this newsletter for Linda Bectell.

Linda Woodruff joined at this time.

* Support Groups: Casper- this group has developed a brochure with Tina Bennett from WIL to advertise about the support group. They are also discussing unsafe crossings in Casper, as well as public transit issues.
* Buffalo: New group schedule, which is now the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Sarah is hoping that the increase in group frequency increases group attendees.
* Sheridan: Linda reported that she had two new attendees that were both younger men. They were excited to speak with the other attendees and to meet other people who were low vision or blind. Linda spoke on how she is recruiting people and strumming up interest.
* Powell: Tom L. is still facilitating a support group there. It is well attended.
* Scholarships: Debra sent out the new write up for the WyCB scholarship guidelines. Tom read the final draft to the board.
* Gary made a motion to accept the new scholarship verbiage . Sharon seconded. The motion carried.
* Debra will add to the guidelines that the scholarship winner will be announced in September of each year at our annual WyCB conference. She will then sent it off to Annette.
* Resource Page: This project will be wrapping up soon . Charyl stated that Annette is making updates; directors were encouraged by Cheryl to submit their photos and bios.
* Social Media : Nothing new to report.
* Archiving: Cheryl encouraged us all to continue submitting our notes and meeting minutes to Annette or easier archiving.

WyDOT: nothing new to report; Sarah will keep trying to get through to someone there to those in charge of the manual at WyDOT.

Lions Camp: Bonnie does not have much new to report so we will check in with her during our Feb. meeting.

Letter of Support for VoS: Sarah will wait to ask Leslie to review the letter due to the death of her mother.

* Pamphlets for yCB events: Robin received a call back from American Printing House for the Blind; they had a 25 page pamphlet titled “Getting Started”. That was deemed a bit of overload and they were not willing to provide WyCB with any copies.
  + Robin wanted to clarify what type of pamphlets we were looking for. Cheryl stated that we are looking for information of etiquette and simple information.
  + Sherry found some physical brochures via Perkins School for the Blind and shared that information.
  + Linda will reach out to her dog guide school for information as well.
* Job Access Network: Cheryl wanted to ask if we should have it on our resource page. The board agreed and Cheryl will have Annette post this information on our resource page.
* Lions Club Speaker: Sheridan Lions Club is interested in having WyCBspeak at an upcoming meeting. Linda said that she would not mind speaking with them. Cheryl stated that our scholarships , resource page, and the advocacy we have been doing should be shared at these types of meetings.
* Lions Club Convention: Bonnie shared that the convention is happening on April 25 and 26. Cheryl wants us to be represented there.
* Robin offered to pick up Cheryl so that WyCB could be present at this convention.
* 2025 WyCB Conference Committee: Gary , Sherry, and Debra and Bonnie agreed to be on the committee.
* WyCB Information cards: On hold for now due to the passing of Leslie’s mother.
* Fundraising: Robin asked about having a silent auction at our next convention. Debra suggested a raffle; it has happened before and it was rather lucrative.
* Cheryl stated that Annette could join our next meeting to share with us various fundraising ideas. We agreed that it would be informative to have her join us.
* Letter from Tom L about a potential project was read by Tom S. Cheryl did speak with Tom L. about this letter; he does not recall writing it.
  + Nobody wants to tackle this idea ; Gary pointed out that it is not within our scope as a council. . DVR is responsible for job coaching and placement ; they are not equipped to coach and guide those who are blind on how to get hired.
  + Transit issues in Casper: a meeting will be held in January to discuss and problem solve the transit issue.
  + Our next meeting is Feb. 10 at 6 pm.