**WyCB 2023 Advocacy Report**

**White Cane Law**

**White Cane Safety Day**

**In observance of White Cane Safety Day which is October 15, the board members helped put together information for an article on white cane safety day.**

**Tom Lealos wrote the article and Cheryl Godley wrote a cover letter. The article was sent to newspapers and radio stations all over the state. Cheryl and Tom were interviewed by a reporter with the Oil City News. Melissa Walker, an orientation and mobility specialist was also interviewed.**

**Updating Wyoming’s White Cane Laws**

**The White Cane Law Updates were split into two different proposals. One to update the white cane laws and the other to update the drivers training manuals.**

**The White Cane Law committee consists of Tom Lealos, Sherry Leinen, Debra Thompson, and Sharon Byers.**

**An article was sent to newspapers and radio stations along the state asking for testimonials from affected cane and guide dog travelers who have experienced a potential or actual vehicular accident while traveling with a white cane or guide dog within Wyoming. We received three testimonials.**

**The committee had several meetings. We made a few changes to the proposal to update Wyoming’s White Cane Laws and the proposal to update Wyoming’s Drivers Training Manuals. After we were satisfied with our changes, we were ready to send our proposals to legislators and to the Deputy Program Manager with WyDOT.**

**Drivers training manuals proposal.**

**After speaking with Renée Kocina who is the Deputy Program Manager with WyDOT about our possible additions and suggestions to add to the Drivers Education Manual we were pretty excited about a positive response. She stated that she would look them over with her committee and possibly submit them into the new manual. She suggested that we check out the Parent Supervised Driving Program Handbook and that we talk to Trenton VonBerg with the Department of Education. He is in charge of the approved drivers education classes across the state.**

**Our proposal to update Wyoming’s drivers training manuals were sent to Renée Kocina. After our proposal was received Renée stated that a new drivers manual is updated every couple years and a new one was just written. She stated that our additions and suggestions would probably be added to the next new addition of the drivers training manual. We will continue to stay in contact with Renée.**

**Proposal to update Wyoming’s white cane laws.**

**The White Cane Law proposal was sent to Representative Landon Brown who is the chairman of the Transportation, and Highways, and Military Affairs Committee. He emailed back and stated that they weren’t receiving any new bills for this year but he would be willing to help in the future.**

**We will continue to stay in contact with this legislator and will continue to look for other legislators who may be willing to help.**

**We will continue to push forward until our White Cane Laws are updated in our state.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sherry Leinen**