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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
1/19/15, noon PST/3:00 p.m. EST

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, Morgance, & Brad

Agenda

- Next Regular Meeting
- Website
 - Community Photos
 - Advocacy
 - Hospitals
 - FAQ
- Treasury Report
- 2015 Convention
- “Behavior, Not Belongings” Campaign

This regular meeting was called by verbal agreement during the prior meeting, or by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email or phone, and was held through videoconferencing.

- Next Regular Meeting
Monday, February 9th, noon PST/3:00 p.m. EST, through videoconferencing.
- Website
 - Community Photos
The 2014 Community Photos are live! We have a wonderful collection of dog and team pictures this year, thanks to a great turnout from the community toward the end! We're proud to show off our community's development each December in this part of our website.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos>

-Advocacy

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released a Proposed Rule regarding service animals on VA property. It is promising overall, and is consistent with PSDP's earlier interpretation of P.L. 112-154 and other federal regulations. However, there are some very important issues we need to speak up about so we can safeguard the rights of our community. We have drafted a well-researched and powerful comment on the proposal, which we have released on our website and announced through social media. We appreciate our community's help by the January 20th deadline to be sure VA hears us!

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy>

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=VA-2014-VHA-0024-0001>

-Hospitals

We are generating a sample hospital service dog policy and other resources to assist those who have service dogs and need to be in a hospital. Due to the interplay of such a policy with our comment on the VA's recently proposed rule, we relied on Chanda's research to help us draft our VA comment. The committee is continuing to draft resources.

-FAQ

We are continuing to draft answers to common questions (FAQ) for the website, in sections, with the assistance of a community member. There are no new completed sections since the last meeting, but we have now linked to the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) in the "Laws" section of the FAQ.

- Treasury Report

We discussed changes to and progress in the categories of: income, expenses, current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.

- 2015 Convention

The 2015 Convention Planning Committee is has announced the location and dates of this year's convention: the Hilton Garden Inn, Rock Hill, SC, April 18th & 19th. The 2015 Convention webpage has the details, and links to the registration page:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2015-convention>

We have several registrations so far, with a maximum of 30 registrants, and the committee has almost finalized the schedule!

- "Behavior, Not Belongings" Campaign

We are considering launching a "Behavior, Not Belongings" campaign, once we can prioritize it, based on this slogan we came up with in our statement entitled "There Are No Fake Vests". The aim would be to get our community and the public involved in educating gatekeepers in the U.S. not only on the relevant laws regarding service dog access, but on practical politeness toward service dog handlers—that is, on avoiding harassing/singling out a service dog handler, unless there is a clear reason to question the handler. We would also make it clear that there are specific conditions under which the handler of any dog, service dog or not, could be asked to remove their dog.

With this campaign, we would hope to make things easier for both gatekeepers and those with disabilities, so that both parties can move through the world while minimizing unnecessary interruptions. One method we are considering in achieving this aim is to conduct a social media and news media campaign to encourage people to pledge to print copies of a flyer or card we would create, and distribute a certain number of these to the management/employees of (at least) a certain number of businesses they frequent. Overall, we would be "Encouraging respect beyond the laws".

This campaign remains in the works, as we must prioritize other issues at the moment. We would be happy to make this a joint project with other service dog organizations.