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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
12/29/14, noon PST/3:00 p.m. EST

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, Morgance, & Brad

Agenda

- Next Regular Meeting
- Website
 - Personal Impact
 - Community Photos
 - Advocacy
 - Hospitals
 - Convention
 - Work & Tasks
 - FAQ
- Family & Friends Flyer
- SD & SDIT state laws
- Treasury Report
- Nonprofit Status
- 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, January 12th, noon PST/3:00 p.m. EST, through videoconferencing.

- Website
 - Personal Impact
The “Personal Impact” section of the “You Can Help!” page is now live! In this section, we have added stories to the website about how PSDP has helped individuals, from their point of view. We are very happy with the submissions and how this website section has turned out!

<http://www.psychedogpartners.org/can-help/personal-impact>

We plan to archive and refresh these stories on an annual basis, likely in November.

- Community Photos
The 2014 section will be live soon. 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.psychedogpartners.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 will release soon on our website and announce through social media. We will need our community's help by the January 20th deadline to be sure VA hears us!

<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. One issue we completed a discussion on was the evaluation of the website organization in light of the pending creation of a "Hospitals" section for professional and personal guidance.

-Convention

We have added a picture and a few quotations to the "Convention" page from convention evaluations to highlight the positive and life-changing experiences people have at PSDP conventions.

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

-Work & Tasks

Brad has drafted a new article on service dog work and tasks to simplify the distinction and carve work at a natural joint, to help our community better understand a theoretical background to their practical training. In concert with the creation of this article, we have taken down the previous portion of our main "Work & Tasks" page that divided work based on the way in which the service dog user responded to their dog's work.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/work-tasks>

-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.

•Family & Friends Flyer

We've drafted a new family and friends flyer to help psychiatric service dog handlers' families and friends adjust to having someone close to them partnered with a service dog.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/PSDPfamilybrochure.pdf>

•SD & SDIT state laws

We discussed the nature and applicability of state laws regarding service dogs and service dogs in training. We plan to do our best to host conventions only in states that support reasonable access for psychiatric service dogs in training.

•Treasury Report

We discussed upcoming expenses and current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.

•Nonprofit Status

A subcommittee is continuing to conduct research into the execution of steps toward state incorporation and federal 501(c)(3) status (nonprofit creation). The relevant forms have been filled out, and plans for incorporation in York County, South Carolina and subsequently filing for federal 501(c)(3) recognition are pending the relocation developments of board members. The three-page 1023EZ form, released by the IRS in July of this year, will make the 501(c)(3) application process much easier.

•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.