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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
5/4/16, 10:30 a.m. PT/1:30 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, Brad, & Linden

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Assistant to the Board and Board of Advisors
- ACAA regulation update
- State legislative advocacy
- ActiveDogs registry
- PSDP in the media
- Revision of emergency card
- Website
 - General
 - (Re)member Monday
 - 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- GreatNonprofits
- GuideStar
- Convention
- Treasury Report



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
Friday, May 27th at 12:30 PT/3:30 ET.
- Assistant to the Board and Board of Advisors
We're happy to announce Linden Gue as our new Assistant to the Board! She is test-piloting this position, which is currently conceived as a renewable, one-year position that would normally last for a fiscal year (July–June).

We are also developing a Board of Advisors, and will likely have updates coming soon.

- ACAA regulation update
The Reg Neg process to update the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) regulations is moving forward, and we are very pleased to report that Brad will be representing service animal users in this six-month process!

This is an enormous opportunity for access improvements for the next generation. With continued support from our community, we'll keep working to represent service dog users' interests, building consensus around our proposal and honoring the reasonable concerns of all stakeholders.

Brad wrote a guide for regulators and stakeholders that explains the reasoning behind and justification for our ACAA proposal. This "design challenges and solutions" guide is available with a new, 5/1/16 addendum:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/aca-design-challenges-solutions>

- State legislative advocacy

It looks like Maine developed its legislation in ways that didn't require further advocacy efforts from us, which is preferable because we're staying so busy.

As our small staff of volunteers is able, we will continue to do our best to address developments in other states, such as New York (the bill of which seems okay now) and possibly Hawaii. Since it is difficult for our small group of volunteer board members to follow what goes on in every state, we encourage community members to follow what goes on in their own states so they can help alert us when bills are proposed that deal with service animals.

Sites such as govtrack.us are very useful for this, though that one is for the U.S. Congress. Each state tends to have its own official legislative assembly site where you can learn about what's happening where you live. We are looking into releasing a how-to for community members to receive alerts about legislative developments in their own states.

- ActiveDogs registry

ActiveDogs.com has come out with a service dog registry. We wrote an open letter to them explaining how this harms our community and asked them to take it down.

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

If we don't hear from them soon, we will ask for community support in politely alerting them to the impact this will have on us and on their business. We sincerely hope they will work with us for a positive outcome.

- PSDP in the media

We are still in the process of drafting a reply in "Dogs&Jobs" magazine to advise them about some inaccurate information in a recent issue, and generally about striving for accuracy in legal matters. We would not normally seek to correct every point of misinformation in the world regarding service dogs, but they specifically requested our input.

- Revision of emergency card

We are revising our emergency card to be additionally available as a fillable pdf.

We are also drafting a first-responder refrigerator notice, and will be doing so based on the convention's first responder discussion.

- Website

- General

We have minor updates to the bottom widgets on our site, both for aesthetics and to reflect progress in our awards.

- (Re)member Monday

We've got a plan for our next regular social media engagement series: (Re)member Monday. Every Monday we'll post a picture of a community member, along with a blurb about a page on our site. That way, people get to see a picture of a team—which we all enjoy!—and we can spread the word about different resources on our site.

As soon as we're able to map this out, we'll get it going. Our little team wants to keep up with our followers, we just continue to be busy (effectively so!).

- 2015 FAQ flyer translation

We proudly completed a Spanish version of our 2015 FAQ flyer. It is posted, and we are will be considering the costs and rewards of completing versions in other languages in the future.

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2015-PSDP-FAQ-flyer-Español.pdf>

- GreatNonprofits

Thank you so much to community members for helping us earn a Top-Rated award from GreatNonprofits early in 2016! Those who shared a quick review helped us gain recognition, allowing us to reach more people and have more of an impact in people's lives.

Our new badge is proudly displayed at the foundation of every page on our site. If you didn't get a chance to help us hit the mark this year, be sure to get involved when we send out the call next year!

•GuideStar

GuideStar is the website devoted to transparency in nonprofits. We currently are Gold-level participants on GuideStar, but we are early adopters of a new Platinum-level status—even better than the current best! This is expected to roll out in May, so we'll announce this when it's released.

•Convention

It's confirmed! Our 2017 convention will return us to Rock Hill, South Carolina! You can put in your calendar March 31st–April 3rd for the Friday to Monday slot (no formal scheduled activities Monday, just Friday night to Sunday night). Start saving so we can see you there!

Our 2016 convention was a blast, and our anonymous surveys confirmed it!

Activity	Rating/5
Welcome meeting and social time	4.92
CGC	4.8
CGCA	5
CGCU	5
PAT	5
Social breakfast(s)	4.25
Interacting with gatekeepers	4.67
Heeling seminar	5
Service dog transitions	4.73
Saturday night social hour and coloring	4.5
Mitigating your disability	4.7
Fire fighters discussion	4.82
Service dog advocacy	4.44
Decompression	4.55
AVERAGE	4.741

Select quotations:

"Everyone and every pup were so nice and welcoming."

"I absolutely LOVED the convention! I feel like the people there understand me better than anyone else on Earth. I am able to be myself, and not have to worry about educating everyone about service dogs. It's a nice break from the stress of my everyday life. Everyone is so supportive and accepting. I can relax and be at home with friends, new and old."

"I've been going to PSDP conventions since they started, and each time I think they can't get better—each time I'm wrong! I love to welcome newbies to share in the unique learning and social opportunities. It's way less scary the first time than many people imagine, and you'll be looking forward to future conventions with new friends! :)"

"Attending the PSDP convention energized me by connecting me to my community, educating me on advocacy, and giving me more information on techniques to train my SD."

"Attending the convention was well worth all the hassles of traveling. I came to the convention not knowing anyone and left with a group of new friends."

"Conventions are a place where I belong. The people are so understanding and supportive. I wouldn't miss one for the world!"

"This is a wonderful event, full of good people and good dogs. Perfection is not required, and I found a

lot of support in training the things we needed to work on. Thank you for the best part of my year!"

We look forward to spreading similar smiles across faces new and old in 2017!

- Treasury Report

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

