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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
7/7/17, 12:30 p.m. PT/3:30 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Elaine, Chanda, Brad, Linden, & Heather

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- List future
- Media
- Website
 - Links to site
 - 2017 & 2018 Conventions
- Fundraising
 - eBay listing
 - Convention sponsorships
 - Corporate sponsorship
 - Pup'parel
 - Convention
 - Auction
- Advocacy
 - US state advocacy
 - Canada advisory panel draft
 - Question for airlines and DOT
 - HR 620
 - USAUSA
 - Healthcare
- Alignable
- Housing clarification
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- 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, August 4th at 12:30 PT/3:30 ET.

•List future

We are thinking ahead to what the list might look like in the future, as well as how we might address the needs of those for whom the list is not a good format. In this vein, we earlier brainstormed that we might expand our "Ask an Attorney" feature to "Ask an expert".

We also need to address Google's limits for listservs, as we have recently encountered a point at which the list becomes temporarily inoperable due to email volume. We are conducting a "Spring cleaning", where we have a period in which list members will reply to stay on the list. This way we can eliminate abandoned email addresses.

We have also developed a guideline about trying to reply to multiple people in the same thread through a single email, rather than in individual emails.

- Media

Veronica still plans to submit herself as a TED talk candidate.

Our interview with a journalist from the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* led to PSDP being featured in two articles:

<http://www.myajc.com/business/delta-mauling-puts-focus-support-animal-rules/2gwdBZtd30KZssvyaroAbL/>

<http://www.ajc.com/travel/emotional-support-dogs-airline-cabins-get-scrutiny/kGP63WUJh8kLLzEjtvPtbl/>

Veronica published an article on *The Mighty* called "I Want Others to See Me, Not Just My Service Dog":

<https://themighty.com/2017/06/service-dog-depression/>

We issued a press release related to the USAUSA letter against the Canadian national service dog team standard:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/press-releases/advocates-fight-canada-standard>

- Website

- Links to site

There are a lot of links from Pinterest to the memes on our site. We are planning to run another meme activity to make use of people's interest, when we have sufficient time.

- 2017 & 2018 Conventions

We plan to post pictures and video from our 2017 convention as we are able. We have created a page for our 2018 convention:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2018-convention>

- Fundraising

- eBay listing

There was an eBay listing where the seller was set up to donate some of the proceeds to PSDP. We recently encouraged other sellers to follow suit!

<https://givingworks.ebay.com/charity-auctions/charity/Psychiatric-Service-Dog-Partners/117864?charity-item-sort=StartTimeNewest>

- Convention sponsorships

We had six sponsors for our 2017 convention: Banfield Pet Hospital of Rhonert Park, Courteous Canine, Earth Fare, Margie Cantwell, NAMI—Piedmont Tri-County, and VCA Sequoia Valley Animal Hospital. We continue to look into 2018 convention sponsors to help us create an amazing experience and shore up our ability to provide scholarships in the future.

- Corporate sponsorship

We plan to implement a tier-based sponsorship program to facilitate expansion through corporate sponsors.

- Pup'parel

Our logo wear is available through Pup'parel, which graciously chooses to donate to PSDP. We are reaffirming that we do not have a "commercial co-venturer" relationship with Pup'parel.

We are looking into whether Pup'parel can offer PSDP keychains with our logo and "PSDP".

- Auction

A PSDP friend is posting an item at a high-end auction to help raise money for PSDP.

- Advocacy

- US state advocacy

We plan to investigate some states' service dog legislation, as we are able. We have been a little too busy lately to take on every piece of legislation popping up, but we are doing our best to prioritize. We have recently prioritized Canadian advocacy actions at the national level.

-Canada advisory panel draft

A formally convened stakeholder advisory panel has drafted an extraordinarily detailed document put forward for public comment through July 14th (extended deadline). This document is intended to establish a nationwide standard for service animal use, and while not having the force of law itself, such official standards are often the basis of provincial or national laws in Canada.

This draft is worrisome due to its invasive overreach. It looks as if the panel went in with good intentions, but lost sight of the bigger picture and exploded a simpler matter into what reads like a service dog program's operator's manual. This paternalistic approach—especially if enshrined in law—has the foreseeable and severe consequence of disenfranchising a large number of (prospective) service dog users. In particular, this would most harm owner-trainers. Even the most responsible among them would have a difficult time conforming to the program-based standards.

This is our current advocacy priority, in association with Jenine Stanley through our United Service Animal Users, Supporters, and Advocates coalition. We drafted and approved a comment and obtained sign-ons from 14 other organizations. We now need the supportive comments from individuals in our community.

Where one can comment to the CGSB:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/notification/comment-secret-eng.html>

USAUSA's letter:

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

The proposed CGSB standard:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/notification/chien-service-dogteams-eng.html>

-Question for airlines and DOT

A community member asked an insightful question about the use of airline cabins' overhead luggage space for service dog users who buy the new "lowest class" tickets. These tickets do not (normally) allow a passenger to use the overhead bin space, yet the person would have the under-seat footspace for carryon luggage in non-bulkhead seats. The question is whether the overhead prohibition for this ticket would apply to a service dog user whose dog occupies the footspace, since the dog is a disability-mitigation device; would that person be entitled to overhead luggage space in lieu of the footspace the dog occupies?

We plan to ask our DOT contacts how they would enforce in such a situation. We may then also query some of our airline contacts.

-HR 620

There is a recurring business lobby effort to weaken the ADA. We've gotten behind NDRN (the National Disability Rights Network) and two change.org petitions to fight this corporate attack.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/620/text>

<http://ndrn.org/en/public-policy/ada-a-civil-rights.html>

<https://www.change.org/p/dara-baldwin-don-t-tread-on-my-ada-oppose-ada-education-reform-act-of-2017-h-r-620>

<https://www.change.org/p/members-of-congress-defend-the-civil-rights-of-people-with-disabilities>

-USAUSA

We plan to consolidate information relating to United Service Animal Users, Supporters, and Advocates on our website.

-Healthcare

We oppose efforts to cut healthcare that helps integrate people with disabilities in their communities. We are planning how best to act against the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

•Alignable

We plan to create a profile on "Alignable" as another venue through which to receive referrals. This arose at the invitation of a local dog trainer.

We are looking into updating our Contact Us page to emphasize that PSDP is not limited to local activity in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Instead, PSDP operates internationally.

•Housing clarification

The interplay of laws affecting housing situations is complicated. We recently updated our single FAQ answer on the topic to reveal more of this situation, and we are working toward putting out an article to help housing providers and seekers better understand the rules in play.

•Revision of emergency card

We are revising our emergency card to be additionally available as a fillable pdf. A draft is in progress based on board input and is being revised.

We are also drafting a first-responder refrigerator notice, and will be doing so based on the 2016 convention's first responder discussion.

•2015 FAQ flyer translation

We are working on creating a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version.

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

•Treasury Report

The treasury report includes changes to and progress in the categories of: income, expenses, current funds, the budget, earmarked funds, and fundraising.

PSDP's financial report for the 2016–17 fiscal year is now online:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/donate/investing-in-psdp>

We have filed both our federal tax form and our state registration exemption form and are awaiting confirmation.

Brad will be the Treasurer now (vs. Co-Treasurer).