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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes  
8/31/18, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

### Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Chanda, Heather, Linden, & Elaine (later)

### Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Priorities survey
- Internal leadership feedback
- GuideStar updates
- Website
  - #ServiceDogArt
  - Media coverage
  - Easy advocacy how-to
  - SD POC, etc.
  - Ask an Expert
  - Pictures
- Fundraising
- Advocacy
  - Alaska Airlines
  - Delta breed ban
  - Flowcharts for airline employees
  - Burr bill
  - AKC PAT
  - Federal interagency "SESA" Workgroup
  - Manhattan court case
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- 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, September 28th at noon PT/3:00 ET.
- Priorities survey  
September is time for our annual priorities survey.
- Internal leadership feedback  
We discussed opportunities for improvement and what's working well among the PSDP leadership team members.
- GuideStar updates  
In maintaining our Platinum GuideStar status for 2018, we added our recent financial documents to our GuideStar profile. GuideStar had a systemwide error that removed the donation button for a while, but that error resolved and so we re-activated the button on our GuideStar page.

- Website

Pictures should now load on scroll. We hope this will not only increase site speed for visitors, but help avoid the missing thumbnail issue that some browsers have.

- #ServiceDogArt

After September, we'll set it up so that the #ServiceDogArt pages and program no longer need updates for continued entries. Community members will be welcome to use the previous monthly themes, or to simply use the hashtag for whatever they feel it fits. We have over a year of themes, so we'll set up those from the previous 12 months as the default/schedule.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/can-help/psdprompt>

- Media coverage

Veronica co-authored "Canine Companions: Things You Should Know Before You EmBARK" in the August–October 2018 issue of Autism Asperger's Digest. Brad assisted in drafting the summaries for the 10 tips in the article.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/media-coverage-of-psdp>

- Easy advocacy how-to

We're continuing work on our micro-advocacy development, making it easier for everyone to help out. This project takes a general approach, designed in part with step-by-step instructions for a menu of expandable options. We hope this will make it easy for community members to find their advocacy niche.

Linden and Brad have been making progress on this long-term project, taking breaks for other projects as needed. It has been on hold but is resuming and near completion.

- SD POC, etc.

We're interested in reaching out to people in groups that are underrepresented in our community, so that we can remove barriers and better serve any unique needs. Such groups might include people of color (POC) and racial/ethnic minorities, men, and veterans and first responders.

In order to connect in authentic ways, we are developing plans to engage volunteers from such groups in creating programs or processes to reach out to their underrepresented peers—respecting the "Nothing about us without us" principle.

- Ask an Expert

We have a couple of "Ask an Expert" entries in the works. We started by soliciting questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the experts in particular fields. We're focusing now on the dog trainer questions. This is still in process.

- Pictures

We curated pictures for our 2017 Community Photos page and published them.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2017>

We have not yet crafted the 2018 convention videos, but we have curated the photos. We plan to publish the photos in the near future.

- Fundraising

The grant committee is continuing to seek funding for programs. Expert witnessing produced significant funds PSDP needs.

- Advocacy

- Alaska Airlines

On August 28, Alaska announced that starting October 1, they will no longer discriminate against service dog users on the basis of disability type. This means that Alaska Airlines' policy will be to treat psychiatric service dog users like any other type of service dog user, as their competitor Southwest Airlines has been doing. We are quite happy Alaska consulted with us and listened, even if their previous policy change was not so good. We showed our appreciation on social media.

<https://www.alaskaair.com/content/travel-info/accessible-services/specialservices-support-animals#october-travel-section>

-Delta breed ban

Delta is again leading the way in policies that discriminate against certain service animal users. We alerted DOT to Delta's proposed ban on "pit bull type" service dogs and DOT responded with a clear statement that this is not okay. Our page on this explains more and offers helps for those seeking to fly on Delta with a service dog that an employee may consider to be a "pit bull type" dog. We are still waiting for a response to our email to our Delta contacts about this.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/delta-pit-bull-service-animal-ban>

-Flowcharts for airline employees

As a USAUSA project, we are looking into creating flowcharts for airline employees regarding animal behavior and what to do in different situations. We have been asked by Southwest to assist with a similar project that is specific to their policies, but ours would be a template to be used by any airline.

This project had to be put on hold right away due to all the work required for DOT-related items and then other priorities.

-Burr bill

We are especially not keen to see section (3) of Senate bill 2738 become law. Its provisions appear to be an even worse incarnation of the standards development process that just failed in Canada due to Herculean consumer pushback.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2738/text>

Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI) recently worked on their preferred rewrite of the bill.

We had to push back work on this project to handle other challenges. At this time, it seems that the bill is unlikely to pass.

-AKC PAT

AKC is misleadingly re-marketing its CGC Urban test as a "Public Access Test". We believe that no matter what disclaimer AKC uses, people will be confused about whether passing this test grants teams public access in the same manner as service dogs.

We have alerted AKC to this unnecessary and serious problem, suggesting an alternative of "Public Settings Test" if they need to rebrand. However, AKC has so far given us only a single, evasive response that is unsatisfactory.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/akc-pat>

We have since worked under the USAUSA coalition to create and market a petition on change.org. This petition now has over 1,600 signatures. We have alerted AKC to it and have not heard back. Plans are in the works to increase the pressure on AKC to do the right thing. Fortunately, it seems that other organizations and our community are behind us on this.

<https://www.change.org/p/mary-r-burch-ph-d-stop-akc-before-they-harm-service-dog-handlers>

-Federal interagency "SESA" Workgroup

PSDP was invited to provide stakeholder feedback for a new federal interagency Service and Emotional Support Animal (SESA) Workgroup within a Disability Policy Group. Brad and Veronica hurried up to Washington, DC for the meeting, then provided written feedback after the meeting. This feedback should be of interest to policymakers and advocates alike. More details and the feedback are available on our advocacy page.

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

-Manhattan court case

Two board members aided in a federal court case related to a service dog access denial at a hospital (one served as an expert witness and another assisted). This was a good opportunity to put clear information out in the world, but since the plaintiff was not successful, it is unlikely this will help in future access cases.

•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 trying to create a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version. We have made significant progress recently on the French translation.

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

- Community Spotlight addition

We are working on another entry in our fairly new Community Spotlight section. We have an email-based interview still in the works.

- Treasury report

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

Previously, we approved and posted our FY 2018–19 budget. It can be found with our other financial documents on the "Investing in PSDP" page:

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

Since our last meeting, we filed our federal tax paperwork (also available through the above link), submitted our state registration exemption form, and compiled and approved our FY 2017–18 financial statement (available via the above link).

