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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes  
1/25/19, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

### Attendees

Veronica, Brad, and Elaine

### Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Phone use and driving
- Fundraising
  - DOJ consulting
- Manners evaluation
- Website
  - SD POC, etc.
  - Ask an expert
  - Pictures
- Advocacy/outreach
  - Top Dog
  - Solidarity scarves
  - Media backdrop
  - Videos
  - Flowcharts for airline employees
  - AKC PAT
  - Manhattan court case
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Community Spotlight addition
- Conventions
- 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, February 22nd at noon PT/3:00 ET.

For the purpose of making decisions and forming a quorum in line with our constitution, board members who are on some form of leave and not present at a meeting or voting on an issue do not count toward the total number of board members with respect to that meeting or issue.

This policy is circulated among all board members.

- Phone use and driving  
PSDP's official policy regarding phone calls is now the following: PSDP volunteers are not allowed to conduct any PSDP-related business on an electronic device while driving. If a PSDP volunteer, while conducting PSDP-related business, learns that another person is on such a device while driving, that volunteer is obligated to cease engaging in that business with the other person until the other person is no longer driving.

Having this policy in place is intended to increase safety, decrease liability, and provide volunteers an external excuse for getting off the phone when another person is driving.

- Fundraising

- DOJ consulting

- DOJ asked the advice of a couple of board members about a case. Subsequently, DOJ invited those board members to act as consultants.

- It seems likely our services rendered so far were sufficient for the present case. DOJ handles a lot of service-animal-related cases and they found our analysis helpful, so we may be asked to contribute again.

- Unfortunately, it seems the government shutdown is impeding payment to PSDP for our December consulting activities—many federal consultants are impacted by this. We are hoping the federal government will not end up stealing our labor, as this would be a big hit to our budget (about 30%).

- PSDP is opposed to the government shutdown and the unethical withholding of payment for services rendered. This shutdown is causing significant harms to US residents and the world economy that far exceed any possible purported benefit of the shutdown negotiations.

- As a nonprofit that has recently contracted with USDOJ by invitation and that wishes to serve the public as well as possible, PSDP hereby implores the responsible government officials to re-open the government with a clean and lasting continuing resolution (CR) post-haste, leaving controversial negotiations to proceed without unnecessarily harming third parties caught in the middle.

- Manners evaluation

- We are working on a test to help mark progress with early service dog training. This would be more tailored to service dog training and would be used as we've roughly used non-tailored AKC tests in the past. We have approved a beta version and will be releasing it for feedback soon. The beta-testing period will include the convention.

- Website

- 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. We will initiate this as we're able.

- 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 first focused on the dog trainer questions and we now have a new "Ask a dog trainer" page!

- <https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/ask-an-expert/ask-a-dog-trainer>

- Pictures

- We have not yet crafted the 2018 convention videos, but we have curated and published the photos.

- <https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2018-convention/pictures-video>

- Our annual community photos from 2018 are now posted!

- <https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2018>

- Advocacy/outreach

- Top Dog

- Brad, Veronica, and Hestia presented at the recent Top Dog guide dog conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The presentation and multiple informal conversations were well-received, explicitly gaining new members of the service dog solidarity movement.

- Our success in spreading the word at this 150-person conference may lead to further presentations at

similar (and larger) events.

**-Solidarity scarves**

Jenine helped us popularize the green silk solidarity scarves at Top Dog. The idea is to have a tangible symbol, like a bracelet, of solidarity within the service dog user community—a willingness to respect and support the rights and responsibilities of service dog users regardless of disability type, dog breed, etc.

Penny Reeder of GDUI is interested in broadcasting the idea. We plan to issue a press release in consultation with Penny.

We are so grateful to our community members who've helped us both by buying scarves for reimbursement, and—much to our surprise—by donating a good deal of scarves. This will be very helpful in ensuring we have plenty for the upcoming convention.

**-Media backdrop**

We are looking into getting a step-and-repeat banner for media interviews, our convention photos, outreach events, and prospective tele-conference presentations. Funding is an issue at the present.

**-Videos**

Based on footage recorded in Washington, DC and New York City in August 2018, Brad and Veronica have created three promo/outreach videos: "Service dog group keeps fighting for civil rights", "Service dog information for veterans and first responders", and "Hopeful psychiatric service dog resources from PSDP". These will have a staggered release this year.

**-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.

**-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 an 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 1,800 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>

As of December 2018, AKC has put the "Public Access Test" language into practice on its site, though the branding doesn't seem to have filtered down into physical products. The link below describes the Urban CGC test as a public access test, while the logo below the link appears on the main Urban CGC page. (It is AKC's graphic/logo, not ours.)

<https://www.akc.org/products-services/training-programs/canine-good-citizen/akc-urban-canine-good-citizen/about/>



-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. However, we are hoping to publish a paper based on points made in the expert witness report.

We have clearance to publish from our report without redaction.

•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 on the French translation.

•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 and are exploring other options, too.

•Conventions

We plan to hold the 2020 convention in Rock Hill, SC, rather than on the West Coast.

We had a good number of scholarship applicants and have made several (accepted) offers, thanks to our fantastic donors!

We plan to use solidarity scarves at the convention to increase the community spirit within and beyond the psychiatric service dog user community.

•Treasury report

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

The Giving Groups recognition program concluded at the end of 2018. We now have a sponsorship program that can provide recognition and ending Giving Groups is making things slightly easier on Brad as Treasurer.