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PSDP Board of Directors Minutes
6/28/19, 12:00 p.m. PT/3:00 p.m. ET

Attendees

Veronica, Brad, Elaine, and Linden

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Leadership
- Semi-annual review of list rules and moderator protocols
- Fundraising
 - FY 2019–2020 Budget
- Website/social media
 - SD POC, etc.
 - Ask an expert
 - Pictures & videos
- Advocacy/outreach
 - GDUI presentation and solidarity scarves
 - DOT in DC
 - FAA/airport operator survey & presentation
 - Reaching out across the pond
 - Media backdrop
 - Flowcharts for airline employees
 - AKC PAT
 - Manhattan court case
 - Podcast interview
 - Equal treatment for owner-trainers via Wisconsin Medicaid
 - Presentation for businesses
- Revision of emergency card
- 2015 FAQ flyer translation
- Manners evaluation
- 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, July 26th at noon PT/3:00 ET.
- Leadership
 - We may add a community member to our Grant Committee.
- Semi-annual review of list rules and moderator protocols
 - We discussed the list rules and moderator protocols for our Peer Guidance Group. No change was suggested.
- Fundraising
 - FY 2019–2020 Budget

Our budget for the next fiscal year is now posted. We hope to bring in funding beyond our normal baseline so we can continue to walk through the advocacy/outreach doors that have opened for us and to fund whatever scholarships are needed for the convention.

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

•Website/social media

We have a tentative plan to update our site's organization. Given that we want any major update to work well for a long time, we are not in a hurry and are still waiting on design feedback from a community member.

-SD POC, etc. *(no update)*

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

After our dog trainer interview, we have two more "Ask an expert" entries in the works. After finding a willing expert, we solicit questions from the list to then curate and pass along to the expert.

This is on hold with our selected expert since she's very busy until the end of July.

-Pictures & videos

We are working on videos and pictures based on 2019 convention footage, with a testing compilation video already distributed to the testees. We have made more progress on the pictures.

Based on footage recorded in Washington, DC and New York City in August 2018, Brad and Veronica 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 had a staggered release this year, with the middle one released on Memorial Day.

<https://youtu.be/1uZnPvNqCL8>

<https://youtu.be/L4xeloDed-8>

<https://youtu.be/YKAF7WibNW0>

•Advocacy/outreach

-GDUI presentation and solidarity scarves

We have been preparing for this upcoming trip to Rochester, New York and are looking forward to actively creating community solidarity and reinforcing the social bonds necessary to get things done.

-DOT in DC

On June 3rd, we published a video of a speech Brad gave to DOT at a mid-May meeting (recorded after the fact), so our community can experience part of how we're working for much-needed change. The video is "Service animal advocacy update (May 2019)":

<https://youtu.be/jeVSMHM8m0>

-FAA/airport operator survey & presentation

We were invited to present in the DC area in July on a service dog panel for an FAA conference for the civil rights officers of airport operators. To create a useful resource for this audience, through our USAUSA coalition we created a survey for assistance animal users. This survey will run through July 10th and covers service animal relief areas (SARAs), wayfinding, and general access.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/usausa>

-Reaching out across the pond

We recently heard about owner-trainer advocates in the UK and plan to reach out to them to extend coalition support.

-Media backdrop *(no update)*

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.

We are considering design options in case we have the funding in the future.

-Flowcharts for airline employees *(no update)*

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.

A possibly helpful update on this front is that the Morrises serendipitously met a flight crew trainer for American Airlines recently. This may be another point of contact that is useful for that airline and our community.

-AKC PAT

We will be sending out an update alerting our almost 1,900 petition signers about our SDIT Manners Evaluation, airport survey, recent history of service animal recommendations document, and about AKC's push to create a new service dog standards test and get airlines using it.

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

-Manhattan court case *(no update)*

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.

-Podcast interview

An assistance-dog-podcast host interviewed Brad about the service dog solidarity movement. The interview highlights the importance of this symbolic movement in laying the foundation for coalition grassroots advocacy; it's the main part of this June 26th release:

<https://spotlightonassistancedogs.ptbopodcasters.ca/podcast/the-green-silk-scarf-project/>

This is also available on our Media coverage page:

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

-Equal treatment for owner-trainers via Wisconsin Medicaid

Many states apply to use federal dollars in different ways to economize their spending or improve outcomes for people on Medicaid. More than one state has done this by applying to use funds toward service dogs—but only from programs. Wisconsin plans to continue this trend and is inviting comments.

We think owner-trainers at least deserve a shot at those same funds, if their plan stands up to the same fair scrutiny as those getting dogs from programs. We need to get our foot in the door to convince more states, and our comment from when this was up for public review five years ago didn't do the job.

Through July 1st, we're inviting others to take 30 seconds to join us in supporting the push for the fair and reasoned treatment of owner-trainers. Details that make this easy are on our Advocacy page.

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

-Presentation for businesses

Linden and Veronica are beginning to work on a presentation template for businesses.

•Revision of emergency card *(no update)*

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 (*no update*)

We are almost done creating a French version of our flyer. We have a Spanish version. We double-checked the translation and are now entering it into the flyer for a final version.

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

- Manners evaluation

We published our Service Dog in Training (SDIT) Manners Evaluation to help mark progress with early service dog training. It is more tailored to service dog training and we intend people to use it roughly like our community has used non-tailored AKC tests in the past. This means helping people decide when to make the transition from training in pets-allowed places to training in no-pets places (as local laws/permissions allow).

We first released a beta version for community feedback, where it met with many positive reviews. The beta-testing period included administering the evaluation at the convention, with the feedback period ending April 10th. We are very grateful for the community input, which helped us strengthen the evaluation.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/public-access/manners-evaluation>

- Convention

The 2020 convention registration fee will likely be \$100, with a 25% discount for registration in 2019. This, along with testing fees, should cover the location cost better, since the convention needed a significant subsidy before.

- Treasury report

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

