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Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

February 21, 2020

Attendees: Veronica, Brad, Elaine, Heather, and Christi

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.

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Fundraising
 - Convention sponsorship, etc.
 - Fundraisers
 - Grants
- Website and social media
 - Ask an expert
 - Pictures and videos
 - Healthcare sample letters
- Advocacy/outreach
 - HUD letter to FTC
 - SD meetup database and funding
 - Reaching out across the pond
 - Interviews
 - AKC "Service Dog Pass"
 - Amtrak SARAs
 - PAWS Act(s)
 - ACAA NPRM
- Revision of emergency card
- Convention
- Treasury report

• Next regular meeting

Friday, March 20th at noon PT/3:00 ET.

• Fundraising

- **Convention sponsorship, etc.**

We have more sponsors now, with more expected. Social media thanks are forthcoming.

We have sent some sponsorship requests out to local businesses, asking for goodie bag swag and/or funding depending on the business. We have sent all planned requests.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2020-convention>

We have three Apollo sponsors.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2020-convention/sponsor-apollo>

Our donated JetBlue certificates (for 2020 travel) had more restrictions this year than in the past, so not as many prospective scholarship recipients are able to use them as we had hoped. We discussed ways PSDP might use the certificates or liquidate these certificates to help fund 2021 scholarships.

- Fundraisers

To date, our Facebook fundraiser for our advocacy trip has raised \$794/\$1,300. We are very grateful for our community's continued support!

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1656090864528377/>

- Grants

We are happy and grateful to announce we will be awarded a small grant for general operating expenses from the Fund for Southern Communities. Many grant-givers are only interested in funding specific projects, so this kind of grant is a rare gem.

• Website and social media

- Ask an expert (no update)

We are checked in with an expert and plan to initiate the Q&A soon.

- Pictures and videos

We solicited 2019 community photos and are enhancing/curating them now. The NPRM comment has slowed this down.

- Healthcare sample letters

Healthcare professionals could use a straightforward source of templates for letters regarding service animals and ESAs. We're going to see whether we can help meet the need. However, due to DOT's planned change to documentation requirements it will allow, this is now on hold indefinitely.

• Advocacy/outreach

-HUD letter to FTC (no update)

In early November, the head of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) asked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate websites that provide assistance animal documentation.

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/11_06_2019_Letter.pdf

We asked our DOT contacts to connect with HUD folks about this so that we might be involved. HUD has not received a response from FTC. Sometimes an FTC investigation will be walled off from other agencies, so it's difficult to assess what is happening.

Our plan is to contact FTC directly so their officials have the opportunity to hear our input, especially as in "Should we hate online service dog certification?".

- **SD meetup database and funding** (no update)

We have been abstractly developing a service dog meetup database and a means to fund local meetups. We have also been working on partnerships with other service dog user groups (GDUI and IAADP) for successful inter-disability outreach.

We are working to hear positive news from grant-makers or private donors so we can breathe life into these ideas!

- **Reaching out across the pond** (no update)

We plan to contact owner-trainer advocates in the UK to create a broader coalition.

- **Interviews**

On February 11, a local news reporter traveled an hour to interview Veronica and Brad for background for a segment on service dogs. Some of this footage might also be used in a report on flying laws. The primary segment aired on February 19.

<https://www.wspa.com/news/woman-raising-thousands-for-service-dog-to-combat-pots/>

- **AKC "Service Dog Pass"** (no update)

We now have a page explaining how people can resist AKC's wrongheaded idea of a Service Dog Pass". Our Facebook post with the associated graphic has been PSDP's most successful post yet.

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

- **Amtrak SARAs**

Veronica plans to advocate for the creation of service animal relief areas (SARAs) at Amtrak train stops. Just like at airports, these would make long journeys much easier on service dog teams.

- **PAWS Act(s)**

We are looking into commenting on the PAWS Act and PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, which involve funding for service dogs for veterans.

- **ACAA NPRM**

We are very busy developing our NPRM comment. After we do, we will share it with our community and ask for support.

• **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.

- **Convention**

We discussed the location(s) of future conventions.

- **Treasury report**

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

Upcoming expenses include another expected DOT advocacy/outreach trip and convention scholarships.
