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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

April 3, 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
- Election
- Convention
- Fundraising
 - Convention sponsorship, etc.
 - Fundraisers
 - Grants
- Website and social media
 - Ask an expert
 - Pictures and videos
- 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
- Treasury report

• **Next regular meeting**

Friday, May 1st at noon PT/3:00 ET.

• **Board election**

Last year's board members were re-elected for another term, with the same officers in place. We discussed leadership feedback and updated protocols.

• **Convention**

We discussed the timing of the 2020 and 2021 conventions, 2020 scholarships, and location(s) of future conventions beyond 2021.

The 2020 convention page is updated with our new convention dates and a re-opened registration. The 2020 convention will be September 11–14. Registration closes August 7.

The 2021 convention will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rock Hill, May 14–17. Registration and sponsorship will close April 9. The early registration discount for 2021 will expire at the end of 2020 and the scholarship deadline will remain January 1.

For now, we plan to have a smaller meeting room for 2021, but if we are forced to cancel our 2020 convention, we will try to secure the larger meeting room.

• **Fundraising**

- **Convention sponsorship, etc.**

Social media thanks are forthcoming. Sponsorships for 2020 are now open (again) through August 7, including for Apollo.

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

We still have only three Apollo sponsors.

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

We successfully auctioned two JetBlue certificates on eBay and if we get more in the future, we will try to individually assess whether this makes more sense than working within the certificate restrictions for convention scholarships (e.g., travel blackout dates).

- **Fundraisers**

We do not have any specific fundraisers going on now. We are trying to keep in mind how the pandemic economy might impact our finances and ability to carry out our programs like we want to.

- **Grants**

We received a small grant for general operating expenses from the Fund for Southern Communities. We are very appreciative and have said so on social media.

• **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 released the enhanced and curated 2019 community photos. Happily, we were able to incorporate some of these and other, flying-specific community submissions into our ACAA NPRM comment.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2019>

• **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 April 7, an internet radio show will interview Veronica and Brad about how PSDP helps people lead healthier lives.

<https://mindbodyradio.com>

- **AKC "Service Dog Pass"**

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 was one of PSDP's most successful posts.

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

Brad is revising an article about this.

- **Amtrak SARAs**

Veronica is advocating 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. Comments to DOT are needed by May 14; we have a nice walkthrough about this on our site.

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

- **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

Our flying law NPRM comment is one of our most monumental creations so far. We are soliciting community support before the April 6th deadline, as well as sharing our comment directly with our DOT contacts to ensure they hear us. We are also advising our contacts about the “U.S. Support Animals” registry site that has misrepresented our position and wrongly insinuated our support of them.

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

• 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.

• 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.