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Elaine Malkin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
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## Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

February 5, 2021

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

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.

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### **Agenda**

- Election of Directors
- Next regular meeting
- Community photos
- Site reorganization
- Article: Service dog training for the flying context
- Flying law update
- Texas House Bill 801
- Virtual meetups
- ISO/ANSI Assistance Dog standard
- Meme contest
- Community photos
- Mask design contest
- Media

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### **• Election of Directors**

The board members were re-elected to their previous offices. We discussed developing future PSDP leaders.

### **• Next regular meeting**

Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon PT/3:00 ET. Meeting medium: Zoom.

### **• Community photos**

The 2020 community photos are now posted on our site.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos>

- **Site reorganization**

With board and outside input, Brad reorganized our site. It is now more intuitive and we hope everyone will find it easier to navigate.

There is a new training section. We have plans to expand it with useful articles, including an article with community-sourced input on exposure scenarios for early training.

- **Article: Service dog training for the flying context**

Veronica drafted an article on preparing to fly, with some assistance from Brad and input from Elaine. We plan to post this on our site soon in the new training section.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/training>

- **Flying law update**

USDOT updated the ACAA regulations. The update took effect January 11, 2021. Psychiatric service dog users finally have parity with other types of service dog users.

More detail about the update is in a December 2<sup>nd</sup> entry on our advocacy page. We have updated our site to reflect the regulation update, especially the page for healthcare professionals and the laws FAQ.

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

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

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions/laws>

- **Texas House Bill 801**

We plan to write to Texas legislators to oppose Texas House Bill 801. It is unnecessary in the context of federal law and onerously burdensome to disabled people.

This bill would set up bureaucratic and financial hurdles for those with assistance animals other than service dogs (including service miniature horses and ESAs, and by extension, service dogs in training). This seems to have been written without the benefit of a disabled or disability rights perspective, or a non-rich-person perspective.

The certification requirement contains an obedience class requirement that may end up stopping disabled people from being able to get an animal as an ESA or SDIT. It also seems to ignore that ESAs can be non-canine species. It's hard to imagine a goldfish, snake, or cat in an approved obedience class. But for a housing-based disability accommodation, an obedience class requirement seems excessive from the start, since not everyone can afford classes or the time, energy, and transportation needed to attend them.

In addition to paying for an obedience class and veterinary checkup, each year those subject to the law would have to obtain and pay for the Texas certificate. They would also have to be part of a publicly available registry.

- **Virtual meetups**

Linden is organizing a virtual (chat) meetup for Peer Guidance Group members. This may progress to a video/audio-optional chat.

- **ISO/ANSI Assistance Dog standard**

The ISO develops international standards for things like consumer electronics. A member group in the Netherlands has proposed that the ISO develop standards for service dog breeding, feeding, training, etc.

ANSI is the US member of ISO. ANSI wants to get US stakeholders together in case the Netherlands proposal is approved. ANSI would then need to have a committee to contribute to the international standard.

The proposal is written from a program's perspective, as we expected, with owner-training apparently tacked on as an afterthought. This proposal does not center disabled people or disability rights and it mentions IDs too much for our comfort.

We should evaluate whether ISO and ANSI are even the kinds of organizations that should be setting service dog standards. We plan to be involved, because lawmakers may use any ISO/ANSI standard to craft harmful legislation.

<https://www.ansi.org/news-and-events/standards-news/all-news/2021/01/1-19-21-assistance-dogs-ansi-seeks-comments-on-proposed-new-iso-field-field-of-activity>

- **Meme contest**

We issued prize sets to four meme contest winners. If we are able to, we will post pictures of them with their prizes once they receive them. We are waiting on a recently placed order to arrive.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy/service-dog-memes/2020-submissions>

- **Mask design contest**

We ran a mask design contest in December. The winner designated a friend to receive their prize of a mask with their design, once it's ready.

Pup'parel will sell the design, along with a basic PSDP logo design.

- **Media**

Veronica and Brad will be on "The Flea Circus" radio show at 10:05 a.m. ET on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.pawsitivevarietyshow.com/new-page-1>