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Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

July 8, 2022

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.

Agenda

- Next regular meeting
- Site additions
- List rule update
- Phone training
- Canadian advocacy
- Convention
- Reporting award
- DOT meeting

• **Next regular meeting**

Friday, September 2nd at 11:00 PT/2:00 ET.

• **Site additions**

We updated our public access test to better account for how people interacted with our old PAT and our accompanying public access standard. We combined the two and made the test even more universal, so it is applicable to as many types of service dog teams as possible. We successfully tested the new PAT at our 2022 convention.

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

Veronica wrote an article on her transition from a big to a small dog, with a focus on the disability rights perspective. It's called "Disabled needs over others' comfort—my service dog pouching evolution".

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/service-dog-pouching>

• **List rule update**

We updated a rule for the Peer Guidance Group about attachments on the list. Emoji used to be prohibited as part of that rule (in order to save people's cell phone data), but we used community feedback to learn this is not necessary.

The rule #7 update has now been posted and introduced, and reads as follows:

No attachments or embedded pictures. Please limit your use of emojis.

To share pictures, include a link to an offsite photo page instead. When posting a link, provide a detailed explanation of what the person will read or see. We do this in order to prevent triggering our members and using up their expensive data.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/support-listserv/list-rules>

- **Phone training**

Veronica and Brad have trained Katie and Karen A. to handle some of the intake phonecalls.

- **Canadian advocacy**

Another standards organization is being co-opted to try to produce detailed service dog standards that would harm the disability community. We wrote in and we put out a call to action to our community to try to stop this. The deadline is July 15th.

Incidentally, we continue to have a difficult time getting the Canadian service dog user group to show solidarity and not just try to exempt guide dog users from the overreach. Dividing ourselves is not a good way to win advocacy fights!

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

- **Convention**

We had a fantastic 2022 convention in Long Beach, California! We've now posted a selection of Brad's pictures (with thanks to Bethany and Veronica for alt text and page creation):

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2022-convention/pics>

We also have a new page that consolidates the links for all our convention picture and video pages, which is linked to both from the community page and the main convention page:

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/psdp-convention-pictures-and-videos>


We are planning to have our 2023 convention in Rock Hill, South Carolina in April. We're currently in contract negotiations.

- **Reporting award**

We received multiple submissions this year for our Award for Excellence in Service Dog Reporting. We have a winner and will be contacting them soon to award the prize!

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

- **DOT meeting**



We have an advocacy group meeting with DOT soon. We were planning to go to DC in person, to keep up our contacts and advocacy strength, but we canceled this relatively costly trip when we heard we were the only ones planning to do that.

We will instead attend via Zoom, as we have been since the pandemic began. We sent in several agenda items to discuss, based on the community feedback we solicited and board members' recent flying experiences.
