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## Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

March 8, 2024

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

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**

- Next regular meeting
- Board elections
- Site additions
- Air travel practicalities
- Peer convention
- Logo gear
- Community photos

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### • **Next regular meeting**

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PT/3:00 CT/4:00 ET.

Board social: April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PT/3:00 CT/4:00 ET.

### • **Board elections**

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we completed our board elections. We are very excited to announce that Katie Jesseph is now a member of our board of directors! Katie brings exceptional dog trainer insights, an endearingly affable personality, and compassionate wisdom to our board; we are lucky to have her.

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

The board also reviewed Article 9 of PSDP's bylaws, PSDP's mission statement, and PSDP's volunteer cell phone policy.

### • **Site additions**

Veronica drafted an article tentatively titled "My future service dog: what should I train first, and next?". Brad edited the draft and the board will be reviewing it soon.

Brad is working on Emily's Chinese translation for our general flyer, with a new strategy.

## • Air travel practicalities

DOT is renewing their OMB status on the service animal flying form (required for it to have legal effect), and they've slightly updated the form to clarify that owner-training is fine. We submitted a comment:

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

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) petitioned the FAA to exempt blind guide dog users from the flying form. We are strongly against this anti-solidarity stance that encourages discrimination on the basis of disability. We appreciate our community members submitting comments to DOT about this, as we have. More information is on our advocacy page (linked above).

DOT plans to handle more substantive issues in the future, partly through their ACAA advisory committee. We'll have to ensure we have their ear before they draft an NPRM in this arena.

On a parallel advocacy track, DOT released an NPRM (notice of proposed rulemaking) with expansive protections for wheelchair users. Though it is not our area of expertise, PSDP is strongly supportive in general.

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/DOT-OST-2022-0144/document>

## • Peer convention

Our 2024 peer convention will be at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rock Hill, South Carolina, April 26–29.

The draft info packet is posted (no changes expected, except for sponsors). The deadline for registration, sponsorship, and tourism day scholarships is March 26.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/convention/2024-convention>

Brad edited and we posted the short skits from the 2023 convention and they were very popular for our channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@psdpartners/shorts>

## • Logo gear

We are in the process of evaluating products from a new prospective supplier of gear with PSDP logos. This might include a patch, leash slide, beanie, bag, t-shirt, hoodie, and vest.

Coincidentally, our Facebook posts are getting spammed in the comments by scammers trying to sell purported PSDP gear. We are taking action to remove, report, and block them.

## • Community photos

Our 2023 community photos were posted (including alt text for screenreaders), thanks to Veronica and the contributions from community members.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2023>