



Veronica Morris, PhD

Linden Gue

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

March 25, 2024

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

This special meeting was called by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email, and was held through videoconferencing.

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### **Agenda**

- Board social
- Board personnel changes

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#### • **Board social**

April 19th at 1:00 PT/3:00 CT/4:00 ET.

#### • **Board personnel changes**

Our Vice President, Elaine Malkin, is resigning after a dozen years of service to PSDP and more years of service to the service dog community. Below is a message Brad drafted to honor Elaine's contributions. We will post the message on our board members page, social media, and the peer guidance group.

We have elected former Assistant to the Board and current board member Katie Jesseph to the office of Vice President. We all agree she is well suited and qualified for the role.

We welcome Karin Strickland as a new Assistant to the Board. We look forward to what her time with us will bring!

#### *March 2024*

Elaine Malkin joined the psychiatric service dog community twenty years ago, in 2004. In these many years, she has been an insightful leader and a stalwart friend. We bring bittersweet tidings in announcing her 2024 retirement from PSDP leadership so she has more time for her equine love and fiddling passion.

Elaine served as a list (peer guidance group) moderator in our predecessor organization, continuing this role with us through the formation of PSDP in 2012. She was one of PSDP's co-founders—one of a group of friends who couldn't let our community's needs go unfulfilled.

Elaine has been PSDP's Vice President from the beginning, and never once did we regret it. Throughout her time with us, she has brought a tempered forthrightness, a background of amazingly challenging lived experiences that

we're grateful she survived, but overall a great deal of love—love for animals, love for her friends, and love for the service dog community.

Elaine's way of seeing and moving through the world reliably gave us invaluable indicators about how projects drafted by others on the board might be perceived by those with a different mindset than the drafters. We cannot overstate how much this perspective brought a diversity to our deliberations and enriched our ability to serve the community.

And though to board members she is a bosom friend with a quick, warm smile, Elaine was always able to focus on doing what's best for the community. When we struggled to get into people's heads to figure out how to help our peers, she easily got into their hearts.

We cannot replace Elaine's way of contributing to the board, but we do aspire to carry it with us so we will remain better for having had her among our leadership. PSDP will be forever grateful for Elaine Malkin's extensive, inimitable, and, above all, loving contributions.

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