National Association of Guide Dog Users

Board Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2016

Those Present:

Marion Gwizdala, President

Michael Hingson, Vice President

Sherrill O’Brien, Secretary

Toni Whaley, Treasurer

Jimmy Boehm, Boared Member

Aleeha Dudley, Board Member

Jessica Snyder, Board Member

The meeting was held via teleconference, and was called to order by President Marion Gwizdala at 8:00pmEDT. As usual, this was an open meeting, and we welcomed the following guests: Liz Campbell, Texas; Lucy Marr, New York; Holly McKnight, Texas.

Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports

A motion was made by Aleeha, seconded by Mike to approve the minutes as emailed. The motion passed.

Toni did not yet have a treasurer’s report. She said there had been no activity during August. We have fully paid all those to whom we owed money for fundraising products.

Committee Reports

Social Media

We currently have 112 followers on Twitter. Marion wants to have 150 by October. Jessica reported that we have 404 Facebook members.

NAGDU Website

Mike said that, in order to keep our website updated, we are now paying our web developer Dave Schroeder the monthly $100 fee which the Board approved. Mike will make sure Dave sends an invoice to Toni, and that he copies Marion and Mike. Marion said we need to send Dave a PDF copy of our new brochure to download on our website. It will need to come from our national office. Marion is taking an online course from CAVI involving up-to-date technical knowledge geared to blind people. This includes web development, and audio essentials such as creating podcasts.

NAGDU Information and Advocacy Hotline and Mobile App

Sherrill volunteered to help Aleeha update the state access laws which will eventually be downloaded on our NAGDU app. Marion said most of our hotline calls are now being connected through the app.

Old Business

NAGDU SEMINAR

James is the chair of the committee which is making plans for a national seminar. Serving on the committee are Board members Mike and Aleeha, as well as NYAGDU president Lucy Marr. James will resend the minutes from their meeting.

Convention Relief Area

Aleeha said that Seeing Eye trainer Doug Bohl did not have any suggestions for us regarding improvement of the relief area at our national conventions. We discussed having a variety of surfaces. There is a material which can be put down which is permeable, thus preventing water from accumulating. James suggested we consider a voluntary button on the convention registration form, giving attendees the opportunity to contribute to relief area supplies and cleanup.

New Business

Marion said our new Texas affiliate will hold a seminar just prior to the NFB of Texas convention. TEXAGDU president liz Campbell then spoke about their plans for the seminar, which will focus on rights and responsibilities of guide dog handlers as well as education of local business owners. She commended Norma Crosby, president of NFB’s Texas affiliate, for championing this seminar. It is hoped that it can serve as a model for other NAGDU affiliates.

New NAGDU Division

Marion announced that Virginia will be chartering a NAGDU division at their upcoming convention in November. Marion has been invited to attend. Michigan also has a formal charter in place and will meet in November.

D O T Proposing Changes to the Air Carrier Access Act

Marion informed us that the Department of Transportation has formed an accessibility committee to study several proposed changes which would affect those with disabilities who are traveling by air. One change would impact those with service animals. The proposal involves the necessity for the presenting of documentation and/or answering a series of questions when booking a flight. NFB’s representative on this committee, and thus NAGDU’s as well, is NFB Board member Parnell Diggs. Parnell would initially like to hear from NAGDU leaders, so a teleconference dealing with this subject has been scheduled for Thursday, September 1 at 7pmEDT. Sherrill will send out an announcement about this meeting to the leadership list.

Marion encouraged everyone to order a supply of our new brochures from the Independence Market, especially with Meet the Blind month coming up in October.

Our next meeting will be held on Sept. 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sherrill O’Brien, Secretary

National Association of Guide Dog Users

National Federation of the Blind