Minutes—Colorado Association of Guide Dog Users 1/15/2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Kevan who asked ReNae to preside due to his health.

Paul was concerned about corrections that needed to be made to the annual meeting minutes. Kevan said that he would correct them and get them sent out again.

Treasury report:

Maryann gave an annual report.

Treasury activities for the 2021 year.

Income

Dues $105

Jewelry sales $180

Puppy kissing booth $95

Scavenger hunt $65

Total income $445

Expenses

NFBCO annual pledge $150.

Square transaction fees $19.88

Total expenses $169.88

Annual profit $275.12

Ending balance: $434.87.

ReNae requests that anyone who knows of guide dog users throughout the state to please let her know, so she can start creating an outreach list.

Kevan spoke about the folks from Tennessee that were denied a ride while they were here for our state convention.

We also discussed the fact that stores like Walmart are selling service vests. Paul said that the NAGDU board is working on the right way to contact Walmart corporate to express our displeasure. Kevan suggested that we require companies that sell vests to put labels discussing legal ramifications for misusing them and impersonating service dogs.

ReNae suggested contacting Kyle Clark of 9 news about creating a program to educate people about this issue. Tracy mentioned that she participated in an access panel discussion with Rise Students Rise where she spoke about service animals and public access.

Karis mentioned her success distributing the education pamphlet that Paul gave her. He will post the pdf out to the listserv.

 Kevan suggested that we investigate videos about service dogs and make our own for Colorado. ReNae mentioned seeing a PSA that Betty White made portraying a blind person with a service dog.

ReNae mentioned that she has heard of a program that may be starting soon for Access-A-Ride to use Lyft and Uber to transport disabled people. They want to collaborate with us to ensure that these rides will take our dogs.

Paul spoke about a town hall taking place Tuesday at 6:00 pm that talks about the week of 1/24 to 1/30 asking people who are denied or have access issues on Lyft during that time to submit video testimony about how it affects our lives.

Kevan announced that the Mile High Chapter is looking for volunteers to help with the issue of safety when catching ride shares.

Fundraising projects:

ReNae stated that she still has some jewelry to sell for COAGDU. She also mentioned a making your puppy paw print ornament.

Melissa suggested that the next time we plan a seminar we should talk about dog medical issues.

ReNae said that we will be focusing on connecting to medical professionals about guide dog access.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.