# The National Association Of

# Guide Dog Users

# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

July 8, 2021.

Call To Order: By Raul Gallegos at 3:02 pm eastern.

Paul Gabias recited the NFB pledge.

The National Association of Guide Dog Users (NAGDU) met virtually during the national convention of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) using Zoom.

## Rollcall:

President Raul Gallegos, Vice President Paul Sandoval, Secretary Scott Wilson, Treasurer Jessica Snyder, Board Heather Bird, Cindy Ray and Jodi Witthaus.

This meeting was sponsored by On the Go Store by Julie Johnson, The Texas Association of Guide Dog Users and The National Association of Guide Dog Users.

## Annual Business Meeting Report From 2020:

Moved by Paul Sandoval and seconded by Scott Wilson. Motion approved.

Annual Treasurers Report:

Opening balance $9513.91

Closing balance $23,981.41

Moved by Heather Bird and seconded by Scott Wilson. Motion approved.

### Discussions:

Questions about the financial report were asked and answers were given.

## Flying with Your Guide Dog:

 Rabi Dow and Melissa Allman Shared their collaborative video, put together by Guide Dogs for the Blind and The Seeing Eye Inc.

This video is intended to educate airline employees, airport employees and TSA agents on the best practices with travelers who are blind and how to best help them, whether they are traveling with a cane or a guide dog.

## Presidents Annual Report:

Raul Gallegos gave the NAGDU annual report. Over the last year NAGDU’s primary focus has been centered around reestablishing and rebuilding, both internally and externally positive relationships different affiliate guide dog user divisions, as well different guide dog training programs. NAGDU is unbiased when it comes to any of the guide dog programs. Whether you go one or the other or if you choose to train your own dog. We will try to give guidance where we can and we really push an informed choice. Over the past year Raul Gallegos has visited with different states, all of it virtually because of the pandemic. In New Jersey, Florida, Colorado, Texas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Arkansas. Most of them were guide dog committees or divisions, some were chapters or chapters at large. Raul Gallegos shared information about NAGDU and what our goals are, he also answered questions about perspective folks who would like to become members of NAGDU or who were interested in getting a guide dog of their own.

NAGDU’s membership has continued to grow over the past year, we have added events to get people to come see what we are all about and the results have been that we have more participation in our monthly board meetings.

NAGDU holds various events like Guide Dog Matters, Yappy Hour and Board meetings regularly.

Next from December thru February, NAGDU hosted several town hall meetings to give information about the new Department of Transportation’s Air Carrier Access Act ruling, that went into effect on January 11, 2021. We shared information about our conversations that we had with the Department of Transportation in an effort to push back on this ruling. Information about filling out the ACAA forms was provided and a resolution has been created.

NAGDU has created a welcome packet which is useful to send to anyone upon request, whether or not you are a member or if you know of somebody who would like to know more about NAGDU.

This packet is a document that gives information about the board of directors, the different ways you can reach NAGDU, how to become a member, how to join the Facebook group and where to follow us on Twitter. It also gives the various Zoom links for the NAGDU meetings.

NAGDU has also created a public calendar in an ical format that anybody can subscribe to. This subscription will add all of the NAGDU events to your device’s calendars, so you can look at them easily. We are also including the affiliate divisions monthly meetings to be shared on the NAGDU calendar for everyone to participate if they feel they would like to.

We have also seen an increase in our social media participation, our Twitter followers continue to grow, Facebook continues to have lively conversations, with more than 1200 members. The social media accounts are open to anyone whether or not you are a NAGDU member or not.

Last NAGDU has been migrating all of the internal processes and internal documents into a digital format. We are using Google Workspaces to ensure that all of the information is accessible for the board and for the future boards for years going forward.

## Legal Updates by Tim Elder and Al Elia:

Tim Elder said the Uber settlement expired July 2020 and they have still been monitoring the denials. The pandemic has changed some of the data, but it seems that Uber is starting to back slide. Tim Elder asked for everyone to continue filling out the ride share forms.

The NFB has an open line of communication with Lyft and is working with their attorneys.

Al Elia spoke about the ACAA and the way these forms are affecting other access to businesses.

## State Affiliate Guide Dog Users Updates:

The state affiliate guide dog user divisions in attendance provided brief updates about what their respective divisions have been up to.

## Elections:

elections for the positions of Vice President 2-years, Treasurer 2-years, Secretary remaining-1-year, and one board position 2-years, were conducted.

### Secretary:

 Scott Wilson and Stacie Gallegos were nominated.

Scott Wilson is the Secretary for a 1-year term.

### Vice President:

Paul Sandoval was elected by acclamation.

Moved by Kevan Worley and seconded by Stacie Gallegos. Motion approved.

### Treasurer:

Jessica Snyder was elected by acclamation.

Moved by Stacie Gallegos and seconded by Tina Thomas. Motion approved.

### Board member 2:

Heather Bird and Al Elia were nominated.

Al Elia was elected.

### The New Board:

President Raul Gallegos, Vice President Paul Sandoval, Secretary Scott Wilson, Treasurer Jessica Snyder, Board Cindy Ray, Al Elia and Jodi Witthaus.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm eastern.

Moved by Stacie Gallegos and seconded by Robert Stigile. Motion approved.