NJAGDU Division Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2014

The agenda will cover:

    1. Reports

    2. “Dusty’s Law” and Advocacy Discussion

    3. NFB National Convention

    4. NFBNJ State Convention

    5. Questions and Discussion time

Call to Order:

Meeting of NJAGDU on May 27th, 2014 was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by President, Vincent Chaney.

Roll Call:

Vincent Chaney, President

Alice Eaddy, Secretary

Lyn Reynolds, Treasurer

Michele Chaney

Sue Tillet

Jack Truehaft

Kathy Rawa

Angela Perone

Les Cameron

Lydia Keller

Treasures Report by Lynn Reynolds:

Lyn gave our balance is unchanged at $430 with 17members. Michele motioned to accept the treasures report and Kathy seconded.

Dusty’s Law and Advocacy discussion

Vinnie is working on a press release about Dusty’s Law. Dusty’s Law started as a 2009 resolution. We had a 2010 resolution for access issues. It was noted that the boardwalk and beaches in Wildwood want no dogs whatsoever. Ocean City has particular areas where dogs are allowed. Guide Dog users are a population that would rather not be disabled but our dogs are our tool to independent travel while navigating in our respective communities. Call your local board of elections, superintendents of schools, independent living centers and attend health fairs so people see the jobs that our dogs do.

Vincent, our NJAGDU President, brought up that he was invited to the Seeing Eye on May 21, 2014 at 4 PM for the Dusty’s Law Bill Presentation. Vincent shared that he along with NJ Senator Bucco (Senate Primary Bill Sponsor who introduced the bill to the NJ State Senate), Roger Woodhour (Dusty’s trainer), Ginger Kutsch (our NJAGDU member and Seeing Eye Advocacy Leader) and Lisa Yakomin (retired NJ Assembly Chief-of-Staff) each received letters of appreciation for supporting Dusty’s Law.

Vinny during the meeting noted he was interview by the Morristown Green Reporter covering the event and the following was extracted by Alice Eaddy, Secretary from the paper, though not spoken during the meeting.

There was a Toasting to Dusty’sLaw at The Seeying Eye in Morristown, NJ on May 21, 2014. Proponents sipped champagne Wednesday at The Seeing Eye in Morris Township to celebrate a measure that should give blind people a greater sense of security when they venture into the world with their guide dogs.

 “It’s good knowing that at least I could call for police support. Before, they put a low priority on it,” said **Vincent Chaney,** president of the 25-member New Jersey Association of Guide Dog Owners. Randolph, his yellow Labrador retriever guide dog, stood patiently by his side.

Vinnie explained that 2014 NJAGDU Membership that we are also members of NAGDU. Our state NJAGDU dues count for NAGDU membership on the national level. Vinny noted the Rosen Hotel registration is due by May 28th and the NFB by May 31st.the national has a standing contract for the next 3 or 4 years with the Rosen Hotel.

NAGDU sessions are on July 1st and 3rd and the NFB banquet is Sunday night.

NAGDU report by Alice Eaddy:

They will have a table outside the general session area and in the exhibit hall. They will be selling Ponchos with NFB whozit and if you volunteer to work the table for 2 sessions you would get one free. They will raffle off a technology bundle that includes a power backup stick, Bluetooth speaker and a QWERTY keyboard. The next NAGDU Board meeting will be June 15th 2014.

Discussion and questions:

We all generated ideas about where to post a flyer of Dusty’s Law at i.e. at the library, church bulletin, TBBC, Newsline, work and among family and friends so that we establish a broad spectrum of support in the community.

There is a problem with dog treats from China. There are no laws governing the labels on the packaging i.e. Blue Buffalo Dog Food ingredients come from China. Pet smart is pulling treats that have ingredients from China off the shelves. Maybe we should also check where our flea preparations and heart guard medications come from as well.

Michele made a motion to adjourn and Lyn seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. The next meeting will be June 16th 2014.

**Minutes submitted by Alice Eaddy, Secretary**