OAGDU Minutes February 12, 2023

President LuAnn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Members present were LuAnn, Paula, Debbie, Marianne, Shane, Diane, Asia and Annette. Diane/Paula moved and seconded to accept the January minutes as corrected. The service dg that Diane was training prior to the injury to her ankle was actually from Canine Companions, not from Guiding Eyes. Marianne said she had no treasurer’s report to present. Asia reported that Grayson will have the surgery to remove the lump that Asia discovered. Surgery will be on February 23 and he will wear his stitches and a T-shirt to protect the incision for ten days. Diane reported that her fifth grandchild will be born on February 27th once her daughter’s labor is induced.

Unfinished Business

OAGDU committees were assigned for 2023. Deanna, fundraising; Annette, gavel; Marianne and Paula, education; LuAnn has requested of Richard and Suzanne to be added to the legislative committee for NFB-O. As part of the Education effort, Marianne and Paula will continue to look for sources to print the cards to share our OAGDU contact information and to inform businesses of the questions they are permitted to ask of a service animal handler according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Marianne offered to send both the excel information to us that gives contact information for the current 12 members of OAGDU. She also said she would send the link to the current Ohio Service Animal law as it reads. Guide dog handlers are particularly concerned with changing the penalty portion of the Ohio law to reflect a stronger penalty for denial of access.

Shane says that he will manage the membership portal when he receives the login permission from National or from Suzanne Turner as NFB-O membership coordinator.

Denning/Popplestone moved and seconded to reinstate the link for our Honey Baked Ham fundraiser by Easter and continue it through December 31. Marianne urged that we do a better job of promoting the link. Marianne also still has two full boxes of World’s Famous Chocolate to be sold before we make a motion to perhaps sell some kind of candy again.

New Business

Deanna will leave for the GDB San Francisco campus to get a new guide dog on Sunday, February 19.

Shane shared that he participated in the discussion of the Uber working group for guide dog handlers on February 7. Despite confusion inaccurately reported on the NAGDU list, Shane says there is no hotline number for handlers to report Uber denials to the platform. Marianne asked if we have the option to report denials to police departments. She also suggested that we educate police academies about business access denials and about Uber and Lyft denials. We should educate police academies about the text of our Ohio Service Animal Law and about the Uber settlement through Timothy Elder and the NFB. She wondered further if we should approach Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) with our concerns as well.

LuAnn moved our March meeting from Sunday the 12th to Sunday the 19th since both Paula and Marianne cannot attend a meeting on the evening of the 12th. Our OAGDU constitution stipulates that our quorum for doing business requires three officers. We will meet at 7:00 PM on the 19th. There was no motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary