OAGDU Business meeting, 2023

November 17, 2023

New Business

Elections: LuAnn was reelected for another two year term as President. Debbie was elected for another two year term, following her one year appointment by the President.

President LuAnn reported that she had attempted to engage a speaker from the National Association of Guide Dog Users (NAGDU) to speak with us virtually or in person about the ongoing difficulties with the rideshare platforms and with airlines’ implementation of their forms for handlers of service animals. LuAnn received no response from NAGDU to her request. Therefore, participants engaged in a group discussion of several topics.

Marianne Denning shared the latest information about rideshare difficulties with Uber and Lyft and their continued denial of rides for handlers and their service dogs. Regarding the same topic of Uber, handlers shared that no one should be convinced to travel using Uber Pets merely because they travel with a service dog.

Others in the room shared inconsistencies concerning the implementation of airlines’ forms regard for year to date time length. Some airlines accept the term limitation of the duration of a three-year rabies vaccination. Other airlines require the renewal of a form to fly each year. Handlers also shared the zoom call information that is offered by the National Association of Guide Dog Users (NAGDU) that is pertinent to their presentations of Yappy Hour and Guide Dog Matters. Yappy Hour is a social opportunity for handlers and others who are interested in traveling with a guide dog. Guide Dog Matters covers such topics as first- aid for dogs, considerations for applying for a guide dog, active training programs, grieving and support when having lost a guide, etc.

We shared techniques relevant to traveling with a long cane in crowds and with handling a guide dog in crowds as well.

We decided to host our annual dog Christmas party over zoom on December 17, 4:00. All are welcome. Attendees do not need to have a guide dog. Pet dogs are welcome in the gift exchange. Marianne will assign partners for the gift exchange and the suggested money amount for gifts between dogs is $15.00. Deanna Lewis moved and Shane Popplestone seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. We will meet again at 7:00 p.m. over zoom on Sunday, January 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary