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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Board of Directors *Meeting Minutes*

February 7, 2025

Attendees: Veronica, Brad, Linden, Heather, Katie, and Karin

This regular meeting was called by verbal agreement during the prior meeting, or by intermediate written reasonable notification made in good faith and agreed to by a majority of board members through email or phone, and was held through videoconferencing.

Agenda

- Board elections
- Next regular meeting
- Library talks
- Site additions
- Rideshare companies' pilot programs
- Priorities survey
- GreatNonprofits
- Fundraising: raffle, walk
- Peer convention/meetups

• **Board elections**

Karin Strickland was elected to the board, and the other board members were re-elected to their positions.

• **Next regular meeting**

Friday, April 4th at 1:00 PT/3:00 CT/4:00 ET.

Board social: Friday, March 7th at 1:00 PT/3:00 CT/4:00 ET.

• **Library talks**

Brad and Veronica gave a talk on service dogs at a library in their region on December 7th, and are scheduled to give another talk at a local library this summer.

• **Site additions**

Veronica wrote an article about when to retire/wash a dog, Brad edited it, and we're processing board notes.

Thanks to Veronica and our community members, we now have our community's 2024 pictures posted.

<https://www.psychdogpartners.org/resources/community-photos/service-dog-pics-2024>

- **Rideshare companies' pilot programs**

Uber and Lyft are piloting programs in which service animal users have the option to self-identify. There are a lot of unanswered questions and worries about this, since it might be an express lane to discrimination. We signed onto the petition from Advocates for Service Animal Partners to challenge the companies to do better.

Uber has initiated their program.

- **Priorities survey**

We reviewed the community feedback from our annual priorities survey. Thanks to everyone who participated! This helps PSDP leaders evaluate what to focus on in the coming year.

We discussed the rule about politics on the list and are trying to be more circumspect to allow what's appropriate and disallow what's not.

- **GreatNonprofits**

Since it's a new year, we can once again invite our community members to share their reviews of PSDP, in hopes of earning us our 2025 Top Nonprofit badge from GreatNonprofits!

<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/psychiatric-service-dog-partners>

- **Fundraising: raffle, walk**

Katie (a professional dog trainer and our Vice President) is putting together an educational webinar, probably on dog body language. It may be free, with donations encouraged. This is on hold for now.

We plan to have a 50/50 raffle for the community (Peer Guidance Group and convention-goers) to coincide with the peer convention.

- **Peer convention/meetups**

The 2025 peer convention will very likely be our last event in the convention format. We are considering instead having peer meetups. These would be more loosely organized with no costly meeting room, but would involve community outings over a couple of days with only a low registration fee. We would have itinerary outlines and discussion ideas based on registrant input.

Separately, we are also considering having online education or discussion circle sessions for the community to participate in without having to travel.