

**Volunteers Assisting the Disabled**  
**ZOOM Board Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**October 27, 2021**

**VAD Board Members:** All Present- Todd Nuppnau, Linda Johnson, Keith Moss, Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek, Carina Grennan, Sue Harris, Brad Ross, Jake Wedlick

**VAD Members Present:** Carol Calvert, Mark Catanzaro, Kathy D'Angelo, Kenny Haran, Lorraine Haran, Michelle Haran, Jeremy Head, Rohit Kapur, Jillian LaMothe, Ian McIlhargey, Kelly McIlhargey, Lynn Navarro, Christina Noelle, Jessica Parrish, Michael Powell, Zac Powell, Barb Stein, Rosie Whitcher-Appel

**Visitors Present:** Jaycee Dankert, Brandie Hinson

**I. Opening-** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Todd Nuppnau.

**II. Financial Reports (Keith):** Keith presented the September 2021 financials.

- A. Monthly Report- Keith read the September 2021 financial report. Peach made a motion to approve the September financial report. Seconded by Linda Johnson. All ayes
- B. Disputed Items- Keith reported that the two charges that he disputed (for Shudder and Google) were corrected.
- C. Camp Deposit- The \$6,200 deposit for Camp 2022 was paid this summer. Todd checked with Cavell and found out that we also still have the deposit for Camp 2020 (which was cancelled due to covid) in the amount of \$6,500. The board discussed this and it was proposed that we should split the \$6,500 with Camp Cavell (\$3,250 each). Linda made a motion to approve this proposal. Seconded by Carina. All ayes. We currently have almost \$10,000 paid toward Camp 2022.
- D. Missing Donation- The donation to VAD from Detroit Diesel (Daimler Chrysler) for \$500 still has not arrived. This was from a friend of Michael Powell's. We have seen an invoice for this donation but do not know how it was sent to us (by check, by PayPal, etc.) so we have no way of finding it. Michael said that he will contact his friend who can maybe call their accounting department to get the information so that Michael can follow up with us.

**III. Meeting Minutes (Peach):** The September meeting minutes were sent to the board members for their review days before this meeting. No changes were indicated. Todd made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Keith Moss. All ayes.

**IV. Communications (Peach & Kathy D'Angelo):**

- A. Thank Yous (Peach)- A handful of thank you letters/emails were sent out since the last meeting to those who donated funds to VAD.
- B. Sunshine Cards (Kathy)- Kathy continues to send out cards of cheer. The members present were asked to let Kathy know if anyone knows of someone, who is friends or family of VAD, who needs a card. Todd told Kathy that VAD will get some stamps for her (a roll of 100) which is just a small cost of what she spends sending sunshine cards.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. Future Virtual Meetings- Todd explained that as of now we will continue with the ZOOM/virtual meetings for the convenience of the members (travel, weather, etc.) and due to covid. We will re-assess this in the spring. Members were again reminded that in order for attendance at meetings to count for the annual meeting a member has to be signed in within the first 15 minutes of the meeting and attend at least half/50% of the meeting. There was discussion as to the pros and cons of virtual meetings and in-person meetings and if we can somehow do a hybrid and have both available for each meeting. There were

several comments regarding having the meeting on different days now and then (Michael suggested maybe a Saturday now and the.

- C. New Camper Welcome - Todd mentioned again that he contacted 30-40 graduates from MDA camp telling them about VAD and welcoming them to become a VAD member, attend meetings, attend camp 2022 and visit us on our website and Facebook.
- D. VAD Store Reopening- The VAD store will be reopening today through Thanksgiving weekend. There are t-shirts, jerseys, and hoodies for sale. The last time the store was open the proceeds for VAD were \$343. Please share this information so that VAD can get a percentage of the sales.
- E. Chili Cook-off 2022- Too many complications to and not enough time to do this fundraiser this year. We have a potential location for the cook-off for 2022.

## **VI. New Business:**

### **A. Fundraiser-**

1. VAD Gala- Again due to the pandemic it was decided not to hold this event. We already put in a deposit to San Marino for \$2,000 that Todd will check to see if we can roll this over. Maybe we can have this event in the fall.
  2. Little Caesar's Arena 50/50- Little Caesar's Arena has a program selling 50/50 tickets at Red Wings games. Volunteers (about 20) of non-profit groups get trained to walk or stand around selling 50/50 tickets to the attendees. In the end the Wings gets a portion of the money collected and the volunteer groups get a portion (up to a possible \$4,000 in one night). The Wheelchair Hockey League has participated in this fundraiser and report that it is fun, easy-to-do and profitable. Todd has us signed up for the 2022-23 season (they are full for this year). Once we get our foot in the door and show that we are reliable and do a good job we might actually be ASKED back. Todd will check to see if the Pistons also have a program similar to this one for their games.
  3. Super Bowl Squares- Rohit and Todd did football squares for the Superbowl January of last year. They sold the squares for \$20 a piece, half of the money goes toward the prizes (\$200 for the first 3 quarters and \$400 for the final) and the other \$1,000 gets donated to VAD. Any one of us can do football squares with our friends and family. If you are interested, Todd has a rule sheet for this (if you need it), the squares are randomly drawn, people can pick their own square on the Google drive once they Venmo or PayPal the money. You can sell the squares for a lower amount per square (instead of \$20 each) if you choose.
  4. Comedy Show- Jaycee Dankert arranged a comedy show fundraiser a while back that brought in \$1,000 for VAD. She proposed doing it again on December 31<sup>st</sup>, New Years Eve. The comedy show does most of the work. Our participation is to advertise, try to get tickets sold and possibly attend the event ourselves. Jaycee is the team leader for VAD which means that half of her ticket sales goes to VAD. In addition, whoever of the charities, involved that night, that sells the most tickets gets a \$1,000 extra bonus. Jaycee will get flyers about what VAD is all about. Todd will post the information, on the website and Facebook, that Jaycee gave him for the event (time, place, etc.). We need to help by getting the word out so that Jaycee can sell as many tickets as possible.
  5. Other Fundraisers- Besides those already spoken about there are many opportunities for us as a group or any of us as individuals can do, many of which are simple and easy. For instance, Linda knows of a fundraiser in which a school hosted a mattress sale to raise money for the school. The company that sells the mattresses does all the work and only needed the school to advertise locally to bring people in. It was a one-day mattress sale and the school made \$7,000. The charity is called Custom Fundraising Solutions (CFA). For anyone interested in chairing a fundraiser this might be a great opportunity to get involved.
- B. Survey Proposal (for campers)- Brandie Hinson is a VAD camper who is in her last semester of college. She is in the honor's program and will be doing a direct study. She has chosen to do her study on the sexual attraction between those who are physically disabled and those who aren't. She has about four questions on this subject that she'd like to ask our campers by means of a survey. She plans to present her study to the honor's program by December and possibly write a mini-book on her research findings. It was decided

that Peach will go through the list of campers on our database to determine which would be appropriate to receive the survey. Brandie's email with the link included will be sent out hopefully next week.

C. Special Needs Committee- Linda Johnson

1. Mission- The special needs committee is to help those who have a neuromuscular disease (not necessarily VAD members) with financial needs related to their disability. These needs might be for home access needs, equipment, wheelchair adaptations, etc. It is part of our outreach as an organization.
2. Members- Those currently on this committee are Linda Johnson, Mary Barry-Bodine and Barb Stein. Carina volunteered to be on the special needs committee as well.
3. How it works- The special needs information is available on our website. There is a process to go through for those asking for help. Please see our website for more detail regarding this.

D. Annual Meeting Requirements/ Bylaw amendments-

1. Attendance Requirements- Currently the VAD bylaws state that attendance of a certain number of meetings is required in order to vote (1 meeting) and to run for election (2 meetings) at the annual meeting. There was some discussion as to possibly increasing this requirement to encourage more involvement from our members. It seems that a person who only attends one meeting per year not only does not show a lot of commitment to VAD but also doesn't allow for them to see what those individual running for the board do throughout the year. Todd suggests that members should attend 20% of the meetings to vote and 50% of the meetings to be able to run for the board. It seems that the same core group of people attend meetings, go to fundraisers, volunteer their time and otherwise help in making VAD successful. We would like to get more people attending meetings more often and get more involved with VAD.
2. Possible Bylaw Changes- Certain changes in how the board is run means that the bylaws will have to be amended. Changes to the bylaws have been done over the years here and there. There is a cost to it since an attorney will be involved.

E. Camp 2022 Applications/ Requirements/ Planning-

1. Vaccinations- We continue to discuss how covid will affect camp and what steps we need to take to keep everyone safe. We plan to get the information out as soon as possible regarding these requirements so that all of us have time to prepare. As mentioned previously full vaccinations (including required time frames and boosters) will be required for all attendees at Camp 2022. There will be no exceptions. More detail will be given as time goes on due to the national vaccination and booster recommendations. Linda and Jillian will talk about possibly having a vaccine clinic so that those that aren't yet vaccinated can get their shot. Feel free to reach out to Linda with any questions/concerns.
2. Paperwork- The camp applications as well as a list of the requirements to attend camp will be available on the VAD website with plenty of time for all of us to get our applications, proof of full vaccination and any other paperwork needed to attend camp. The deadline for completed paperwork to attend Camp 2022 will be strict and will be earlier than it's been in previous years (possibly by June 1<sup>st</sup>) to make sure that we have time to process all the paperwork for all those attending camp.
3. Camp Planning- We expect to start planning camp in January.

**VII. Closing:** A motion was made at 8:38pm by Jake Wedlick to close the meeting. Seconded by Linda Johnson.

The next ZOOM board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021 (this time the THIRD Wednesday of the month- changed due to Thanksgiving) at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek  
VAD Recording/Correspondence Secretary