

# Volunteers Assisting the Disabled

## ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes

### April 26, 2023

**VAD Board Members:** All present

In person- Todd Nuppnau, Keith Moss, Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek, Brad Ross, Carina Grennan, Mary Barry-Bodine, Rohit Kapur, Sue Harris, ZOOM- Barb Stein

**VAD Members (first name order):**

Present (in person): Carol Calvert, Erin Bodine, Jay Lamky, Kathy D'Angelo, Mark Cantazaro, Melissa Ross

Present on ZOOM (on camera): Cindy Danner, Jeremy Head, Jessica Parrish, Kelly McIlhargey, Kenny Haran, Lorraine Haran, Lynn Navarro, Michelle Haran, Rosie Whitcher-Appel, Salma Essaili

**I. Opening**- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Todd Nuppnau.

**II. Financial Report (Treasurer)**- The most recent financial reports will be presented at the next VAD board meeting.

**III. Meeting Minutes (Secretary)**: The February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were passed out in person and displayed on ZOOM. Once viewed it was determined that no changes were required. Ro made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Carina. All ayes. Approved.

**IV. Communications**: Kathy D'Angelo shared who she sent sunshine cards to since the last meeting. Todd asked if anyone knew anything about Clarissa's health after her recent set-back (no news) and reported that Scottie is now recovering at home.

**V. Old Business:**

A. Gala

1. Results- Our 2023 gala was a great success, raising \$14,000, which was more than expected. Yes, we have had more attendees and a more money raised at other galas, but this is post-covid, so we are pleased with these results. Tickets sold were 190, although 10-12 attendees did not show.
2. Gratitude- Thanks to the Bodine family for all that they did including the lovely decorations and Eileen Ross for the awesome raffle baskets that were all individually themed. Thank you to Brad and Melissa for storing prizes and Rosie for organizing the volunteers. Thank you, as always, to all the volunteers and those that donated funds, bottles, baskets and other prizes.
3. Suggestions for improvement-
  - a. Several people felt that the gala seemed rushed with not enough dance time. For the next gala we might extend the event for an hour later.
  - b. It was suggested that the winning ticket numbers of the \$1 raffle baskets be posted or even projected instead of calling each one off but to still announce the 50/50 raffle winner and the premium (\$5) winners.
  - c. Possibly upgrading the bar to premium.
  - d. It was agreed that the dinner (food) was good. Chicken is a crowd pleaser, and the vegetarian plates were ok. Possibly upgrade the dessert next time.
  - e. Baskets Area- The raffle basket area seemed a bit congested. Maybe we can spread it out so that guests have more room.
  - f. The boxes to put the tickets in were nice but next time print the cards in black (not red) so that they are easier to read.

- g. The selling of raffle tickets (50/50, \$5 prizes and raffle baskets) was a bit problematic. Some attendees had a hard time finding the ticket sellers. Maybe we can make the roaming ticket sellers more visible such as wearing a bright vest or hats or something. And we can have a table off to the side with 3 volunteers (one for each raffle) where people can buy tickets. One person taking money, giving change, counting and distributing tickets all at the same time was a bit hectic. We could have more volunteers selling tickets with possibly 2-person teams (one person takes the money and gives change, the other person handles the tickets). And we need volunteers set up to keep count of the money for the 50/50 tickets.
  - h. Rosie suggested that have a document listing what needs to be done for the gala so that we can use the same gala planning information each year with what works and what didn't work. That way we already know how many check-in tables and volunteers to have, how many ticket sellers we need, how they are organized, etc.
4. The venue and date for VAD gala 2024 is not yet set. Todd is looking into other venues/locations and other price options for next year in case he can find a better option.
- B. Other Fundraisers/Fundraising
- 1. Application for Funding- Ro looked into the applications to receive funding from the state of Michigan for covid relief and found that VAD does not qualify because it is meant for low income only.
  - 2. Sam Bernstein- Ro has applied for possible funding for up to \$2,500 through this firm. If we get this, Jay recommends that we approach Lee Steinberg's office (where Franci Silver works) to see if they would like to match.
  - 3. Spaghetti Dinner/Euchre Fundraiser- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Richard Greiner (an MDA Dad), chaired this fundraiser for VAD. He and his son, Matthew, presented a check for \$1,081 to Todd on our behalf. Thanks to those of you who attended to represent VAD and contribute to the fundraiser: Todd, Melissa and Brad, Carina, Ro and Pat Deponio.
- C. Bylaws Updated- The amendments to the bylaws that were last changed, and the missing article have been added to the posted bylaws.

## **VI. New Business:**

- A. Golf Outing- Golf fundraisers take a lot of time and planning. Todd has asked Doug Kish (who has chaired these for VAD in the past), Kendra Kroll (who used to work for MDA) and Julie Maher (MDA volunteer) if they would organize this event for us. All three of them have a lot of experience with golf outing fundraisers. We are shooting for September for this event.
- B. Chili Cookoff-
  - 1. This year's cookoff is scheduled for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Roseville Masonic Temple (where we have had this fundraiser before). Mary, who is responsible for getting this venue for us, said that we can set up on October 13<sup>th</sup>, the day before.
  - 2. What we need for this event: attendees (including people to cook chili), prizes, raffle baskets, gift cards, monetary donations and of course volunteers. We still have quite a few decorations left over from the last cookoff.
  - 3. Melissa, who has chaired this event before, suggested that we make this a bit of a smaller event, including not having sponsorships. The concern is that with the gala and the cook-off being so close together we might be "going to the well" too often. Also, with all the work doing these events we might burn out our volunteers.
- C. Organizing VAD's Storage Unit- Although we organized our storage unit last year we'd like to go back now that we have some new stackable totes. We plan to pull out everything, label all the boxes/bins and re-box some of the overloaded or damaged boxes/bins. Let's meet at the storage place at 1pm on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> (rain day is May 21<sup>st</sup>). Those who volunteered: Todd, Carina, Carol, Peach (will bring labels and markers), Sue (if she can), Keith, Melissa, Steve and Caleb Johnson. Note: If anyone sees the

black and yellow totes at Costco on sale again for \$9, please let Todd know so that we can get a few more.

D. VAD's Website

1. Administration- Todd explained that updates need to be made to our website. Chris West is our website person but is hard to get ahold of sometimes. We are hoping that Ro can learn how to be an administrator so that we have a back-up person. Cardi has also offered to help.
2. Improvements- Todd would like to add a section for resources to the website so that if someone needs, for instance, ramps or someone else has a wheelchair to give away, they can post it there.
3. Updated Photos- The photos on our website need to be updated. Ro has the most recent photos from Kendra Verran (Lesner) that can be added. Older photos can be archived to an album on VAD's Facebook page, if needed, to save space on the VAD website.

E. Camp 2023

1. Covid Vaccinations/Booster Shots- The Board recently had a closed board meeting regarding covid vaccination requirements for this year's camp. After a long discussion, weighing the pros and cons, we voted that covid vaccine/boosters will not be required this year although we will suggest and encourage people get them to protect everyone who attends camp. We will do covid checks on everyone at check-in like we did last year. Linda will get details to Todd regarding where to get covid shots for those who choose to get them.
2. Camp Applications- The camp apps will be available on-line soon. As usual, campers will be encouraged to provide their own attendant.
3. Camp Planning Meetings- Planning for camp needs to start soon. Since our time is limited at our board meeting venue, we probably can't tack on a camp planning meeting afterward. Therefore, the first planning meeting is scheduled on ZOOM for Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.
4. Memory Board- There is a memorial wall at camp that Danny Parsons updates every year during our camp week. Cindy Danner shared that Angie posted explaining that this year he will not be able to do this due to Danny having surgery. She is asking if anyone else would volunteer to do this task.

F. Other Upcoming Event Ideas/Plans

1. Game night. The Bodine family would like to have a VAD game night like we have done in the past. Keith has a connection at the Troy Elks Club and will inquire for us. This event is easy to do and allows us to get together just to play cards or board games and visit with each other. VAD will provide pizza, salad and pop. Attendees are asked to bring a dish or dessert to pass. It will likely be on a Friday night, possibly in January or February.
2. Thanksgiving dinner- Usually this event, hosted by Sue, takes place the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Melissa will find out if the church hall and kitchen will be available for us to book for that date.
3. Summer picnic- Barb arranged this get-together in the past. She will look into what date the pavilion at the park in Troy is available and what the cost will be. The picnic will likely take place in August.

**VII. Closing:** A motion was made to close the meeting by Carina, seconded by Ro. Meeting closed at 8:10pm.

The next board meeting, which will be in person and virtual, is planned for May 17, at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek  
VAD Secretary