

Volunteers Assisting the Disabled

ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2023

VAD Board Members: All present

In person- Todd Nupnau, Brad Ross, Keith Moss, Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek, Carina Grennan, Sue Harris

On-Line (ZOOM)- Barb Stein, Mary Barry-Bodine, Rohit Kapur

VAD Members (first name order):

Present (in person): Carol Calvert, Kathy D'Angelo, Melissa Ross

Present on ZOOM (on camera): Christina Noelle, Cindy Danner, Kenny Haran, Marcia Harris, Michelle Haran, Rosie Whitcher-Appel, Zak Powell

Showed up at end of meeting: Angie Parsons, Danny Parsons, Jay Lamky

I. Opening- The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Todd Nupnau.

II. Financial Report (Treasurer)- The May 2023 financials were distributed and displayed for review. Keith read them out loud. Carina made a motion to accept the financials, Barb seconded it. All ayes, financials approved.

III. Meeting Minutes (Secretary): The May 17, 2023 meeting minutes were distributed and displayed for review. One change was needed. Barb made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Rohit. All ayes. Approved.

IV. Communications: Kathy D'Angelo shared who she sent sunshine cards to since the last meeting.

V. New Business: No new business this month.

VI. Old Business:

A. Grants- Todd reported that Kendra Kroll continues to try to get grants for us but so far has had no success. The reason, as stated before, seems to be that we are the "small guy" (VAD is not well known).

B. Fundraisers

1. Golf Outing

1. Todd talked to Kendra Kroll, Julie Maher (from MDA camp) and Doug Kish (who has done golf outings for VAD before) who all agreed to work on this event with us. The goal is to get at least 50 golfers to participate.
2. The NALC/postal carriers have always been huge contributors to MDA but MDA is no longer doing golf outing fundraisers. Hopefully those who supported MDA in the past can help us.

2. Gala:

- a. Gala 2023- The profit for this year's Spring Gala was \$15,000. Only 60 attendees less than our last gala. This is very good considering that it's two years since covid.
- b. Venue- Todd is looking into other venues for next year's gala.
 1. For one thing San Marino's prices are significantly higher now. This year was \$33 a plate rolled over from 2020 and now they are quoting \$65 a plate for 2024 (and this does not include any changes or upgrades for us).
 2. Also the intent is to make a nicer and bigger event. Looking to extend the time one hour (until 11), upgrade the dessert and have a premium bar. Melissa suggested that we upgrade the invites to be more classy also.

3. One of the venues Todd is considering is Petruzzello's in Troy. Mark C. recommended the Vintage House.
3. Day/Date- There was a suggestion to change the DAY of the event so that we get a cheaper price. We cannot do the gala on a Sunday or weekday because we would not get the turnout when people have work or school the next day.
4. Cost- Most of the profit we make is on the raffle ticket sales but we still have to consider the plate cost. We cannot undercharge for the entry tickets to make the event more affordable. A five-dollar profit on the entry tickets is not enough due to all the work that goes into this event.
5. Sponsorships- Sponsorships are another great way to bring in money for the gala.
3. Chili Cook-off- The gala is our most profitable fundraiser for VAD. It was suggested that we concentrate more on the gala and a little less on the chili cook-off since we use the same supporters/donators for both events. Maybe the cook-off could be more of a fun event with no sponsors.

C. Summer Camp

1. The camp planning meetings are going well. The schedule and who is doing what is going smoothly.
2. At this time there are 30 campers which is a bit higher than last year (like one more cabin). We are short about 8 volunteers. Some campers are self-sufficient, but we still need more volunteers in order to support our campers.
3. Activity staff will be Keith, Peach and Carina (who will also be helping with Lynda Miller).
4. Sue Harris is, as always, in charge of arts and crafts and will have activity staff help her when needed.
5. Marcia Harris offered to bring more covid test kits. Anyone can bring their own or any extras because the volunteers, campers, the one person that gets out of the car with the camper and all the entertainers must be tested.

D. Social Events

1. VAD Summer Picnic- Barb shared that she looked into the park where she had previously arranged the VAD picnics but they only had Sundays open and not any other convenient dates. Brad and Melissa Ross offered to host a picnic at their home.
2. Thanksgiving Dinner- We do not yet have a date set for this event. Someone has to have a Safeserve (food safety) license before we can book..

VII. Closing: A motion was made to close the meeting by Carina, seconded by Barb. Meeting closed at 7:41 pm.

The next board meeting, in person and virtual, is planned for August 16, at 7pm. It will be in-person as well as virtual. No meeting in July due to camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek
VAD Secretary