

Volunteers Assisting the Disabled
Board Meeting Minutes (in-person and on-line)
October 25, 2023

VAD Board Members:

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

On-Line (ZOOM)- Barb Stein, Rohit Kapur

Absent- Mary Barry-Bodine

VAD Members (first name order):

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

Present on ZOOM (on camera): Brendan Nienhaus, Christina Noelle, Erica McGow, Linda Johnson, Rosie Whitcher-Appel, Tracie Schrader, Zak Powell

I. Opening- The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Todd Nuppnau.

II. Financial Report (Treasurer)- The June, July, August, and September 2023 financials were distributed and displayed for review. Carina made a motion to accept the financials, Barb seconded it. All ayes, financials approved.

III. Meeting Minutes (Secretary): The August 23, 2023 meeting minutes were distributed and displayed for review. Barb made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Ro. All ayes. Approved.

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

V. New Business:

A. VAD Camp

1. Camp 2023 final payment- A board vote was required to approve a \$4,275.40 check to Camp Cavell that was still due for this year's camp. Peach made a motion to approve, Brad seconded, all ayes, motion approved.
2. Camp 2024 Dates- VAD can no longer have camp at the same week of the year as we have had in the past. Camp Cavell has re-arranged their camp schedule in such a way that we have to choose between early in June (which might be too hot and many of our volunteers may still be in college), the week following MDA camp (which might be hard for some volunteers to attend camp two weeks in a row), or later in the summer (which could mean that some college students are already back in school). The good news about either choice is that we will not have to share camp with another group, such as day campers. There was some discussion as to which week would be best and it was decided that the week after MDA camp would be best. There are a lot of conveniences of this arrangement such as MDA leaving VAD the hospital beds, ice cream machine and supplies for VAD to use/have. VAD camp will take place June 30th through July 5th, 2024.

3. Camp 2024 Downpayment- In order to secure our spot for camp 2024 a check for \$5,000 will need to be paid to Cavell as soon as possible. Keith motioned to approve this decision, Barb seconded it, all ayes, board approved.
- B. Social Media- Rosie believes that we need to somehow appeal to younger crowds so that we can get more of them to be involved with VAD. She asked if there is a way to use the VAD website, Facebook page and/or email to gain their interest. Maybe VAD should have an Instagram account. Rosie suggested a survey to people who used to be involved with VAD but aren't anymore, calling people by phone or in some other way reach out. Rosie with the help of Barb, Carina and Sue will work on this endeavor and get back to the board on this issue.
- C. Gala 2024- End of March.
1. Planning- Todd explained that it takes a good six months to plan the gala and we are already five months away.
 2. Chair Person(s) and Committee- Sue Offered to chair this event. Todd said that Mary Barry will probably co-chair. Todd has a sign-in sheet for different roles for the gala. Kendra Kroll is already signed up to spearhead sponsorships for the gala.
 3. Gala tickets- We should have tickets available before the end of the year. Unfortunately in order to make a profit we are forced to significantly raise the ticket price (we were lucky to be able to have such a low price last year and years before). The cost of everything to run the gala, specifically the plate cost, has increased quite a bit since last year so we hope we can also make the event more upscale to draw in attendees with "deeper pockets" to spend on raffle tickets. Ro did some research on virtual ticketing so that folks can buy tickets by phone using an app such as Tix.com.
 4. Raffle baskets- Hopefully we can "step up" the gift baskets for the gala to make them even classier than we have had for past events, including previous galas. Eileen Ross and Kendra Lesner have agreed to work on the baskets. Carol offered to help as well. Gift cards are needed. It would be helpful if everyone can get one or two gift cards donated. And if everyone can get a bottle or two of wine donated we can have a wine pull as a separate raffle (this raffle can bring in \$10 per bottle for VAD). Donation letters ("beg letters") are available. Todd updated them just recently. Let him know if you need a copy to procure donations.
 5. Raffle ticket sales- Our plan is to have at least two tables with at least two volunteers at each selling the \$1 and \$5 raffle basket tickets and the 50/50 tickets. We hope that this will make it easier for the attendees to find the ticket sellers and make it easier for the volunteers who are selling tickets. Near the end of raffle ticket selling we can shut down one of the tables and have those volunteers go out into the audience to catch any attendees sitting at tables who would still like to purchase tickets.
 6. Raffle Winners- To save time during the event maybe we can only call off the winners of the big ticket items and the 50/50 drawing. The raffle basket winners can be displayed on the projector screen to save time. In the end, this will have to be decided by the gala planning committee.
 7. Sponsorships- Kendra Kroll, as mentioned earlier, will be working on gala sponsorships particularly from those organizations who used to sponsor MDA in the past. Sponsors are key for this event. Please consider asking businesses/companies to pay for a whole table or soliciting support from restaurants or bars that you frequent. Banks and insurance companies can also be approached for sponsorship. Todd will be working with Kendra to decide on what the sponsorship packages should be (silver, gold, premier, table

sponsorship, company recognition, etc.). Remember that some businesses are set up to give to charity and have a certain amount of money to use for the year (or else they lose it).
8. Camper Sponsorship- Someone asked if we should try to get sponsorships for campers to attend the gala. However the reason why this is not in VAD's best interest is because the gala is a fundraiser and we get most of the profits from the raffle basket sales. If a person cannot afford to pay for an entry ticket it is unlikely that he or she will be spending money on raffle tickets so it does not make sense to sponsor attendees who would simply be taking up space at the event and not contributing financially.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Chili Cook-off- Melissa was happy to report that the 2023 Chili Cook-off brought in \$2,821 for VAD. There was a good turn-out and a lot of volunteers and participants made the event successful. Next year's chili cook-off is already booked for October 12, 2024.
- B. Thanksgiving Dinner- This year's VAD Thanksgiving dinner will not be taking place because we did not have a person who was ServSafe (food safety) certified in time.
- C. Golf Outing – This fundraiser has yet to be scheduled for 2024. The plan was to have it in June but now it looks like September might be a better month for it.

VII. Closing: A motion was made to close the meeting by Todd, seconded by Brad. Meeting closed at 8:18 pm.

There will be no board meeting in November. The next one will be virtual only and is planned for December 6th, at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronita "Peach" Ptaszek
VAD Secretary