

Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia Board Meeting Minutes

01/21/2018

Face to Face: David Egan, Nora Bahamonde, Casey Craig, Marie Simeone, Justin Knapp, Heather Trammel, Charlotte Woodward, Jessica Kuss, Dave Hoffman, MarCi Buttie, and Doreen Ryder

Board members attending by phone: Erin Thompson

Not available: Sean Salins, Katie Ramchand

In the President's Report, Casey Craig recapped on what he said at the last board meeting; Nothing new!

Approvals

Approved Agenda:

Jessica Kuss motioned, and Heather Trammel seconded, motion carries

Minutes November Meeting DR motion. DE second. Motion Carries.

Membership Approval: Introducing two new board members, both were on the BW committee:

Justin Knapp

MarCinda Buttie - Doreen Ryder motioned - Heather Trammel seconded

Board Executive Positions- Casey Craig will be stepping down; leave Presidency open, Katie is considering position

Executive Director Update: Our new Executive Director named Marie Simeone has been with us now for two weeks. She is originally from Connecticut and moved to the DC metro area 15 years ago. She has many years' experience in managing non-profits. In honor of her nephew who has Down syndrome she welcomes this opportunity at DSANV. She is a widow with two sons, she is very analytic and strategic minded!

Observations: we need to change by-laws

Why do we vote on members? What is the process with "your membership" which has open registration? Your Membership automatically registers new members. Answer: for diversity; will be closely regulated – in by-laws

Why do we post board minutes and by-laws on-line? Answer: transparency; meeting needed to read by-laws

New Business

World Down Syndrome Day – March 21, plans and messaging.

Connect with local restaurants for 3/21 to partnership for a % of sales. It is a Wednesday this year.

Better to find a large organization such as Chik fil A to have a more dominant presence

Create and post videos of World Ds Day messages. Get the media and the community involved!!!

Will Schermerhorn?

Local media starving for human interest stories?

Idea to put out 21 signs in the community and reward people for posting pictures of them to social media

What about working with the Chamber of Commerce? Barnes and Noble?

Partner with other local organizations for a joint messaging.

Collect success stories for a book?

Advertise in local theater?

Actions:

Messaging with local Ds organizations; videos - Heather

Reach out to restaurants - Marie

Golf Tournament

We should push getting some sponsorships, and donations for the raffle

We will team with Special Olympics again this year. We get an income of 50%. Got to do a better job in supporting special olympics

We can look at doing our own golf tournament in the future

Sean leads this for DSANV

Spring Picnic and Annual Meeting

April 28, 2018 at Bull Run – Board participation, vote board members' terms expiring and replacement

Buddy Walk

October 14, 2018 Justin Knapp has volunteered to Chair our Buddy Walk – any committee volunteers?

GMU, same location. Want to close down one lane of the street for the 20 minutes of the walk.

This year is Columbus Day Weekend.- need new ideas.

Done with Donor Drive, moving to Classy for the fundraising platform

Need to push the peer-to-peer fundraising aspect. Jessica will pull together ideas following the Peer-to-peer conference.

New Parent Breakfast

60 people registered, 40 people actually came; wants to have a Spanish new parent breakfast! Was positive, and there were lots of comments

Bingo Night

Was successful; everyone enjoyed it! Will do it again, and wants it to be a regular event

Thirteen people attended- should be monthly. Need a February date – Kim McPhee is the organizer

Going to be a wine and cheese dinner event soon

Review 2017 Activities

Interested in having a conference this year to help engagement. Let's start planning.

Try to get someone big. Plan for Jan-Feb 2019. Align with World Ds Day? March?

Financial Update

See Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

Financial Update Dorene Ryder

Finances in good shape.

Investment account at \$226K.

Checking/money market/savings: \$191K

End of year campaign brought in \$18,205 which is an increase over last year.

Restaurant fundraisers (do research); Self-advocates will make videos
Message: See us for who we are, not our diagnosis

No psychological testing

Charlotte will pull together a success story collection and turn it into a book

Need a date for Feb; ideally a consistent date. Kim McPhee is the organizer.

Charlotte: NDSS Walk on Washington coming up soon.

Adult summit; Charlotte will be a speaker.

Gala is coming up soon in NYC. Charlotte is a community outreach assistant and editor and chief of magazine written by people with Ds for people with Ds.

Fitness class was yesterday afternoon – 10 individuals with Ds plus their buddies. Very well received.

There are opportunities to partner with NDSS going forward; we need to be up front about what expectations are.

Social media position: Need a college student to take it over, ten hrs. a week. It's a paid position!!!

David recommends that a self advocate be employed by DSANV at the office here. Charlotte recommends partnering with other disability organizations and getting the message out about not being discriminated against.

Meeting needed to cut down 2017 activities/events

Legislative Update:

More advocacy!!!! Must defend Medicaid expansion with the new tax bill! Please support the National Down Syndrome's End Law Syndrome campaign as soon as possible!

Adjournment

David Egan motioned to adjourn; Charlotte Woodward and Doreen Ryder seconded

DSANV will stay away from anything that is political.

Executive Director Observations

Why do we vote on members? Bylaws require it.

Note that we can't automatically accept people in through YM since they have to be voted on.

Why do we post board minutes online? It's generally not done.

Nora: receiving Ring Central messages and phone calls to her personal phone. Referring families for Unidos por Amor. Casey: we are interested in doing programs for the Spanish-speaking population; need your help in defining and shaping. Nora is in touch with Dr. Fernandez, pediatrician, with many families with Ds. She has one mother who has trouble accepting her child with Ds. Concerned about lack of education in the Ds community. Not speaking the language, not knowing the system.

New parent breakfast for Spanish speaking families. Train parent mentors (3-4 who speak Spanish now).

Visit doctor's office monthly and have a DSANV representative there.

Nora interested in developing a plan together. Casey agreed.

Social Media – room for improvement. What if we hired a college student to own that? 10 hrs/week?

Buddy Walk on Washington - April 9, 10, 11. DSANV has the opportunity to man a booth. Casey will send additional info.

Other events – MarCi has a connection in CA at a winery, they have a child with Ds. What if we did a wine dinner? They would donate wine for the event.

Bylaws – action for everyone to read the bylaws and let's discuss.

Company connections – if anyone has connections to corporations, let Marie know so she can hit them with a presentation and funding request.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn; second. 8:19

Next Meeting: March 18, 2018 @ 6:00pm