



**DSANV Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, March 15, 2020 @ 6:00pm
Virtual Meeting via Google Meet**

Present: Katie Ramchand, Justin Knapp, Heather Trammel, Dorene Ryder, Charlotte Woodward, Samantha Fredieu, Casey Craig, David Egan, Dave Hoffman, Erin Thompson, and Mary Ford

Absent: Abel Sussman, MarCinda Buttie

6:02 meeting called to order

Welcome and President's Report

- President Katie Ramchand reminded the Board that this meeting is her last as President and welcomed Samantha Fredieu as her successor. Casey Craig, Heather Trammel and Dorene Ryder also announced they will be stepping down from the DSANV Board.

Approvals

- Meeting minutes from January 12, 2020 were approved
- Membership Approval - the following new members were approved:
 - Mrs. Wendy Miers
 - Mrs. Diane Maria Brown
 - Ms. Jennifer J. Rahn
 - Ms. Mayra Liliana Abrego
 - Ms. Jennie Stone
 - Mrs. Ashley Biro
 - Ms. Mary Katherine Chrisman

Executive Director Update

- With the Governor's order mandating social distancing requirements due to the novel Corona virus and COVID-19, and in coordination with the Board, Mary has notified staff and volunteers that DSANV offices will be closed for the next two weeks at minimum. Mary will send a notice out this week to all members, and post information on the website, informing everyone of the change.

Committee Reports

- Finance – Treasurer Dorene Ryder reviewed the current Profit and Loss statement
- Development
 - Mary is looking to establish a grant writing committee when the new board convenes in May 2020
 - The Special Olympics VA Area 26 Council Chair notified DSANV they are changing the focus of their annual Golf Tournament starting in 2020 to support their larger priorities which include athletes with many diagnoses in addition to Down syndrome. To support inclusion for their full set of participants, they are suspending their Golf Tournament partnership with us for the foreseeable future but are leaving the door open for other partnerships going forward.
 - Dave Hoffman and Abel Sussman have both independently researched options for

conducting the 2020 Holiday Party at alternate site(s) that may cost less and could offer other benefits to members. It is unknown at this time whether social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic will still be in force by December. We will revisit the decision of whether or not to offer an in-person event closer to time.

- Governance – Samantha announced the committee plans to continue the work started in 2019 to document a three-year Strategic Plan

New Business:

Candidate Board Member Review and Vote

- President Katie Ramchand reviewed the slate of new candidates for the DSANV 2020 Board of Directors; the following new Board member recommendations were approved by majority vote and will be presented to members at the April 21, 2020 Annual Membership meeting for final approval:
 - Ms. Marcela Souaya
 - Mr. Rob Di Brienza
 - Dr. Amanda Hunt
 - Mr. George Matthew, Esq.
 - Mr. Andrew Humes
 - Ms. Kimberly Hudson
 - Ms. Sarah Español

Revised 2020 NDSS Buddy Walk® Licensing Agreement

- Background – effective in 2020, the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Buddy Walk® affiliate licensing agreement includes an increase in the percentage of walk proceeds affiliates are required to pay; at the same time, NDSS is initiating an incentive program that would reimburse affiliates up to 50% of the fee for DSANV programs/activities that support the three NDSS pillars of Employment, National Inclusive Health and Sports, and National Advocacy & Public Policy Center.
- Required Decision – as projected 2020 DSANV programs are not believed to strongly align with the three NDSS pillars, the Board needs to decide whether to sign the 2020 Buddy Walk® licensing agreement and pay the higher fee or consider transitioning to an independent walk event starting in 2020
- Discussion
 - Recommendation 1: move to an independent event, retain all of the proceeds, and make an annual donation to NDSS that we define in accordance with available budget
 - Recommendation 2: have a conversation with NDSS to determine how closely planned 2020 DSANV programs align with the pillars; if we receive reasonable assurance, sign the Buddy Walk® licensing agreement for 2020 and file an application for a partial refund afterwards; base the decision on whether or not to continue with a Buddy Walk event in 2021 on the outcome of the 2020 event and follow-on grant application result.
- Decisions – Board voted to proceed with Recommendation 2; Justin and Mary will contact NDSS and solicit assurance that DSANV can reasonably expect to receive a partial grant; Mary will sign licensing agreement and register 2020 event with NDSS
- Post Script – as the COVID-19 pandemic forced most 2020 Buddy Walk® events to virtual delivery, NDSS cancelled all profit sharing for 2020 affiliate events

Executive Session

Next Meeting: 17 May 2020 @ 6:00PM

2020 Board Meeting schedule: 12 July, 13 Sep, 15 Nov