Minutes

GDUI Board of Directors Meeting

July 27, 2024

1. The GDUI Board of Directors convened on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 1:00 pm eastern via Zoom.

2. Attendance:

a. Board Members Present:

Maria Hansen, 1st Vice President, Chair

Cheryl McNeill Fisher, 2nd Vice President,,

Lynn Merrill, Secretary,

Penny Reeder, Immediate Past President,

Vacant, Director 1,

Lolly Lijewski, Director 2,

Olivia Norman, Director 3,

Vicky Kennedy, Director 4,

Kay Malmquist, Director 5,

Liz Bottner, Director 6,

Joyce Feinberg, Affiliates Liaison,

Ryan Hooie, Guide Dog Schools Liaison,

Andrea Giudice, Editor,

b. Board members Excused (E) or Absent (A)

Sarah Calhoun, President, (E)

Maria Kristic, Treasurer, (E)

c. Invited Guests:

Cindy La Bon, Membership Committee Chair (E)

Dixie Sanderson, Membership Data Base Manager (P),

Melanie Brunson, Advocacy and Legislative Affairs Committee Chair E)

Terri Terlau, Special Concerns Committee Chair (P),

Kenneth Semien, Sr., ACB Board Liaison (P),

d. Others Present: GDUI members who were in attendance were invited to announce themselves. Two members announced their presence.

3. Approval of Agenda: President Hansen called for any additions or changes to the previously published Agenda. A motion was made to approve the Agenda (Merrill/Kennedy). Motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

4. Announcements:

a. Congratulations to D. Sanderson, who was partnered with a successor dog, Caira, a female GSD with floppy ears in June!

b. Meeting protocol: if one wishes the floor, please do not interrupt; members who wish to comment will be asked to state their name when the person speaking has finished. Those who have stated their names will be called upon in the order in which they were stated. GDUI members in attendance may make comments prior to the Board voting on an issue.

5. Approval of minutes: Minutes of the May 18, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting. President Hansen called for any changes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

6. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Reports: Treasurer’s Reports for May and June , 2024, were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Hearing no corrections, the reports were accepted.

7. M. Hansen provided a brief overview of the GDUI Virtual Convention; details are in the Program Committee Report and the Guide Dog Schools Liaison Report.

8. Awards Committee report: L. Lijewski reported that four awards were presented this year, as noted in the Awards Committee report. Of note was that the Committee recommends that the GDUI Budget line item for awards be increased in light of the increased prices, especially if awards will be presented in braille.

9. Update on CDC rules The Seeing Eye hosted a webinare on the new rules; J. Feinberg will send out a note when the recording is available.

10. Editor’s report: A. Giudice reported that finding alternative ways for members to get the publication and there is a new possibility for financing a way for those without email to receive it but we may have come upon an option with the AI 11 labs. Next issue should come out on August 5th.

11. Upcoming Elections; GDUI is now accepting applications for all officer positions and three director positions. Elections will commence on October 20, 2024. There will be two candidate forums prior to the elections with the dates to be announced.

12. Bylaws Committee Report: proposals to amend the GDUI Bylaws are being solicited with a deadline of August 2, 2024.

13. Extraordinary Veterinary Care Assistance Program update: President Calhoun has sunset the Ad Hoc Committee in light of the member poll results which were 50/50 for and against moving forward with the program as well as looking at the initial assignment of the ad hoc committee, which was to identify an attorney who is knowledgeable in both the DC Code and the Internal Revenue Code. That has been accomplished with contact with the DC Bar Pro Bono Office, with whom we have consulted three times. P. Reeder asked that, at a future Board meeting, consideration be given to making a donation to Helping Hands for the Blind, earmarked for emergency veterinary care, in order to acknowledge the desire of the members who are interested in doing that.

14. Calendar of Events for national days of recognition of service/guide dogs: P. Reeder has reached out to ACB Media and will follow-up at the next meeting.

15. Follow-up of gathering historical data of previous awards recipients: P. Reeder and L. Botner will reach out to past GDUI presidents and others to begin putting together what information they can gather to document past award winners.

16. . Upcoming meetings:

September 28, 2024, Board Meeting,

October 19, 2024, Annual Membership Meeting,

October 20, 2024, Elections begin,

November 23, 2024, Board Meeting

17. T. Terlau askd that consideration be given at the next annual convention for at least one GDUI-hosted event be planned if the program is virtual only.

18. Adjournment: In the absence of further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm (Malmquist/Kennedy).

Respectfully,

Lynn Merrill

Secretary

\*\*\* end \*\*\*

Advocacy and Legislative Affairs Committee Report

There is no report from the Advocacy Committee this month, as we did not meet in June and our July meeting will occur after the Board meeting.

Melanie Brunson, Chair

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Affiliates Liaison Report

due to the ACB national convention, the affiliate group did not meet in July. Therefore, there is nothing new to update since the last board meeting.

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Awards Committee Report

July 2024

The 2024 Guide Dog Users, (GDUI,) awards committee was comprised of members Becky Davidson, Lynn Merrill Chair Lolly Lijewski and x-officio member Sarah Calhoon.

Four awards were presented at the final GDUI session of the virtual 2024 convention. Two Ethel Bender awards were presented to Chris Mattoon of The Seeing Eye and Marc Gillard of Guide Dogs for the Blind respectively. The lieberg-Metz award was presented to author Barbara Hinske. The Moffitt-Gleitz award was presented to Pauline Lamontagne.

Three of the awards were print plaques and the fourth was both print and braille. Currently the GDUI budget allocates $300 for awards. This amount is not sufficient and the committee respectfully recommends that GDUI consider increasing this allocation in the future.

Submitted by Lolly Lijewski, Chair, GDUI Awards Committee

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Budget and Finance Committee Report

Committee members:

Maria Hansen: Chair & VP1

Maria Kristic: Treasurer

Lynn Merrill: Secretary

Penny Reeder: Immediate Past President

Sarah Calhoun: President

The Budget and Finance Committee approved a line item increase to cover higher costs for awards than what had been projected in the 2024 GDUI budget.

Lolly did a great job negotiating costs in a very narrow time frame.  The first quote was $1,400.00 plus shipping and  the final cost was $655.62 including shipping.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Hansen

Chair: Budget and Finance Committee

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Bylaws Committee Report

The GDUI Bylaws Committee is calling for submissions of proposed amendments to the GDUI Bylaws.  Under the provisions of the GDUI Bylaws amended in 2023, proposals must be submitted to the Bylaws Committee not less than 75 days prior to the Elections.  Further, the Notice of Proposed Amendments must be published to the membership no less than 45 days before the Elections (see reference below).

The date of the Annual Membership meeting is Saturday, October 19, 2024, with the Elections beginning the following day, Sunday, October 20, 2024.  The Bylaws Committee is asking that proposals to amend the GDUI Bylaws be submitted by close of business on August 2, 2024.

Please submit proposals to the Committee at [bylaws@guidedogusersinc.org](mailto:bylaws@guidedogusersinc.org).  Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at 207 458 1362.

Respectfully,

Lynn Merrill

Chair, GDUI Bylaws Committee

Reference:

 10.01:  Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting at any annual or special meeting of the membership at which a quorum is present, provided further that:

(1) the proposed amendment or amendments  have been published to the membership in an accessible format or media no less than forty-five (45) days before the date on which such amendment or amendments  are to be considered;

(2) that the amendment(s) have been submitted to the Bylaws Committee no less than seventy-five (75) days before the date on which such amendment or amendments  are to be considered.

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Guide Dog Schools Liaison Report

Guide Dog Liaison Update

GDUI

Board of Directors Meeting

July 27, 2024

* This was my first Guide Dog School Update session at this year’s conference.
* We had a great turn out from both membership and schools.
* 3 Canadian Schools
* 13 American Schools
* All gave a brief update of 7 minutes including the newest things handlers should know
* Had a great discussion regarding the changes to importing your guide dog into the USA when travelling and all the new additional documentation that is needed, this has since changed several times
* Received unique feedback from each school and they liked having the order of speaking be set out beforehand but not known to them other then the approx. position they would be speaking.
* Learned that GDB is setting out to hire lawyers to fights the new CDC regulations including accessibility and cost.
* Recording set to go up when available and I have learned a lot on how to host this and set it up for success for next year.
* I have started to create a hosting in a box document in case anyone is interested I can share it but it outlines some do’s and don’t’s
* Will be starting to update the guide dog school survey and will be reaching out for some guidance and thoughts once we get to that point. First waiting on some things before this gets started.
* As well, looks like that all Canadian Dogs need to enter the USA as of Tuesday, July 23 is to complete the Import CDC document, which is not entirely accessible but it is being worked on, up to date rabis but not looked at by a CFIA vet. The import form is not good for unlimited trips in a 6 month period just remember your receipt number to present at the border.

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

With convention now in the background I  have no report for the past 2  months!

Cindy LaBon

Membership Chair

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Membership Database Manager Report

July 24, 2024

Our membership currently stands at:

Annual Members: 280

Life Members:118

Total Membership: 398

Of that number we have

228 Affiliate members.

Respectfully submitted,

Dixie Sanderson

GDUI Membership Database Manager

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Nominations Committee Report

July 24, 2024

The GDUI Nominations Committee, 2024

Dixie Sanderson, Chair

Lynn Merrill,

Cheryl Peabody

The 2024 GDUI Elections will begin at 12:00 AM EDT on Sunday, October 20, 2024, and end at 11:59 PM EST on Sunday, October 27, 2024.

GDUI is seeking candidates for the following positions in our October 2024 elections:

* President – 2-year term
* First Vice President – 2-year term
* Second Vice President – 2-year term
* Secretary – 2-year term
* Treasurer – 2-year term
* Two Directors – 3-year term
* One Director – 1-year term
* Please note: For the director positions, the 2 candidates for director receiving the greatest number of votes in the election will be seated in the 3-year full-term director positions, and the candidate for director with the third highest number of votes will be seated in the 1-year interim director position.

All GDUI members in good standing are eligible to run for a position on the GDUI Board. By the deadline of Friday, August 23, 2024, interested candidates should submit, via e-mail to the Nominations Committee, a completed application form

Please note: This document will be shared in its entirety, as submitted, with GDUI members entitled to vote in this election.

You can reach the Nominations Committee at this e-mail address:

[elections@guidedogusersinc.org](mailto:elections@guidedogusersinc.org).

GDUI members who have paid their dues by this year's record date of Monday, August 26, 2024, will be eligible to vote in the October elections. If you have not renewed your membership, now is the time to do so. This will allow you to vote to fill the open board positions, as well as to accept or reject any proposed bylaw change that members have recommended.

Dues may be paid, by credit card, online by going to <https://guidedogusersinc.org/membership/>

or by calling 866.799.8436. You may also pay by mail, by sending a check made payable to GDUI to our postal mailing address: GUIDE DOG USERS, INC., 3603 Morgan Way, Imperial, MO 63052.

Important dates to remember:

To be eligible to vote in the 2024 GDUI election, your 2024 GDUI dues must have been received on or before the record date of August 26, 2024.

If you wish to run for any of the 2024 positions which are up for election, we need to receive your completed application by Close of Business on Friday, August 23, 2024.

We will hold two telephonic candidates’ Forums prior to the election.  Dates and phone numbers for these calls will be announced soon.

We encourage members to submit questions for your candidates. Please submit your questions to the Nominations Committee, by the close of business on Friday, September 13, 2024.  Email your proposed questions to [elections@guidedogusersinc.org](mailto:elections@guidedogusersinc.org)  and include “Forum Question” in the subject field of your e-mail message.

The application is available here <http://guidedogusersinc.org/announcing-gdui-2024-elections/>.

Just prior to the elections each member with an email address will receive an email message with their individual voter code directly from Vote Now.  For those members who do not have an email address the information on how those members may obtain their individual voter codes will be included in the elections packets that are mailed directly to you through the U. S. Postal mail.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dixie Sanderson , GDUI Nominations Committee Chai

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Program Committee Report

The 2024 GDUI Convention was a great success!  On Thursday, June 27, GDUI again offered the Guide Dog School Update as a double session.  Our new Guide Dog School Liaison, Ryan Hooey, hosted representatives from 16 North American schools (two more than last year).  This is always an event highlight.

On Saturday, June 29, GDUI and the International Relations Committee held a session , Guide Dog Programs Beyond our Borders.

With representatives from Hong Kong Guide Dogs Association where it was late Saturday evening and Stapell Guide Dogs in Australia   where it was early Sunday morning.  I wish to thank Bhavya Shah and Maria Kristic from the IRC.

In the afternoon of Saturday, June 29,

GDUI held the Awards Ceremony and Barbara Hinske was our guest speaker. Awards Committee members Lolly Lijewski, Becky Davidson and Lynn Merrill presented the awards to Chris Mattoon, Marc Gillard, Barbara Hinske and Pauline Lamontagne.

I just received the following message from Barbara:  “My plaque arrived today and it is absolutely beautiful. The images of the man and woman with their guide dogs is lovely. I am so honored to be the recipient of this award. The kind words about my series touch my heart.

I'm going to hang it in my office tomorrow and will post photos of myself with the award all over my social media.  Please know how grateful I am for this recognition, and pass my thanks on to others.”

When Lynn asked Lady A to select the winning drawing ticket number for Garth, that also Turned out to have been purchased by  Barbara!  Barbara was tickled when Garth arrived by mail in a re-purposed Chewy box.

The final numbers for the drawing were 517 tickets sold for a gross total of $740.00.

One hundred and six people registered for the GDUI convention.  I am still figuring out how to mail out door prizes and Maria K will send out gifts to our guest presenters.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Hansen

Chair: Program Committee

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Public Relations Report

Public Relations Committee Report

July, 2024

We have updated on our Web site and posted on our social media, as changes have been introduced by the CDC, information about the new dog importation process which will take effect on August 1. The relevant links can be found on both our home page, [www.gdui.org](http://www.gdui.org), and in our Resources section.

We have supported GDUI convention activities by posting to our social media information about GDUI’s convention activities and how they could be accessed, and removing the plush guide drawing upon closing. Thanks to our Webmaster, Steve, for ensuring that the drawing was removed at the correct time while we were otherwise occupied with convention work.

Our Meeting Minutes page has been updated with the latest approved minutes from our board meetings. This page is accessible from the navigation menu of each page of our Web site or directly at [Meeting Minutes - Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI) (guidedogusersinc.org)](https://guidedogusersinc.org/resources/meeting-minutes/).

As of July 24, 2024, we have 822 followers of our Facebook page, 350 members in our Friends of GDUI Facebook group, and 306 followers of our X (formerly Twitter) handle. Our social media links can be found in the Widgets section of every page of our Web site, along with the links to subscribe to our Chat and Business lists. Our Facebook page can be accessed directly at <https://www.facebook.com/GDUInc/>, our Facebook group can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GDUINC/>, and our Twitter timeline can be accessed at <https://twitter.com/gduinc>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Kristic

Chair

GDUI Public Relations

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Special Concerns Committee

One pop-out card with personalized note in braille was sent to a GDUI member since the previous Board meeting.

Terrie Terlau,, Special Concerns Committee

\*\*\*end\*\*\*

Treasurers Reports

Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI)

Treasurer’s Report, May, 2024

Income:

Product sales: $145.00

Product shipping: $32.50

Plush Pup Drawing: $160.00

Annual membership: $60.00

Fundraising, ACB Monthly Monetary Support: $150.00

Total income: $547.50

2024 YTD Income: $5,838.02

2024 Expected Income: $12,404.00

Expenses:

Webmaster: ($277.50)

Product shipping: ($16.75)

PayPal fees: ($10.66)

Square fees: ($6.43)

Total expenses: ($311.34)

2024 YTD Expenses: ($4,025.67)

2024 Expected Expenses: ($27,640.56)

Balance Reconciliations:

Capital One:

Beginning balance as of April 30, 2024: $1,378.41

Credits: $301.57

Debits: ($0.00)

Ending balance as of May 31, 2024: $1,679.98

Carrollton Bank:

Beginning balance as of April 30, 2024: $4,380.17

Credits: $0.00

Debits: ($0.00)

Ending balance as of May 31, 2024: $4,380.17

PayPal:

Beginning balance as of April 30, 2024: $6,109.87

Credits: $239.50

Debits: ($304.91)

Ending balance as of May 31, 2024: $6,044.46

First Georgetown Securities as of May 31, 2024: $464,559.41

Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI)

Treasurer’s Report, June, 2024

Income:

Product sales: $170.00

Product shipping: $44.50

Plush Pup Drawing: $215.00

Annual membership: $15.00

Total income: $444.50

2024 YTD Income: $6,282.52

2024 Expected Income: $12,404.00

Expenses:

Webmaster: ($129.50)

Product shipping: ($34.20)

PayPal fees: ($13.37)

Square fees: ($3.88)

Total expenses: ($180.95)

2024 YTD Expenses: ($4,206.62)

2024 Expected Expenses: ($27,640.56)

Balance Reconciliations:

Capital One:

Beginning balance as of May 31, 2024: $1,679.98

Credits: $89.62

Debits: ($0.00)

Ending balance as of June 30, 2024: $1,769.60

Carrollton Bank:

Beginning balance as of May 31, 2024: $4,380.17

Credits: $0.00

Debits: ($0.00)

Ending balance as of June 30, 2024: $4,380.17

PayPal:

Beginning balance as of May 31, 2024: $6,044.46

Credits: $351.00

Debits: ($177.07)

Ending balance as of June 30, 2024: $6,218.39

First Georgetown Securities as of June 30, 2024: $498,381.78

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Kristic

Treasurer

Guide Dog Users, Inc. (GDUI)