# **Pine Tree Guide Dog Users**

# **Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes**

February 5, 2025

President Sadie called the quarterly board meeting to order at 6:32 PM via Zoom on February 5, 2025. Ginger conducted the roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

## **Attendance**

-Board members present:

Sadie Donnell, President; Pauline Lamontagne, Vice President; Merrill Barter, Treasurer; Ginger Kutsch, Secretary; and Directors Christina Brino, Andrea Giudice, Jim King, and Linda Porelle.

-Other Members Present:

Carolyn Bebee, Roger Fuller, Linda Richards, and Gil Whitmore.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Christina moved and Sadie seconded a motion to approve the November 6, 2024 Fall Membership Meeting minutes as distributed. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

Merrill reported on our financial activities for 2024. Pauline expressed concern that the new line item called “Conference/travel” might create confusion with our “Transportation” line item. Merrill will change the title of the new line item to “Conference Expenses” to avoid any confusion. After further discussion, Ginger moved and Andrea seconded a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as amended. The motion passed unanimously by acclamation.

## **Old Business**

A. Projects & Activities for 2025

Ginger shared that the Publications team is working to build PTGDU’s social media presence which may include boosting educational Facebook posts that perform well with our current reach. Jim shared his idea about hosting a general guide dog handlers podcast. Sadie, Andrea, and Christina will work with Jim to explore the idea further. Pauline mentioned paying for guest speakers at our membership meetings. Sadie expressed interest in setting up an in-person event for members, possibly a Sea Dogs game. Linda will work with Sadie on this project. Andrea suggested looking into donation jars at retail stores. Christina will work with Andrea on this project. Other ideas and suggestions may be submitted throughout the year.

B. Approval of 2025 Budget

Merrill went over the proposed budget for 2025. After a brief discussion, the line item for Thrive Media was increased to $305 to allow for additional work on the website if needed; and the GDUI annual dues line item was increased to $300. Linda moved and Sadie seconded a motion to approve the 2025 budget as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Sadie gave a brief overview of the Moving Maine Network (MMN) Justice in Motion Summit. The event focused on better transportation access for all Mainers – especially people who can’t drive or struggle to afford transportation. Sadie will continue to represent PTGDU on MMN’s Policy & Advocacy Work Group which serves as a channel for identifying and advancing MMN's policy and advocacy priorities. Sadie also shared that she was appointed to the regional transportation Advisory Committee for the greater Portland region. The Committee provides advice on transit, technical and planning issues, including funding allocations, all as directed by the PACTS Policy Board and/or the PACTS Executive Board. She will share relevant information with PTGDU for possible inclusion in our monthly news updates.

## **New Business**

1. Guide Dog Symposium

Kimberly Stump, an O&M Specialist with DBVI, reached out to PTGDU regarding a possible Guide Dog Symposium. The event would be held in person or Zoom and target guide dog handlers, perspective guide dog handlers, and family/friends. After discussing the proposal, it was determined that PTGDU would be interested in a Zoom event or an in-person event that focused on perspective handlers and their family/friends. Ginger will reach out to Kim to get more details and share our interests. Linda and Andrea volunteered to help Ginger with PTGDU’s responsibilities should the event move forward.

1. Spring Membership Meeting

The annual spring membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Sadie will reach out to her veterinary contact who specializes in pet hospice and senior care to see if she is available to present to our group. Linda will also reach out to her contact at Guide Dogs for the Blind to find out if one of their vets would be available to present on the same topic.

1. Constitution & Bylaws

Sadie appointed Ginger, Pauline, Linda, and Andrea to review our constitution and bylaws and make recommendations for change if needed. Ginger will send out an email to the membership to invite them to submit changes. Recommended amendments must be sent to the membership at least 45 days in advance (March 23).

## **Announcements**

- Sadie shared that Susan Anderson, a retired Rehabilitation Counselor who worked with DBVI for years passed away in January.

- Christina shared that Uber’s new Self-Identification option for guide dog handlers is now live.

## **Adjournment**

Christina moved and Sadie seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed at 7:58 PM.