

TDV Board Meeting Minutes from May 3rd 2023

In attendance: Colleen Sauve, Evan Stainman, Dede LaRow, Valerie Smith, Michele Shepard, Craig Deslaurier, Emily Lester

Clare Early

Call Meeting to Order: 1804

Approve minutes from April 12th meeting: approved

Approve treasurers report: No Reported Changes

- ASCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - VALERIE SMITH
(CREATE A THERAPY DOG PROGRAM AT SCHOOL)
Valerie stated that the conference over all seems expensive for the one session we're interested in attending. The board stated collectively that TDV would pay for Valerie to attend at an approximate cost of \$ 219.00 for the day, Evan made a motion to approve this, Seconded by Michele, approved unanimously.
- Annual Meeting
 - Still between September 17th and October 1st. Once a date has been verified Michele, will reach back out to the armory for venue confirmation.
 - Reviewed the schedule time line from the last meeting in 2019
 - A rough- time frame for the meeting is as follows
 - 08-0830 - Board members arrive to step up
 - 0930 – Member arrival , Check in, Coffee and light breakfast
 - 10-1015 1st session of the day(all members) presented by Deb (need to know how long her presentation is)
 - (time unknown) up to and thought lunch – Steve Reiman – presenting the history of TDV
 - After noon sessions
 - 2 or 3 total, possibly topics
 - Visiting people with special needs
 - Visiting people with Alzheimer's / Dementia (should be the same session as above)
 - Grooming (?) from a vet tech / Groomer perspective.
 - Other ideas
 - close around 3-30
 - clean up 4-430
 - Save the Dates need to be sent out. A survey asking what members would be interested in for the sessions (?)
 - Possibly 3 workshops, Crisis Response (Craig and Susan), Grooming (Michelle Hemmingway), Visiting with people with Alzheimer's or special needs (Unknown)
 - A lot of people enjoy the main presentation and the community feel through lunch and then some people leave.

- What challenges does current membership play into attendance at the meeting
- New members might want to come and see what its all about,
- Need to get the Save the Date out A.S.A.P,
- Discussed maybe email calendar invites, might not work with so many domains, maybe add a survey question on the save the date.
- Need to determine a sense of attendance numbers. A Plus one for members is still happening.
- The Board likes October 1st as the date, Colleen was going to send a not to steve and ask if that would work for them.
- Leashes,
 - Colleen had a few samples, she ordered off Etsy, she was going to look into the bulk pricing, there was one for 5 dollars a leash, possibly screen printed, no available in black.
 - Things will be a few months lead time to get them in.
 - Old leashes were Lupine,
 - Possibly reach out to Lupine to see if we could bulk order from them
- Membership
 - Motivate members to renew on time or early by advising teams that if they do not renew by 12/31 they will no longer be allowed to visit as their certification has lapsed.
 - 163 current renewed members
 - Survey monkey to members with Workshop options and food preferences, Middle of June?
 - Goodie/ Welcome bags
 - Add note about meeting to June/July/ August Woof
- WAG IT FORWARD
 - Mini certification Demos, Deb suggested we should do something while we are there.

TDV Board Interview with Clare Early (answers are summarized and not exact quotes)

Clare Logged on approximately 1830 hours.

1. What drew you to Therapy Dogs of Vermont initially and what has your experience been with TDV?(asked By Evan)

A Vet Tech recommended TDV and through Deb, Certified as a team just prior to the pandemic. Claire winters in North Carolina where she advised she was able to do some visits.

As an educator she thought TDV was a great way to getting back into working with kids.

2. What have you enjoyed about being part of TDV and is there anything you've found challenging (wish had been different)? OR What do you see as TDV's greatest strengths and where do you hope TDV grows?((Asked By Valerie)

Clare stated that the monthly woof with visit opportunities has been a great strength versus the huge list on the website. Moving forward, its rebuilding after the pandemic,

to get people interested and volunteer their time beyond just visiting, i.e certification team, etc.

More opportunities for handlers to meet one another.

3. What interests you in being on the Board of TDV and what do you think you personally could bring to the Board? OR What interests you in being on the Board and how do you think you can make a difference in TDV by being on the Board (Asked by Craig)

Clare was an educator for forty years, she taught middle school for thirty and then consulted. During her middle school years she taught math and did not like how the current method of teaching, she became involved with a program called “teachers development group”. She has always been interested in how to make math more interesting and engaging, which she discovered it should be taught like science is taught. Believes that kids should make up their own ideas and realizing the rules were made up by someone else, and there may be other rules that work better.

Looking for better ways to accomplish something that may be more mundane, is one of her strengths.

4. What wonderings/questions to you have about being on the Board? (Asked by Dede)

Clare asked what the board does?

Meets quarterly, required 4 times a year, usually have a few more meetings. A few special meetings for event planning.

Clare asked what responsibilities did board members have between meetings?

Different for different members, and depends what we have going.

Support the therapy dogs, certification teams, address issues that arise with members between meetings etc.

Not a huge time commitment.

5. What would you need to be a successful contributor to the Board? (asked By Michele)

Clare advised she would need a little direction on what we need done.

6. Anything you'd like to share we haven't asked? (asked by Colleen)

Clare did not have any further questions, she advised that she had a pretty good Idea of what the board does. She stated she would like to be a part of the organization that over sees TDV

Craig asked a follow up Question regarding Clare going south in the winter months,

Emily introduced herself at the end of the interview

Clare logged off approx. 1857

Valerie made a motion to approve Clares application to the board

Motioned seconded by Craig

All in Favor

Clare approved to the board

Meeting was adjourned at 1955 hours

Respectfully submitted by

Michele Shepard