

Draft
Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020

Members Present

Bob Kresmer, Chair
Amy Porterfield
Ted Chittenden
Bea Shapiro
Ed Gervasoni
Nathan Pullen
George Martinez

Members Absent

Allan Curry
Ed Gervasoni

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

David Steinmetz

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Bea Shapiro moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Slate of Candidates Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI would be holding their elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary at the upcoming November Full Council meeting. Bob Kresmer stated that he would be willing to continue as the Chair of the GCBVI and Allan Curry had indicated that he would be willing to continue as the Secretary of the council. Amy Porterfield stated that she would continue as the Vice Chair as well. Bob Kresmer stated that any other committee

members were welcome to express their interest in serving in an Officer position.

Amy Porterfield motioned that Bob Kresmer be nominated as the Chair, Ms. Porterfield be nominated as the Vice Chair and Allan Curry be nominated as the Secretary. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Executive Committee members wished to have further discussion regarding the nominations. Ted Chittenden stated the Executive Committee could put forth the nominated candidates and accept nominations from the floor. Amy Porterfield inquired whether Terri Hedgpeth had expressed an interest in serving in an Officer position. Bob Kresmer stated he would contact Ms. Hedgpeth. Bob Kresmer called for the Executive Committee to make a vote regarding the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VRATE Presentation Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) would be held November 13th and inquired whether any council members had volunteered to staff the table virtually. Ted Chittenden stated the Public Information Committee was unsure whether VRATE was accepting exhibit table registrations and how the council should register for a table. David Steinmetz stated the VRATE Board had decided not to charge exhibitors to attend VRATE, although sponsorships would be accepted. Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that the VRATE Board was still working on the scheduling of the exhibitors and that exhibitors would likely be available in the morning or afternoon. David Steinmetz stated that exhibitors could register through the VRATE website or contact Jordan Moon regarding registration. Bob Kresmer requested that Lindsey Powers send an email to council members asking that individuals volunteer to staff the table for two-hour time slots. Bea Shapiro stated the Assistive Technology (AT), and Employment Committee would be co-presenting on the do's and don'ts of virtual interviewing. Nathan Pullen stated that Bea Shapiro, Terri Hedgpeth and Mark Nelson would be providing a panel presentation on the etiquette of virtual interviewing and would discuss topics such as when or how to require accommodations or to disclose a disability. Amy Porterfield stated that visually impaired individuals typically did not use cameras during meetings and noted the importance of properly placed cameras.

Membership Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated the GCBVI received applications from Dean Colston as a potential representative of the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB) and Steve Tepper, the new CEO of the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually

Impaired (ACBVI). Bob Kresmer inquired whether any committee members wished to interview the potential candidates for GCBVI membership. Bob Kresmer stated that he and David Steinmetz would discuss the interview questions for Dean Colston and Steve Tepper. Bob Kresmer stated that if any committee members had additional questions for the candidates, to let him know.

GCBVI Annual Report Discussion

Ted Chittenden stated he received the Independent Living (IL), AT and Education Committee reports and success stories from Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) and ACBVI. Ted Chittenden stated he had not received the Employment, Legislative and Public Policy, and Deaf-Blind Committee reports. Mr. Chittenden noted that he would also like to receive a report from VR or SBVID as well as additional success stories. Amy Porterfield requested a copy of the previous Legislative and Public Policy report and stated that she would send a report to Ted Chittenden shortly. Nathan Pullen stated that he would be able to provide an Employment Committee report as well. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the deadline for submitting reports to Ted Chittenden. Ted Chittenden stated he would prefer to receive all reports by October 30th, so the full report could be submitted to the Full Council at the November meeting.

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee members would like to suggest agenda items for the next Full Council meeting. Ted Chittenden suggested the council discuss a possible state budget shortfall. Amy Porterfield stated that council members learned at the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona (NFBA) State Conference that the online sales taxes for Arizona had offset a potential trillion-dollar deficit. Ms. Porterfield stated the sales taxes had provided sufficient funding, so the state did not have to use any rainy-day funds thus far. Bob Kresmer stated the Wayfair Act required that all online purchases be taxed at the Arizona sales tax rate, which had brought in sufficient funding and would enable the budget to remain the same.

Amy Porterfield stated she was concerned regarding virtual education and how should the council support teachers and schools. Bob Kresmer stated the Education Committee had been meeting regularly and could consider inviting an individual to discuss virtual learning. Amy Porterfield stated that schools were having difficulties with students logging into their virtual classrooms and with classroom participation. Ms. Porterfield stated that

Doris Woltman and Lisa Yencarelli would be able to provide their perspectives as well as a TVI from another school district.

Announcements

Ted Chittenden stated the next AzCB Conference would be held on July 23, 2021. Mr. Chittenden stated AzCB Board was considering whether to hold the conference virtually or in person in Phoenix.

David Steinmetz stated the Arizona Industries for the Blind (AIB) in partnership with E75, would hold an employment event on October 22nd from 9:00-11:00. Mr. Steinmetz stated Debbie Lesko, a representative from Arizona Disability Law, and Terell Welch would speak at the event. David Steinmetz stated that individuals could register through the AIB website or through the registration link.

Public Comment

A call to the public was made with no response's forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Ted Chittenden motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.