

**AGENDA Minutes**  
**STATUTORY COUNCIL ON BLINDNESS**  
**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

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**DRAFT 1-15-13**  
(Topic times are flexible)

**Tuesday, December 4**

- 9:30 AM A. Call Meeting to Order  
meeting called to order by Chair, Roberto at 9:40 am
- 9:35 AM B. Introduction of Members  
Members Present: Roberto Torrez, Josephine Grove, Lee Young, Eleanor Loomans, Joanne Schehl, Bill Gillick, Linda Huffer and Cathy Frosch-Hellenbrand. Members Present Via Phone: Joseph Leonard, Ed Weiss, John Hartman and Jimmy Davison.
- 9:50 AM C. Approve Council Meeting Minutes of September 17-18, 2012:  
Ed moved to approve, second by Josephine, motion carried.  
Approve Executive committee minutes of November 19, 2012:  
Roberto moved to approve, second by Ed, no discussion, motion carried.
- 10:00 AM D. Survey – Joseph Leonard  
Joe reported that he read through the draft, it looks good and if all agree he will put it into Survey Monkey and send it to council members for review. He will also see if the Badger Association will help to promote it. There was discussion regarding obtaining a distribution list and how Hipa laws may affect confidentiality and the use of such lists. Lee Young volunteered to check with some contacts to see if there is a registry available for use. The plan is to have a distribution list to review by the end of January and ready to mail out by the end of February. Other places to check with include:

- WCOB&VI
- Wi Chapter of NFB and/or AFB
- Vision Forward/newsletter
- ABLE-Sharon Orgas
- Lion's Camp (they will distribute but will not give out their list).

10:15 AM E. Update from Wisconsin Council of the Blind & VI – Loretta Himmelsbach, Executive Director  
Loretta reported that Don Golembiewski is currently working with the American Federation for the Blind. The AFB sends out a monthly newsletter and perhaps, could include the survey with it.

The Legislative Committee is working through what to do this year re:

- discrimination of service animals as far as access to housing
- cafeterias and other businesses being closed
- Business Enterprise Program
- large print & braille at crosswalks
- OMNI Bus Bill
- what can be done to make the laws stand, which were put into effect by the ADA?

No date has been set for the Legislative Day.

There will be new board members and officers trying to work on a consortium with Linda and Loretta.

Discussions:

- in regards to the BEP, Lee is looking into other programs, working on policies and practices.
- there are concerns of cultural diversity awareness and inclusion as far as ethnic eye diseases are concerned.

10:35 AM F. Research Study Report – Josephine Grove  
Currently looking for stats on ethnic blind in Wisconsin.  
Sending out requests for assistance in looking for ways to contact the blind in a disaster situation. What do they do and how do we locate these blind persons?

10:45 AM G.  
1. Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired Report – Linda Huffer, OBVI Director  
Currently fully staffed  
New office staff member, Judith Hennig

Survey conducted regarding Lion's Camp Mini Courses showed interest, so there will be trainings in September 2013.

Discussion:

-how mini courses will be funded by ILOB and by asking for a \$25.00 donation from campers taking the courses, which will be returned if not affordable, length of time to attend classes, District Governors as well as all committee members should be contacted as to what they do in their areas and contacting Lion's Clubs for funding support as well.

**Need stats on blind & VI served.**

2. Update on the Blind and Visually Impaired Consortium.

Survey – Linda Huffer, OBVI Director

– Linda put together a survey with ideas given from Council Members. Joe Leonard's comments are shown previously – (see D).

11:10 AM H. DVR Report – Enid Glenn, Director – Bureau of Management Services, DWD/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR liaison to the SCOB)  
No Show

11:40 AM I. Public Comment  
None

11:55 AM J. Other Councils – reports:

a.

1. Governor's Council on People with Disabilities – John Hartman

**Somewhere in here was a discussion about "Logistic Care" and how there were many problems with it. Bill moved that the chairman write a letter to get rid of it, Lee second, then more discussion. John was going to the Governor's Meeting next week and will discuss concerns. Per Linda, this should be done first and Roberto, we do not want to jeopardize what is in place now. It was decided that John would discuss first and let GCPD decide where to go from here.**

2. Assistive Technology Council - Torrez

**???**

3. Rehabilitation Advisory Council (RAC) – Leonard (not present at this time)
4. Physical Disabilities Council (PDC) – Loomans  
Eleanor has not been able to get a response, Linda will interject.
5. Vision Services Wisconsin (VSW) – Torrez  
Roberto wrote a letter to Rhonda Statz to bring together all visually impaired (**non-profits?**) in WI. Linda & Loretta are trying to start a consortium. and will continue to move forward – trying to unite!
6. Wisconsin Council of the Blind & VI (WCB&VI) – Grove,  
Board Member  
**???**
7. Vision Forward Association – Weiss  
**???**
8. American Council of the Blind (ACB) – Torrez  
Per Roberto, the next meeting is a Christmas party. He sent an email to the president and received no response.
9. National Federation of the Blind Wis (NFBW) – Young
  - b. Report of White Cane Safety Day Activities  
working on:
    - \$1,500.00 State scholarships due 3/1
    - Nat'l scholarships due 3/31 – 30 ranging from \$3,000.00 to \$12,000.00
    - per John Fritz, Newsline Newspaper, BLIO Accessible Book Reader, are protesting Amazon as Kindle books are not fully accessible. Ask Doug Martens/Jim Unger what they recommend. Apple has Web Pad that makes books accessible. Zoomtext for I products are coming or already have,
    - March 15 – 17, 2013 is the student convention
    - April \_\_, 2013 is state convention
    - July 1 – 6, 2013 is National convention

12:15 PM K. Working Lunch/Sub Committees

-Para Transit Issues – Bill Gallik

trying to help cab/taxi company to get grant monies so that they can get transportation for blind and visually impaired

people. Council members are urged to call congressmen to streamline paperwork. Roberto would like Bill to send him information on letters sent. Linda Huffer suggested that perhaps John Hartman could bring this to the table.

1. Transportation – Roberto Torrez
  - Grants available for transportation
  - Janesville RSVP program (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) – FREE transportation
2. Employment – Joseph Leonard
  - nothing to report at this time
3. Public Relations & Information Access – Eleanor Loomans
  - Outstanding piece is for GOALS for the upcoming year. Roberto would like [website updating](#) (get information to Eleanor, from Eleanor to Linda, from Linda to whoever is doing it).
  - WPR (Wisconsin Public Radio) at least one time per year: Eleanor, Jimmy, Jo, Linda & Ed

1:15 PM L. Legislative activities and visits for March 2013 – next meeting

Will be in March as well

-Jimmy Davison motioned that we combine efforts with WCOB&VI, especially Gary Goyke, in order to accomplish goals. Second: by Lee Young

Discussion: Need to see what's in the bill first and also need talking points.

-Bill Gallik motioned that we partner with WCOB&VI in efforts to pass the Omnibus Bill and invite NFB and ACB to join in efforts as well. Second: Lee Young, Vote was unanimous, Motion carried.

1:45 PM M. Bylaws Review

2:10 PM N. Presentation, Monique Currie, Program Manager, Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads & Harbors, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

-Monique discussed the role of the WI DOT, types of transit, accessing that transit, the issues that Wisconsin faces and how to become involved in transit issues.

-The WI DOT has recently started contracting for intercity bus service for 5 new routes.

- In WI, the DOT handles the funding, local sponsors run the transit programs.
- Due to the massive increase of the aging population, needs are increasing as well.
- The mass transit account is due to go broke by 2014 and the highway account by 2015.
- Wi State Legislature has established the "Transportation Finance and Policy Commission as part of the state's 2011-13 budget act to examine issues related to the future of transportation finance in Wisconsin, including transit.
- Several public meetings have been held throughout the state with the next one being scheduled for December 5, here in Madison, in which the Commission will report on their recommendations to the Governor and State Legislature by March 1, 2013. It is believed that some of the recommendations will become part of the state budget that the Governor proposes in February next year.
- An invitation has been extended to visit the 511 website at <http://www.511wi.gov/Web/> by Virginia Lingham, who manages part of the WI DOT website that has travel information, including transit information. This invitation is for the group to comment on the accessibility features of the website. Virginia is also available to make a presentation to the SCOB. For more information, refer to the DOT website.

2:45 PM O. Independent Living Centers – Mike Bacchuber & Chris ???

- Transportation is also an issue with ILC's. They are dealing with the 1916 act that was put into place so that the elderly had the right to transportation.
- The "Independent Living Council" was set up to help people with disabilities, maintain independence. -Issues for ILC's to consider include disaster preparedness and safety issues.
- ADRC's deal with long term care needs, physical, developmental and care issues mostly.
- ILC's have a broader mission dealing with transportation, employment and housing.

3:15 PM P. New Business

- a. Regional Issue for Visual Disability Support Services in Northwestern Wisconsin – Bill Gallik

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3:25 PM Q. Next Meeting: Schedule March 2013 date

Once scheduled, will let everyone know of the date.

3:30 PM R. Meeting Adjourned, moved by Ed Weiss, Second by Lee Young, meeting adjourned at 3:30.