

Monthly Board Meeting

December 19, 2016

The monthly meeting was held at the Northeast Independent Living Program Center at 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence, MA 01843 and began at 7:02 PM.

Attending: Adam Rajczyk, Daniel Rajczyk, Eva Rajczyk, and Thomas Wood

MISSION STATEMENT

We reviewed the AW Mission Statement both to remind us of what our mission is and to see if we need to change anything. It was decided that change was needed not only to the Mission Statement but also to our logo. Daniel Rajczyk told us that people are really confused as to whom we are trying to help. Since there are many agencies helping people on the lower end of the Autism Spectrum, we all agreed that a clarification was necessary. There was a short discussion about the definition of Asperger's Syndrome under the Autistic umbrella and we all agreed that "high-level Autism" is the same as Asperger's Syndrome.

Daniel Rajczyk motioned and Adam Rajczyk seconded that our logo be amended to "ASPERGER WORKS Putting Asperger's to work" and to amend the Mission Statement to read:

The mission of Asperger Works is to help put adults with Asperger's Syndrome (AS) to work by providing employment-related services and training in a caring and open environment and by educating employers about the desirability of employing adults with AS.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the changes.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Adam Rajczyk and seconded by Thomas Wood to accept the minutes of November 21, 2016 as presented to the Board by Eva Rajczyk. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Previous Balance (as of 11/30 Georgetown Bank)	\$ 206.98
Deposit	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 206.98
Disbursements	<u>-\$ 32.78</u>
Total	\$ 174.20

Previous Balance (as of 11/30 Pentucket Bank)	\$ 3,476.84
Deposit	\$ 5.85
Total	\$ 3,482.69
Disbursement	<u>-\$ 115.88</u>
Total	\$ 3,366.81

TOTAL (in both accounts) \$ 3,541.01

A motion was made by Eva Rajczyk and seconded by Thomas Wood to accept the treasurer's report as presented to the Board by Adam Rajczyk and file it for audit. The Board unanimously voted to accept.

JOB COACH

Since our new job coach, Judith Hinkle was not able to attend tonight's meeting, it was decided to table her introduction to the Board until our next meeting.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Daniel Rajczyk reported that he has been meeting with June Sauvageau of NILP, who has agreed to be his mentor, on a bi-weekly basis. He is confident that these meetings have been helping him learn about his job as Executive Director.
- Daniel Rajczyk also reported that he has made contact with Ashleigh Hiller, the director of the Center for Autism Research and Education at the University of Lowell for possible collaboration between our two organizations. Ms. Hiller and Mr. Rajczyk will be meeting on January 11, 2017.

SUPPORT GROUP

Thomas Wood reported that there were only three attendees at the last the Watercooler Live! Meeting on Saturday, December 3, 2016: Douglas Perry, Daniel Rajczyk, and Thomas Wood.

He also reported that there is an active Asperger's support group in Laconia, NH and suggested that a partnership could possibly be created between our two organizations. He said that he will be working on this after the Holidays. There could be the possibility of doing some activities together (including social activities). Also the possibility of having a small ad hoc conference sometime in April during Autism Awareness Month. This conference would also include various groups representing all people with disabilities including ADAP chapters from MA and NH. Again, Mr. Wood will research the feasibility of such a conference.

RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

Eva Rajczyk reported, for the record, that Advisory Board member Richard Rodriguez has been appointed to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Advisory Board by Governor Baker. The Rajczyk Family attended the local ceremony on December 16, 2016 at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover, MA.

Thomas Wood will introduce Mr. Rodriguez to ASAN and ADAP members.

OTHER

- **Meet & Greets**
 - Daniel Rajczyk moved and Thomas Wood seconded that we change the venue and the time of our first Meet & Greet. He has been informed by others who have run meet & greets that Friday is not a good day for such a meeting and that Wednesday seems to be the best day. Additionally, he has been advised that we should keep as much of our interactions with businesses within the City of Lawrence as possible. The Lawrence Senior Center was suggested. We would need to arrange the catering. Daniel Rajczyk will be in touch with the Center to find out if they could donate the venue.

The Board voted unanimously to accept Daniel Rajczyk's motion.

- Daniel Rajczyk made a motion that we should form a Meet & Greet Committee. It was seconded by Adam Rajczyk. The Board voted unanimously to accept the motion.

- **INTERNSHIP** – Eva Rajczyk reported that our first Intern, Sahar Alhamdan, has completed her internship and has finished her studies. She will be returning to Saudi Arabia tomorrow on December 20. Eva has been in touch with Sahar's advisor who assured Ms. Rajczyk that we could have more interns from her program
- **NILP RFP** – Daniel Rajczyk reported that one benefit of this collaboration with NILP is that Ms. Sauvageau has included AWorks in NILP's MRC grant application. If approved, AWorks would be receiving \$25,000. Like the CDBG funding from the City of Lawrence, we would have to spend the money before we could receive it. More details will be provided as they become available.
- **CDBG Funding** – Daniel Rajczyk reported that the 2017-2018 application is due in February. Although we will have to pay for an auditor, we can include the cost in our application.
- **State Senator Barbara L'Italien's 2nd Annual Lawrence Holiday Party** – Eva Rajczyk moved and Daniel Rajczyk seconded that like last year, we support the Senator's drive to help our vets through donation of personal care supplies, etc. up to \$50.00 at her holiday party on Wednesday, December 21. The Board voted unanimously to donate \$50-worth of personal care supplies to our veterans.
- **Sean Bardoo** – Tonight was the third consecutive meeting from which Mr. Bardoo has been absent without just cause. It has become apparent that Mr. Bardoo is no longer interested in being part of our organization. According to **Section 4.06 (a)** of the **Bylaws**, "a director may be removed by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors then in office, if the director is absent and unexcused from two or more meetings of the Board of Directors in a twelve month period."

Daniel Rajczyk made a motion, that was seconded by Adam Rajczyk, to send a letter to Mr. Bardoo informing him that he is no longer a member of the Board. It was with regret that the Board voted unanimously to abide by the Bylaws of our organization.

Daniel Rajczyk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Eva Rajczyk and was unanimously approved by the Board. The meeting formally adjourned at 7:54 PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Barbara L'Italien's Holiday Party–Wednesday, December 21, 2016–Attika, 1 Mill Street, Lawrence (6:00 – 9:00 PM)

AWorks Support Group Meeting–Saturday, January 7, 2017–NIPL, 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (2:00 – 4:00 PM)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Monday, January 16, 2017

Monthly Meeting – Monday, January 23, 2017 – 20 Ballard Road, Lawrence (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

Minutes respectfully submitted to the Board by,

Eva

M. Eva Rajczyk
Board Secretary