**National Federation of the Blind**

**Greater Akron Chapter**

**FEB 22, 2020 Meeting at the Akron Main Library, 11 am**

Dave Bertsch called the meeting to order. Stephanie took roll call. There were 4 guests from the Cleveland Chapter, including Suzanne Turner VP for the State Affiliate. Andra read the One Minute Message for the NFB. Andra Lead the group with the One Minute Message

President’s remarks: Dave announced Andra was approved to attend the Louisiana Center for the Blind later this year. Dave also mentioned the letter that Alex French sent regarding his 1st time at the National Convention and what a rewarding experience it was.

Dave updated the group on the NLS Talking Book Program, and told the Braille eReaders will be available in 2021. Braille resources and an “Accessible Zone” are being updated here at the Akron library. It is important to borrow the materials and request accessible resources you need so the library keeps them available. Dave and Andra met with a group at OOD for a quarterly gathering to improve resources and upcoming projects in the area.

Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the November 16 meeting were approved by Jessica. Minutes for the Dec 21 meeting were approved by Pat. The January meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Treasurer Report: Jan 1 balance $ 393.23. There were no deposits or expenses for the month. Balance today $393.23.

Committee Reports:

Publicity and Social Media – Dave reported on the Facebook updates. We participated with Akron University on January 22 at their Office of Accessibility resources event.

Newsline: Pat discussed the access for Newsline. She encouraged members to call her for assistance.

Veterasn: Ken is willing to assist any veteran with establishing assistance and ongoing training thru the VA. Looking for ways the NFB can help.

Outreach: Andra updated the group on the top 3 legislation items being championed by the NFB. The State will host an event April 6-7 in Columbus at the statehouse to speak to legislators. Our group was asked to participate in the AARP meeting in Green at the end of April.

Events: Colleen announced we would be planning an event in September with the local ACB group at the Akron Zoo. Also planning an education and technology event soon. Ken expressed interest in meeting for lunch at Lembos Restaurant. More info to follow.

Membership:

Reminder that dues will be due July 1.

Convention: National Convention is July 14-19. Pat and Andra reminded the group of the Jernigan scholarship and the Ohio Affiliate assistance are still available to help defer costs. Deadline is February 29.

Suzanne Turner spoke to the group about growing the NFB membership, as well as some highlights to expect from the National and State Conventions.

Gloria Conway invited everyone to join the Sharing Solutions conference call on the 3rd Sunday of each month. She gave a recap of the topics discussed and is always looking for ideas that others would benefit from.

Other Business and Important Dates:

March 21 Meeting at Library Room 2

April 6-7 Columbus Seminar

April 17 Canton OOD Forum

April 18 Meeting at Library non-24 Sleep

April 28 Green AARP Chapter

May 16 Meeting at TBD

July 14 - 19 National Convention

Meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Bertsch, Secretary