March 21, 2020 Meeting held via Conference Call, 11 am

Dave Bertsch called the meeting to order. Stephanie took roll call. 21 members were on the call and 5 guests, including Richard Payne, Suzanne Turner and Jim Weiss.

Andra read the One Minute Message for the NFB. The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

Dave added a sentence he had seen, The NFB is not an organization speaking for the blind; it is the blind speaking for ourselves.

President’s remarks: Dave told the group Success in NOT a secret, and asked everyone to think about 1-2 words that describe success. Responses included Camraderie, Loyalty , Inspiration, Interaction) to name a few.

Dave updated the group on the “Accessible Zone” at the Akron Library. It is important to borrow the materials and request the accessible resources so the library maintains them and expands them.

Reports

Secretary: Minutes from the February meeting will be sent prior to the March meeting for approval.

Treasurer: Todays balance $393.23. There was no update for the month.

Committee Reports:

Publicity and Social Media – Dave reported on the Facebook updates.

Newsline: Pat urged members to use Newsline for Covid-19 updates.

Outreach: Andra updated the group on the top 3 legislative priorities being promoted by the NFB and urged everyone to write and call senators on the issues. The State will host the Columbus seminar April 6-7 at the statehouse. Our group was asked to participate in the AARP meeting in Green at the end of April. Andra also asked if the group would like to participate in outreach to first responders or nursing homes. She will update the group further.

Events: Colleen is planning a social event in September with the local ACB at the Akron Zoo. Also planning an education and technology event. Our May 16 meeting is being confirmed for a new location—Haven of Rest.

Fundraising: Dave is checking into Bob Evans and Beef o Brady’s for fundraisers, and reminded the group this should be used as ‘Fun’ raising, with outreach, fun and raising money all bundled together.

Constitution: Pat will lead this new committee. She is looking to review and update just a few things in the constitution. She will provide updates at another date.

Membership: Reminder dues will be due July 1. Jimmy Parsons was officially approved as a new member with a unanimous vote and swearing in. We are looking for volunteers to help with a call list, when members need reminder calls or checked on.

Conventions: Pat encouraged everyone to get hotel and flight reservations in for the national convention in July.

Other Business

Camryn gave an update on the Braille Challenge she participated in and the award she won a fourth straight year. Way to go!

Dave lead a discussion topic on different Cooking Techniques and asked for suggestions. Some suggestions were to use “Be My Eyes” and other apps. Also suggested were talking thermometers, and using bump dots and puffy paints to mark appliances.

Important Dates:

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

Pat motioned for meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Bertsch, Secretary