National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Greater Akron Chapter

Meeting Minutes for Oct 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. on our Chapter Conference Call Line.

Stephanie took roll call, with 13 members and 2 guests present. Guests including Jim Weiss and Dr. Cheryl Reed from UDS as our guest speaker. Thank you for joining us!

Dave lead the group reading the 1-Minute Message: 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.

Guest Speaker : Dr. Reed the Director of Low Vision Services of UDS Akron spoke about the different resources that are currently available with low vision technology. She discussed valuable information about various devices and their uses, as well as costs for each.

President’s Remarks

Dave announced the October Birthdays—Chrissy, Bob Legg, and Stephanie.

In November we will be holding our chapter elections for President, and Vice President. Those interested should contact the Nominating Committee, prior to the November meeting.

We are still working with the Akron Library setting up Accessibility Zone with Braille books and PC’s for People program soon. The Library will not be able to hold any group meetings for the rest of the year.

Dave also announced that the Center for Independent Living donated extra masks and sanitizer for our group to use. He will distribute to those who need.

Reports

Secretary Report: Minutes from Sept 19, 2020 were voted on and approved by Jessica, with Andra 2nd.

Treasurer Report: Current balance remains as $343.23. We will be purchasing the $100.00 gift cards soon for the convention door prizes. Beef o Brady’s fundraiser we raised a total of $213- $103 from the food, and $110.00 in donations. We also collected dues for 27 members, total $270.00. Expenses to State $37.00 and Oct 20 PAC $5.00, total expenses $42.00. All will be deposited by November meeting.

Committee Reports

Publicity and Social Media Committee: Dave mentioned we have over 200 Facebook followers.

Fundraising Committee: Total earned $213 at Beef o’ Brady’s event Also, the chapter is now registered for Acme cash back program by saving receipts Dave sent fliers to every member in the mail. We will submit all receipts in late December, and get paid!

Newsline Committee: Pat shared updates on Newsline and said they are adding information on the upcoming elections. As well as important updates regarding Covid-19.

Outreach Committee: Andra talked about the upcoming State Convention and being a part of the resolution committee for the convention.

Membership Committee: Dave mentioned that some of the previous members chose not to renew membership, but hoped that the group would stay in contact with them. 4 new members were announced and voted in by the group. They include: John & Sandra Gattuso, Kristen Coen, and Donna Meneges.

Conventions Committee: Pat said most members are registered NFB Ohio State Convention and Oct 18 was the deadline to register to vote. Pat also talked about the schedule for the convention that included the Rookie Roundup Call on Nov 4 at 6:30, Nov 5 at 3 pm is the Exhibit Seminar, and later that night is a virtual happy hour. Everyone is welcome to join. Pat aid the full agenda would be available on Ohio Talk and NFBOhio.org.

Events Committee: We still have a room reserved at On Tap, Cuyahoga Falls if we are able to hold a holiday gathering in December.

Other Business

Important Dates were shared, including:

November 6-8 State Convention via Zoom

November 21 Meeting via conference call.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 with a motion from Pat and seconded by Jessica.