**National Federation of the Blind of Ohio**

**Greater Akron Chapter**

**Minutes of our March 20, 2021 meeting.**

**The meeting was called to order by Dave Bertsch at 11:03 a.m. on our Conference Line. Dave took roll call, explaining that our Secretary Stephanie was attending to her mother who is at UH for more heart tests and procedures. Our Vice President was also not with us, as Jessica has some challenges right now and deadlines regarding her schooling, and by golly we need our VP to get that degree and be able to teach us how to make some good music. Krissy Coen who shared Jessica’s challenge which we know she will get through with flying colors. Thoughts and prayers were offered by several members for Stephanie and her mom, and for Jessica’s situation. We also learned our Andra Stover is attending the Midwest Students event today at/with the Louisiana Center. As for the roll call itself, we still enjoyed 18 members and 1 guest on the call today.**

**Dave led the group in our 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.**

**President’s Report**

**Dave asked Sharon to lead us in a 5 minute Tai Chi warm-up, which we did and all got limber and loose as a goose. Thanks Sharon.**

**Dave announced our March Birthdays Beth and Michael, as well as some upcoming meetings such as Sharing Solutions and the Leadership Training next Saturday from 1 to 5 on Ohio Zoom.**

**He also reminded us of the new Donations committee to be created over the next few months. If you are interested in being a part of it let Dave know.**

**We touched on the Covid situation and vcaccines, and most members have gotten their first shot. There are many places a person can and should register, including Walgreens and CVS, Summit County and even smaller pharmacies like Sand Run. Todd went to Ravenna, Dave to Cleveland, to get available shots. As we get closer to March 29 the shots will be open to a wider population, we urge all members and their families to get vaccinated.**

**Reports**

**Secretary**

**February minutes were sent to all on Thursday March 18. Pat motioned to approve them and Kathy seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.**

**Treasurer**

**Pat reported the balance at February meeting was $680.23. Since then we deposited $30 in dues, and sent $5 to the PAC plan, leaving a current balance of $705.23. We anticipate receiving a check from Acme soon, and one from Pampered Chef to deposit by next meeting. Dave also mentioned he has another $20 in dues he has mailed to Pat for deposit.**

**Committee Reports**

**Publicity and Social Media Committee**

**Dave shared the Facebook page activity, and Alex shared a new audio meeting platfoerm he is using foe other meetings, called Clubhouse, which we may check out for future or special meetings and/or events.**

**Newsline Committee**

**Pat and Todd J. mentioned the tech issues Newsline has been having, especially at 9 p.m.**

**Veterans Committee**

**no report**

**Fundraising Committee**

**Dave recapped the comments made earlier that checks are expected from Acme and Pampered Chef soon. Also Beef O’Bradys is interested in hosting us agin this fall, and we remain open to exploring a fundraising event at another venue or restaurant, so if you know a place or have a contact, let Dave know.**

**Conventions Committee**

**Pat and Richard both reminded all of the state convention being held in Columbus, the first weekend in November. The room rate is just $85 and includes two breakfasts. The national onvention is open for registration and will, as last year, be entirely virtual.**

**Events Committee**

**No events to report, although Todd shared the Highbrook has unfortunately closed and canceled everything for the entire year, but that Cleveland Sight Center does still do daily teleconference and Zoom programs. Call Todd for more info on these, at 330-612-4200.**

**Membership Committee**

**We had a new member for consideration and a vote today, Michael Moore. He has paid dues and shared some information about himself;minclding that he is a braille teacher. The members voted in Michael as a new member unanimously, motion by Jimmy and seconded by Pat, and we welcomed him as only Akron can. Dave led Michael in the NFB Pledge: I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its Constitution.**

**Community Outreach**

**no report**

**Technology** **Committee**

**Kathy led a discussion on several tech topics. First, the BARD system will not work with iOS 11 or older versions, so if your iPhone or iPad is using that operating system or older, and you want to access BARD that way, you need to upgrade. Next, we heard about the iMac, which is the desktop version, and the Macbook, which is the laptop version of Mac. The Macbook comes in two versions, the Air, which has function keys and easier to learn and use than th Pro version which does not. The floor was opened for members to share their favorite technology. Pat started with her iPhone, which Dave echoed, as the most useful resource. Cammie said her old school Apex brailler, and Michael likes his Focus Forty brailler. Kathy also mentioned the survey her committee will do soon, to see what technology each of us uses most and what issues we are facing, to put together topics for the committee to present that will benefit the most of us. Please participate fully when you are contacted by the committee.**

**Other Business**

**Remember to contribte recipes to the affiliate cookbook project. You can send them to Pat at** **patrinkle@icloud.com****.**

**Guest Comments**

**Rrichard Payne reminded us of the meeting on Ohio Zoom, with OOD staff on Tuesday the 23rd at 4:30. We need to be informed about what OOD does for us and those we can help, and show OOD that we care and represent the affiliate in big numbers. Please call or click in.**

**Dave thanked everyone for another great Akron meeting.**

**Dates**

**Next Meeting - April 17**

**National Convention - July 2021 Virtual**

**State Convention - November 5-7 2021 in Columbus**

**Adjourn**

**Somebody made a motion to adjourn and somebody seconded the motion, amidst a sudden flood of background noise on the line. Have a great week everyone.**