Capital Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2014

President Shelbi Hindel called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Attended by- Shelbi Hindel, Eric Duffy Angela Clark, Carol Akers, Laverne Nevis, and Annette Lutz. Angela’s mom and Carol’s son, Dustin were also present.

The March minutes were read and a motion was made (Eric/Angela) to accept them as read. Passed unam.

The treasurer’s report was read, but due to some questions regarding the amounts of the noted deposits and their source, no motion was made to accept the report. The current balance was reported as $648.78.

Eric played this month’s Presidential release which contained the following highlights-

The Dr. Jacob Blotain award nomination deadline was extended until April 15. This award is for someone who demonstrates the philosophy of the NFB and the winner will be announced at the convention.

The NFB is offering a free slate and stylus to anyone interested. For more information go to nfb.org/free-slate-program.

There is a braille essay contest featuring the topics of either how braille allows someone to be independent or on how world peace is related to blindness. The deadline for submittal is April. There will be cash prizes and two catagories of winners, those under 25 and those over 25. More information is available at the NFB website.

Convention registration is now being accepted. The cost is $25 before convention and $30 at the door. The banquet is $55 if preregistered, or $60 at the door. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-204-7234.

Emphasis will be made to make the convention accessable to deaf/blind individuals.

Dr. Mauer expressed his support to ParnellDiggs, a blind attorney running for the Attorney General of South Carolina. Mr. Diggs is the affiliate president of that state.

The NFB is working with H&R Block to make their website accessable, with an anticipated deadline of early 2015.

A settlement has been reached with the University of Montana to allow blind access to all functions.

There is a petition posted on the website change.org which would require all home appliances to be accessible. All were encouraged to sign.

Eric updated the group on a compromise reached in the Work Enforcement Act which eliminates most of the objectionable language in section 511. He states that the Rehabilitation Services Aministration would now stay in the Dept. of education, and though the idea of shelter work environments hasn’t been eliminated,it is better than it was. He still encourages contact with congressional representatives on this and the other pressing issues.

White Cane week is the week of May 15. It was decided that the chapter would not do any related activities at this time, but would focus on this fall’s Meet the Blind month.

Due to the fact that May’s meeting would be scheduled for Memorial Day, it was decided to hold the meeting one week earlier on May 19th.

Jim Debus wasn’t available to present his report on an article. Annette will do next month’s report.

A motion was made (Eric/Angela) for the chapter to donate $25 to the NFBO to contribute to door prizes for national convention. Eric also mentioned the raffle for the Jernigan fund where the winner would receive all expenses paid to convention and $1000 spending money. This year’s convention will be in Orlando, Florida from July 1-6.

This year’s BELL Program will be held at OSSB and will begin on July 21. Eric stressed the need to raise more money for this valuable program, and stated that if not enough was raised, the program would not be able to continue after this year.

It is hoped that the Student Division gift card raffle will be held on May 2. It had to be delayed while the division established accounts and a process for carrying out the raffle.

There was some brief discussion about the two ride sharing options in Columbus. All who have used these services spoke on their reliability and convenience. Both companies are facing legal challenges with the city, but it is hoped that everything will work out for them to continue operation.

The NFB is offering a program for blind students focusing on the Science, Technology, Engenieering, and Math aspects called “Stem2You.” One of the sites will be at COSI and will be held next May. This program encourages blind students to pursue these fields and focuses on the fact that blindness isn’t a deterent to being successful in such fields.

The application deadline for NFBO Scholarships is May 15.

The NFB is currently distributing a one minute messge to let interested individuals know what the organization is all about. Everyone is encouraged to use this message whenever possible. It is the beginning part of the branding that NFB is establishing. The message reads: The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Everyday we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can have the life you wand: blindness is not what holds you back.

This year’s pool party at Angela’s will be held on August 22.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Lutz