Capital Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2016

President Shelbi Hindel brought the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Attended by: Shelbi Hindel, Eric Duffy, J.W. Smith, Jordi Stringer, Stephanie Claytor, MariLyn Pietho, Carol Akers, Jim Debus, Beth Debus, Misty Hatcher, and Annette Lutz.

A motion was made (J.W./Eric) to accept the January minutes. Passed Unam.

Stephanie reported the chapter’s balance as $526.15, but was unsure of some recent transactions that had appeared from the account. Shelbi explained that she had used some funds for previously voted on uses, and did not know that Stephanie was unaware of them. Both agreed to be more communicative in the future.

Several members attended the OSSB Louis Braille party, and reported it a success. The kids seemed to have a good time, and we will work hard to make it even better next year.

Due to the unusual weather condition, the Washington Seminar was limited. However, Eric reported that 6 of the 9 Ohio Delegation was able to attend, and that most meetings with Congressional Representatives did take place. He encouraged everyone to keep up on communicating the NFB issues with their Reps.

Some discussion took place as to whether or not members knew their federal and state legislative representatives/senators. A list is being worked on for distribution so everyone knows who to contact in their district. Effort will be made to invite some representative from both levels to future chapter meetings.

Eric reported on an NFB victory in a case in Seneca County, where three workers in a sheltered workshop sued for fair minimum wages, and were awarded not only the pay they deserve in the future, but back pay. This victory came from a rarely used argument where the employer had to prove that it was due to a disability that an employee was less productive than a nondisabled individual. It is hope that this case will open the doors for future cases nationwide to stop the unfair payment of the blind and other disabled workers subminimum wages.

Shelbi reminded everyone of the petition to the White House to release internet regulations for accessability that is currently in need of signatures. This petition is only available until February 11, and still needs thousands to sign. The link is available via previously posted list serve emails.

Jordi reported that there is a “Student Tool Kit” posted on the NFB website, giving college students tips and tools for self advocacy with their University.

Shelbi reminded everyone of the ongoing state fundraising projects, including Schwans, Malley’s and Scrip. Also, that the affiliate wil be participating in the two upcoming 5K events, the first of which will be held on June 26 as a part of that day’s Charity Run. Members wanting to participate in this event will work together as a team, and we will decide on a team name and look into buying visors or some other identifying item at the March meeting. A motion was made (J.W./Stephanie) for the chapter to contribute $300 towards the registration fees for members to participate in this event. Passed unam.

Carole described a fundraising project for the “Marching for Independence” initiative in conjunction with the Flying Pig Marathon to be held in Cincinnati April 29-May 2. The affiliate can earn money two ways. First, by volunteering at the event, and secondly, by buying tickets for the “piggest Raffle.” Volunteers are paid for their time, and more information will be forthcoming via the Ohio Talk list serve on how to help with this. Those interested in the raffle can either go online to buy tickets, or buy paper tickets from Carole. The raffle grand prize is $10,000 to be split between the winner and their organization. All are encouraged to participate.

Carole also spoke of a potential fundraising opportunity where corporate volunteers do work for an organization and have their employer match their time with funds. Members were unsure if this would work wellfor our organization, but would keep it in mind for future events.

J.W. gave the Monitor Report describing his article about previous banquet addresses of former NFB leaders. It took several years to research, and he is hopeful to make the addresses available via MP3 format to share. Great article Dr.! Stephanie will do next month’s report.

Shelbi warned everyone that we will be looking over the chapter constitution for needed amendments at next month’s meeting.

The next NFBO Board meeting will be held via conference call on April 16. All are welcome to attend.

Shelbi played this month’s Presidential Release and reminded everyone that it was also available on the NFB Connect App.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lutz