Capital Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

Saturday January 7, 2017

President Shelbi Hindel brought the meeting to order at 10:00.

Attended by: Shelbi Hindel, Mike Leiterman, Heather Leiterman, Alex Crawford, Dale Pennington, Linda Pennington, Marilyn Deweese, Jordy Stringer, Stephanie Claytor, Paul Tetis, Dustin Granstaff, Misty Hatcher, and Annette Lutz.

A motion was made (Jordy/Heather) to accept the December minutes as distributed. Passed Unam.

There was no Treasurer’s report presented.

Mike gave a recap of the recent bequest believed to have been intended for the Capital Chapter. He said after much negotiation, and the input of the National NFB office, that he felt it was best to give up the fight and allow the money to be given to the affiliate. He did say however, that this does not change his strong belief that it was the true intention of the deceased benefactor for this money to be given to the chapter. He stated that a long fight would have resulted in less funds being given to not only the NFB, but the several other beneficiaries.

Shelbi talked about her recent case with the Disability Rights Ohio office against the Ohio Secretary of State to make absentee ballots accessable. Though this hasn’t been done as of yet, the Secretary of State has initiated online voter registration and is looking for blind people who are not currently registered to vote and who use screen readers to use the site to register to test accessability. If interested let Shelbi know.

Shelbi reminded everyone of the continued fundraising options of both the chapter and the affiliate, including the sale of the Foodie Cards, Scrip gift cards, and the NFB tumblers and water bottles. Stephanie mentioned her work to try to obtain grant money from a company that she is working with. She wil report more in the future.

Jordy is now the Chairperson of the state Scholarship committee and gave an update on both the state and national scholarships available through the NFB. He would like to hold a workshop similar to the one held last year after the March 4 chapter meeting to encourage and assist students to apply for the national awards, and possably a future workshop to focus on the state ones. Jordy will also be approaching all chapters about fundraising for the state sponsored scholarships. After some discussion, members felt that the affiliate board should be asked to use some of the funds from the bequest that the chapter acquiesced towards scholarships. Shelbi will bring this to the board at the next meeting.

Several members will be attending this year’s Washington Seminar at the end of the month. This year’s topics to be discussed with congressional Representatives and Senators include the Americash Treaty, the AIMHE Act, funding to allow refreshable braille displays to be purchased by the National Library Service for distribution to patrons, and an act to allow an income tax credit on the purchase of accessable equipment. A full report of the seminar will be given in February.

Annette gave an update on some of the concerns currently being faced by the Merchants Division. She explained that there may be a new push to privatize interstate rest areas and highways, potentially causing hundreds of blind vendors their jobs and severe financial harm to BE Programs nationwide. She’ll keep everyone informed.

Heather invited all Parents of Blind Children to that division’s upcoming informational session on Sunday February 5 at 12:00 pm in the Multipurpose room at OSSB. Please spread the word.

Also, spread the word about the newly established Students Division. They are beginning a fundraising effort where Kroger customers can sign up to benefit the division by using their Kroger customer cards and allowing a percentage of their purchase to be sen to this group. For more information, contact Alex.

Shelbi stated that our chapter won this year’s Gavel Award, and asked for everyone’s help to continue to keep tabs of what members are doing to help us win next year. Whenever someone does something to promote blindness skills or demonstrate the abilities of the blind, as well as advocate for the rights of the blind, let Shelbi know so she can report this for next year.

Dustin stated that Chase Bank is looking for a handful of blind people to test the accessability of ATM machines. He will send out more information on the list serve.

Dustin was late to the meeting due to the fact that an Uber driver refused to allow his Guide dog in their car. He stated that this does happen periodically, but that Uber has been good at responding and has fired drivers that didn’t comply with the law.

Shelbi reminded everyone to sign up for the list serves at nfbnet.org. She also mentioned that many newspapers as well as NFB publications are available on Newsline,and encouraged everyone to use this service.

Heather will contact those on the committee about the Louis Braille party at OSSB.

Mike is looking into a possable social outing to Cedar Point for members this summer. He will report backat a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lutz