Capital Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

Saturday March 4, 2017

Vice-President Heather Literman brought the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Attended by: Heather Leiterman, Mike Leiterman, Alex Crawford, Carol Akers, Dustin Granstaff, Jordy Stringer, MariLyn Piepho, Dale Pennington, Marilyn Deweese, Stephanie Claytor, Paul Tety, Misty Hatcher and Annette Lutz.

A motion was made (Jordy/Dustin) to accept the February minutes as distributed. Passed unam.

Once again there was no official Treasurer’s report given, but the state balance was reported as $8872.65, and the Chapter balance as approximately $1070. Some concern was expressed over the lack of Treasurer participation and whether or not Laura was able to continue to do the job. Mike explained that Laura was having transportation issues, and was hopeful to get them resolved by the next meeting. Everyone seemed understanding of this and wanted to give her the chance to participate.

Heather encouraged everyone to sign up for the various list serves at nfbnet.org. There are email lists for both the chapter and affiliate, as well as many others that may be of interest.

TheLegislative Committee is planning to put together a day here in Columbus similar to Washington Seminar where membrs meet with representatives and Senators from the general assembly to discuss various issues impacting the blind. The date has not yet been set, but information about this should come out soon. The topics that will be focused on include a Parents Bill of Rights, issues surrounding OOD, and public transportation.

There was a brief discussion about concerns regarding COTA and what should be done about the possible decrease in service. Jordy was going to explore how to become involved in their accessible transportation committee.

Instead of giving a publication report for the month, Jordy gave an update of some of the current work of the national office. They are currently involved in 2 lawsuits on behalf of the blind. The first is in California where 2 students are sueing a community college over a lack of accessible materials and the second involves a massage student denied the use of braille because it would supposedly give her an “unfair advantage.”

There is a new version of the KNFB Reader that will work with Windows 10. This is for the computer and will work just like Open Books, but is much cheaper. Nobody present had yet tried this new version, so not much more was known about it.

Stephanie reported that she had been in touch with OSSB about the Louis Braille party, and that bothApril 6 and 13 were available. The group decided that the 6th would work better. Several members volunteered to work that day. Stephanie stated that she would contact the school and let them know. A motion was made (Mike/Jordy) to increase the amount that could be spent on the party from $150 to $200. Passed unam.

The NFB-Oh Board meeting will be held in Columbus on Saturday April 22 at a venue to be named later. All are encouraged to attend.

Jason from Disability Rights Ohio is still looking for people who use screenreaders to register to vote online to test the site’s accessibility. Contact Shelbi for more information.

Annette reported that the affiliate is going to be holding a couple of upcoming fundraisers. First, we will be having an Easter candy sale through Wagner Chocolates to begin at any time. Information will be sent out on Ohio Talk as soon as the website is active. We will also be participating again in the Piggest Raffle Ever. This is a raffle conducted through the Flying Pig marathon where the grand prize is $5000 for both the winner and their charity of choice. Tickets are $5.00 each and are available online and as paper copies. Those present decided for the chapter not to take on any paper tickets, but to spread the word to buy tickets online. For every ticket sold, the entire $5.00 goes to the affiliate, and the Fundraising committee has decided to give $1 of this to each chapter that sells the tickets. There is also a need for volunteers to work at the “BLT” tissue station on May 7th in Cincinnati during the marathon. If interested in volunteering, contact Sheri Albers.

The affiliate continues to earn money through the Scrip program. Everyone is encouraged to sign up and use this site to buy gift cards for their everyday purchases.

After this meeting, a Scholarship Seminar will be held. To assist interested students to apply for NFB scholarships. Jordy believes that we will have at least 6 interested students attend.

The Parents of Blind Children will be holding their first introductory meeting at OSSB on Sunday March 12 at noon. Anyone interested in more information should contact Heather.

Mike is still working on putting together atrip this summer. He stated that the cost is pretty high for a bus, but is working on trying to get a company to bring the cost down. There was some talk about opening up the event for the entire affiliate, and most of those present thought this was a good idea to allow for more people to be involved. Right now he is looking at Cedar Point as a possible destination. MariLyn also had some ideas that Mike will look into as well.

A motion was made (Marilyn/Mike) for the chapter to provide $600 in assistance to attend National Convention to any dues paying member wishing to attend who has attended at least 3 out of the first 6 chapter meetings of 2017. Passed with Jordy abstaining.

A motion was made (MariLyn/Jordy) to donate $300 to the church for allowing us to use their room for chapter meetings and events, and to encourage members in attendance to bring at least 2 items or $2 to each meeting to contribute to their pantry drive. Passed Unam.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.

Carol Collected dues and Foodie Card money and will deposit it into the chapter account.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lutz