Capatal Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 13, 2017

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

Attended by- Heather Leiterman, Mike Leiterman, Alex Crawford, Thomas Alfred, MariLyn Piepho, J.W. Smith, Jordy Stringer, Stephanie Claytor, Paul Tety, Carol Akers, Dustin Akers, Cassandra Mendez, Jim Debus, Beth Debus, Misty Hatcher, and Annette Lutz.

Annette stated that the minutes from April needed to be corrected to indicate that Dustin Akers had been present. A motion was made (J.W./Alex) to accept the April minutes as corrected. Passed Unam.

Stephanie reported the chapter’s bank balance as $1064.32. This balance included expenses for the Louis Braille party at OSSB. Members were pleased with the report and look forward to such a report at every meeting. A motion was made (Annette/J.W.) to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Passed unam.

A summary was given of this past week’s Legislative Day that the affiliate sponsored here in Columbus where several members met with state legislators on blindness issues including a blind Parents bill of rights, a revision to the Guide Dog laws, and the needed legislation to change OOD’s current commission to a State Rehabilitation Council. The day was thought to be a great success and we are already seeing some movement on some of the topics.

Annette gave a report on the current happenings of the Merchant Division and the Ohio Business Enterprise Program. She talked about the national division’s upcoming fly in in Washington D.C. to discuss issues such as commercialization of rest areas, the troop dining priority, and problems with the VA. She also gave a recap of this past week’s Statewide meeting and discussed plans for future growth of the program.

J.W. and Jordy recapped last month’s State Board meeting, citing some of the highlights as the discussion with OOD representative Sarah Kelly and the demonstration of the Aira system. Everyone who had attended thought it had been a good meeting. J.W. thanked Shelbi and Carol for their work in setting up and cleaning up the room, and expressed his hope that more local members would assist and attend in the future.

Heather, Mike, Alex, and Stephanie will be working a table at the main library downtown on Tuesday May 16 to promote the NFB at an event called Raising Canes. This event is designed for various blindness organizations to increase public awareness in accordance with white cane safety week. Thanks to all of those who are participating.

Some discussion took place over recent concerns expressed about COTA’s changes in their impact on accessability. A committee was formed consisting of Mike, (chair) Jordy, and MariLyn to bring back suggestions to the next meeting on how our chapter cantake the most effective role in dealing with our concerns.

Volunteers are still needed for this year’s BELL Academy to be held at OSSB June 25-30. If interested, contact Heather. A motion was made (J.W./Mike) for the chapter to donate $200.00 towards BELL. Passed Unam.

Some fundraising ideas were discussed, including a car wash to be held this summer. It was decided that more information was needed before concrete plans could be made, so this will be discussed more at the June meeting. In addition, each member is to come to the June meeting with a fundraising idea that they have researched that could be a possibility for our chapter to implement.

All members were encouraged to sign up for various list serves at nfbnet.org.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lutz