Capital Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Meeting Minutes

Saturday December 2, 2017

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

Attended by- Shelbi Hindel, Heather Leiterman, Mike Leiterman, Dale Pennington, Marilyn Pennington, Linda Pennington, Thomas Alfred, Dustin Granstaff, Cindy Gamble, Mike Gamble, Carol Akers, Dustin Akers, MariLyn Piepho, Wes Darby, Meagan Weiner, Misty Hatcher, and Annette Lutz.

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

Once again, there was no Treasurer’s report. Dale will take over as Treasurer in January, and is hopeful to be able to report then. Shelbi, Dale and Annette are planning to go to Hunington this month to change the account over to the new Board members. A question was raised about the money due the chapter from this summer’s beer pouring fundraiser. Nobody is sure where the money was sent. Since Jim Debus as the coordinator for this event, Shelbi will contact him to find out what happened. This is at least $1000 owed to the chapter.

There was a lot of discussion about the recent poor performance of Project Mainstream. Various members shared recent stories of being left at places for hours after their scheduled pick-up times, and of rude and uncaring individuals at COTA. Some ideas where given of what might be able to be done to help with the situation. It was decided that since this inability to count on our paratransit service is having such negative impact on the abilities of the blind to be independent, that this was a NFB matter that needed our attention. Members will document this situation over the next month, and a plan for action will be developed at the next meeting.

Annette and Wes described Aira to the group. Aira is a subscription based service where the subscriber receives a pair of smart glasses that connects with a smart phone, which then connects to a sighted person to help describe what is being seen through the camera on the glasses. Both gave examples of different times when they have used the service, and were both complimentary on how great the service is. Some expressed concerns about the high cost of the service, but it is believed that Aira is hopeful that the more members that sign up the lower the cost will eventually become.

There has been no known movement on the OSSB Louis Braille party, and Jim Debus was not present to ask. Heather will take over this project and report back in January.

The church will be holding their annual Christmas craft show next weekend if anyone would like to participate.

The next audio described performance of the SRO Theatre Group will be sometime this winter and will be “Titanic”. More information should be forthcoming.

Shelbi described some of the ongoing fundraisers of both the affiliate and the chapter. She reminded everyone of the Scrip program, and reported that orders were due by 6:00 pm on Wednesday the 6th. She mentioned the tumblers for sale at $18.00 also available through the affiliate. Locally, Shelbi still has many items for sale, and is still interested in getting them out of her house. It is believed that the Foodie Card company that we worked with earlier this year has gone out of business. We still have decks that expire this year, but there has been no answer when we tried to reach the company.

Some of the newer members stated that they have been unable to sign on to the chapter list serve. It is unclear who is the person in charge of approving new members. Wes will take over this function and will contact David Andrews to get more information.

Mike and Carol are both interested in attending Washington Seminar. After some discussion, it was decided that the chapter was unable to provide assistance at this time due to the unsure nature of our finances.

The affiliate will be holding another “March on Columbus” on April 10. It is hoped that several members will participate. Watch Ohio Talk for more information on this and other ongoing legislative news.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 and was followed by a fun Christmas gathering at the Rusty Bucket.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lutz