National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Capital Chapter

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2020

1. In compliance with the policy of the national Federation of the Blind concerning the Covid-19 pandemic the chapter met by phone. The meeting was called to order by President Annette Lutz at 10:00 AM.. Members present were, Bret Casey,Eric Duffy, Shelley Duffy, Misty Hatcher, Caroline Karbowski, Annette Lutz, Richard Payne, and JW Smith. Our guests were Suzanne Turner vice president of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, and William H. Turner Board member NFB-O.

2. JW Smith moved the adoption of the February meeting minutes as distributed by Email. Shelley Duffy seconded the motion, and it passed.

3. Shelley Duffy said she needs information from Annette so she can have complete access to the chapter bank account. She said she did get the debit card, and that she and Annette each now have debit cards for the chapter bank account. She deposited $10 for dues from Angela Clark. Annette was reimbursed $50 for expenses from the Louis Braille party for the students at the Ohio State School for the Blind. Eric Duffy moved the adoption of the report. JW Smith seconded the motion, and it passed.

4. Eric Duffy gave a brief legislative report. Nothing is happening with state legislation due to Covid-19. On the national level we are trying to get the Accessible Technology Affordability Act included in legislation passed to build the economy. We have also been working to get congress to give financial protection to Business Enterprise programs and operators around the country.

5. We talked about the many calls that are taking place in Ohio and throughout the country. NFB chapters and affiliates are hosting calls and Zoom meetings every day. There will be a call with the administration of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities on Tuesday May 5. Everyone is invited to participate. This is a chance to learn what the agency is doing during the shut-down. On Friday May 8, Suzanne Turner will host a meeting talking to women who are leaders in the National Federation of the Blind.

6. We discussed the idea of finding a way to honor graduating seniors from the Ohio State School for the Blind. The school year got cut short for these students as it did for all students in Ohio. We want to let them know that the Federation cares, and that we are here to support them. Richard said that this is a project that the Affiliate would like to be a part of. It was agreed that Annette would coordinate this project for the chapter.

7. We discussed the fact that this year our national convention will be a virtual convention. Many of the details are still being worked out, so we don’t have a lot of information now. We should all register for the convention online. Registration is free. The convention has been shortened by a day. It is now July 14-18.

8. Affiliates will not have separate Bell programs this year. The Bell in Home Edition is being run by the national organization this summer. We will have more information soon.

9. Eric Duffy said he was supposed to begin working for Spectrum on May first. He said he was hired by phone, and was given a start date of May 1. When he asked to have JAWS installed as a reasonable accommodation he was told he could not start working. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities has been told by Spectrum that screen readers are not compatible with their system. They were told this when trying to get another blind person hired by Spectrum. Spectrum is an OOD employer partner.

10. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Duffy

Secretary