National Federation of the Blind of Ohio Capital Chapter

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2020

1. In compliance with the policy of the national Federation of the Blind concerning the Covid-19 pandemic the chapter met by Zoom. This is the first time the chapter used this platform. The meeting was called to order by President Annette Lutz at 10:10 AM. Members present were Anne Casey, Eric Duffy, Misty Hatcher, Maggie Knutson, Jordy Stringer, Annette Lutz, and Richard Payne. Suzanne Turner and Jim Debus were guests.

2. The Presidential Release was played. This release was not made live. For the rest of the year we will have a live release on the first of the month at 8:00 pm.

3. We discussed the national convention. Of course this was a virtual convention, but it gave many people the opportunity to participate in a national convention for the first time. Annette Lutz, Misty Hatcher, and the Casey family were first time participants. We all agreed that it was a good convention. We were pleased with the way it worked in the virtual realm.

4. Affiliate President Payne then talked about the upcoming virtual state convention. The dates are November 6-8. We should all plan for the kind of convention we are used to in Ohio. The only difference being, of course, that we will not meet in person. Richard welcomes suggestions for agenda topics.

5. We discussed possible chapter activities for meet the blind month in October. Jordy suggested we compile sound clips that are short in length but give a positive message about blindness. They should be about thirty seconds long. Jordy can provide more direction. We agreed to take this on as a chapter project. Annette said she would put together a series of short interviews with Federationists for the chapter Voicecorps show.

6. Jim Debus gave a presentation about a project to create The Central Ohio Lighthouse for the Blind. He said that Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has agreed to provide substantial funding for the project. Jim is the Director of Development for the project, and Jordy Stringer is on the board. Although this project has been in the works for some time now, there has been no effort to involve the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio. President Payne and other leaders made it clear that the Federation supports the general concept of a training center for the blind in Central Ohio. However, we also made it clear that we will will only support a center that is founded on a solid foundation of positive beliefs and attitudes about blindness and that uses the structured discovery method of teaching. We are also not prepared to support anything without having substantive input regarding policies, programs, and operations. Both Jim Debus and Jordy Stringer told us that this Center is going to happen, because it already has the full support of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. They said they would have an office at the Ohio State School for the Blind and OOD funding, but for Covid-19.

7. The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Duffy Secretary