NFB OF CLARK COUNTY APRIL 2025 MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Chris Higley at the WSSB Staff lounge in the Erwin School building on April 12, 2025

Members were introduced:

The March minutes were presented for approval: Cory Grandstaff moved, Kaye Kipp seconded motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Treasurers report was presented by Doug Trimble: Current April balance $929.35. A

A summery of financial actions during March was presented. It was moved by Cory Grandstaff and Seconded by Bob Sellers to approve the treasurers report. Motion passed and the report was approved.

A motion was made by Doug Trimble to except Norm and Teresa as new members of the NFB of Clark County Chapter. The motion passed.

Doug Trimble gave a report from the Fund Raising Committee: The Committee discussed plans to present our fall wine tasting fundraiser on September 14 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 of 2025. The committee is in discussions with Don Mitchell and “Three Together” to present a fundraising concert this spring possibly in mid May or Early June. Other smaller fund raising events will be planned. Future committee meetings will be held on the First Friday of the month at 7:00 on zoom which will be May 2. The committee has set up a group chat so they can stay in contact between meetings. Cory reiterated that fundraising funds should be processed through the state account to make available the non-profit benefits to the donors. Cory reviewed other details concerning the Wine and Cheese event for consideration by the committee. Bob Sellers will investigate entertainment for the event. Don Mitchell reviewed the costs and possible income that might be generated. “Three Together” would be paid $300.00 and we would sell tickets for $20.00. If we could sell 150 tickets we could clear $2700.00 income from the event. Don Mitchell suggested that a publicity committee be established to advertise the concert. Kaye Kipp moved that we shoot for June 14 for the fund raising concert. Doug Trimble seconded and the motion passed.

Cory Grandstaff reported that the Community Engagement Committee has not met, as yet, because of the large amount of legislative work that has been going on. He reported that a group of members went up to Olympia on April second to advocate for increasing the budgeted support for the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library back to its full 6.5 million level. If funding cannot be maintained significant cuts to the program will be incurred. Members are encouraged to reach out to local legislators to encourage getting the budgeted amount reinstated. The Department of Services for the Blind may see similar threats so, again stay informed and act when directed by our NFB leaders. The state affiliate agreed to sign on to a letter encouraging the governor to support a bill to remove requirements for driver’s licenses on job applications when driving is not a requirement for the job. The outlook for the passing of such a bill is favorable. The national affiliate has joined a move to bring suit against the federal government over cuts to the SSI and Medicaid programs. We have a scheduled meeting with our legislative office with representative Perez on May 2 at 11:00 Am.

If you can participate Please contact Cory so you can be included in the pre-meeting planning session. Representative Perez is holding a town hall meeting on the evening of May 24 at 5:00 PM at the Luepke center community room, which conflicts with other local meetings that many of us are involved in so we need people to try to attend. Cory would like us to try to keep our presence in front of our representatives so they know we are deeply committed to our political agendas so they will take us seriously. The committee will be planning our May 19 event at the Washington State School for the Blind. We especially invite our younger members to participate. The school would like us to make suggestions for events for next year. If you plan to participate in WSSB events you need to be cleared as a volunteer by the school. This can be accomplished through the WSSB website. The CCAC is looking for a student youth representative, this means under 25, to serve on their advisory committee. The City is also looking for persons to serve on committees. One of which is a Parks and Recreation board. Cory remarked that we need to make our presence known so the city will reach out to the blind when they have questions, or need advice. Much discussion and comments were made concerning the power of our members being involved in advocacy with our local and state leaders.

President Higley suggested that we might take turns bringing refreshments to the meeting. No action was taken.

President Higley reported that our Vice-president, Steve Salinas, is no longer able to act in his office so we need to find a new vice-president. Kaye Kipp nominated Cory Grandstaff. Cory said he was willing to except this office if elected. After three calls for nominations Betty Fitzpatrick moved and Don Mitchell seconded that nominations cease and Cory be elected by acclamation. The motion passed and Cory Grandstaff was elected vice-president.

President Higley announced that National Convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from July 8 through the 13 at the Sheridan and Marriott hotels. Registration is $25.00 and Banquet tickets are $80.00. Pre-registration closes on May 31. First time attendees may apply for a “first timers” Journigan grant for convention. Unfortunately applications close on April 15, so you must act immediately. This requires an interview with Marcy Carpenter our state president. There is an application for convention assistance on the NFBW website. Applications are due by April 24 and grants will be awarded on May first. The group then discussed financial support the chapter is willing to make available to supporting members attending the convention. Doug Trimbal discussed our upcoming expenses and after considering our current chapter balance and possible immediate income Doug suggested that the chapter donate $500.00 towards the support of convention attendance. Kaye moved that we donate $500 if the fundraising concert is successful, or $300 if it does not occur. Much discussion followed and the motion was amended to: Kay Moves that we donate $300.00 towards convention attendance support and more if we can afford it after June 14th. Betty Fitzpatrick seconded. The motion passed.

Bob Sellers reminded us that after May 7 real ID, or a passport is required to travel via air.

The state affiliate is doing a Youth STEM event at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library on May 3.

Our Bell program will be held on June 22 through 28 at the Washington State School for the blind.

President Higley then conducted a philosophy discussion centering around the Federations desire to remove the drivers license requirement from job applications.

Final business: Cory Grandstaff stated that we are bringing in new members, but we also need to think about maintaining our membership.

The motion was then made to close the meeting prior to listening to the April Presidential release number 548.