Colorado Association of Blind Students Conference call

January 10, 2016.

Began at 7:00 PM.

Attendies: Anna G president, Liliya secretary, JJ A vice-president, JJ D and Quincy board members.

The meeting began with talk in regards to Washington Seminar.

People involved with the NFB go and legislate, talk to congressman about equal rights of blind individuals, and socialize in DC.

Information about the seminar (and information in general) is available on the NFB web site:

Nfb.org

Aim High Act (Accessible and Instructional Material for students in post secondary higher education.)

Used to be the TEACH act. Section in ADA and Rehabilitation Acts that talks about higher education providing equal access to all students. Equal access

includes the right to accessible technology, meaning schools are supposed to use technology that is accessible to everyone.

However, schools still do use inaccessible technology, which leaves students with print disabilities to be forgotten.

The Aim High Act would delegate a group of people to provide guidelines to schools so that they may make sure they are using accessible technology.

Stories About Inaccessible Experiences:

Anna said that many web sites which schools use are not accessible. Also Learning Management Systems like Blackboard, and file types are not always found to be accessible.

Liliya said that Pierson and McGraw hill is a web LMS that is not accessible, which means she has to get alternative assignments. When she talked to the company

about it, they told her it would take years to make it accessible. She wants to get the NFB involved on pushing the owners of the website to make it accessible.

  Example: the site uses a lot of drag-and-drop and matching, so Liliya's biology professor had to create an alternative quiz for her to complete in substitution to the class assignment.

  Quincie also worked with the site in a Spanish class, and it was completely inaccessible with her screen readers. Her teacher created alternative assignments,

and Quincie also worked with a partner in class.

Quincie said that the grading system at CSDB, Infinite Campus, is not accessible, ironically. It's very visual for the deaf students, but it means that the blind

students don't know their grades til report card time.

JJ A: textbooks from the publisher are not formatted well, so she spent more time reformatting the books than reading them.

Ideas for Next Meeting

JJ A: talking to instructors.

JJ D: what to look for in a college.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM Mountain time.

Come join us next month!

Contact CABS President Anna E Givens with any questions or concerns.

Email: Annajee82@gmail.com