National Federation of the Blind Community Service Division

Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 8, 2017

President Darian Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 PM Eastern. Roll call was taken.

Board members present: Darian Smith, Dacia Cole, Chris Parsons, Jonathan Franks, Tara Abella, Ronnie Bellomy, Kyra Sweeney

Everyone confirmed that they had read the minutes and treasurer's report sent out by Chris and Jonathan, respectively. Jonathan made a motion and Dacia seconded to approve the minutes and treasurer's report as submitted. The motion carried.

Darian went over the agenda for the meeting.

Committee chairs then gave their reports.

Service engagement: Dacia reported that the committee wants to have a conference call for chapters sometime in February, tentatively the evening of President's Day. On this call, they will discuss using the Eight Simple Steps document for getting involved in community service. They are hoping to have Hindley Williams on the call since she authored the document. Dacia mentioned that she has been asked to speak to the Nashville chapter about the Community Service Division. The service engagement committee's next meeting will be on January 18 at 9 Eastern.

Web site/blog: Chris reported that two entries have been posted to the blog and that Johna is editing another entry. In total, there are around four entries in the pipeline to be posted to the blog in the next month or so. Darian will be sending out a general message to the NFB members list soon, and this message will include blog topics for January, February, and March. Chris has also been doing some background work on the Web site and will be updating committee meeting information as needed.

Fundraising: Jonathan reported that the committee has been discussing several ideas. They have drafted a donation letter seeking cash donations or auction items. They are considering holding a silent auction at trivia night. The fundraising committee's next meeting will be on February 15 at 9 Eastern.

External outreach: Ronnie reported that the committee has most of their letters sent out to the universities. So far, they have heard back from New Hampshire. The scholarship call will be on January 22 at 7 Central.

Membership: Kyra reported that the committee is finalizing the survey. They are also working with the outreach committee on the upcoming scholarship call. The committee's next meeting will be on Monday, and they will be ironing out details for the scholarship call.

Cards for troops: Tara reported that the letters have been sent out and that there were 21 in total.

Tara discussed a possible partnership between the Community Service Division and the Parents Division during National Convention. She suggested having children write words of encouragement, poems, etc. and then put them on the car windshields of other hotel guests. Kim Cunningham of the Parents Division is on board, and now we are just waiting to see if there is room in the schedule. Darian is going to follow up with Kim on this.

We then discussed what we thought would be a reasonable timeframe for responding to division e-mails and text messages. We agreed on 48 hours. We also discussed that if we can't give the message our full attention within that 48-hour period, we should at least respond and say that we will get back to it so that people know we saw it and that this response should come in less than a week. Finally, we agreed that we should get back to people on the board within the same timeframe that we get back to people off the board.

Tara had to leave at 9:30 for another call.

We then discussed activities for National Convention.

We agreed that we want to have a seminar/business meeting, trivia night, and service project. The activity with the Parents Division will also need space, but the Parents Division will handle that.

Darian discussed his idea for a service fair in which we would invite service organizations to Convention to do an exhibit hall-style activity. There could be two different parts: service organizations and chapters that have done service projects. If we have the service fair, the outreach committee will take the lead in identifying these organizations and contacting them to gauge their interest.

Darian thanked everyone for their help with the service snippets for last month. We also got something from D.C. and Texas and will be getting something from California soon.

Darian is working on the year-end recap. He will also be sending out a blast announcement to the master list containing the dates for the conference calls in January and February, the link to the survey, and blog topics for January, February, and March.

The photos from the Habitat build are being labeled, and then we will get them on the Web site.

A link will go out soon for the Hadley webinar. A podcast will be available afterward, and we might be able to get it on the Web site.

Once again, Darian asked committee chairs to rate their overall satisfaction with their committee and its activities and progress.

Dacia: 8

Chris: 8

Jonathan: 4

Tara: not here

Ronnie: 8

Kyra: 6

Darian reminded us to send in things for the next installment of service snippets and also to get notices out for our committee meetings at minimum a week in advance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM Eastern.