National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut

Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2020

Called to order: 7:02 PM

Recite of NFB Pledge:

NFB of CT Affiliate Board Members:

President: Maryanne Melley

1st Vice-President: Beth Rival

2nd Vice-President: Mary Silverberg

Secretary: Marchele Davis

Treasurer: Nathanael T. Wales

Board Members:

Shonda R. Rosetta

Deb Reed

Veronica Alston

Jim McCollum

Open Remarks: Maryanne Melley (President)

Maryanne suggested that we handle business, followed by ideas for the affiliate and have a meet & greet session.

There was a discussion on rendering an act of kindness and expressing sympathy towards Honorata Kazmierczak and family for the loss of her brother.

All board members were in agreement. Deb stated that she has a copy of the obituary for anyone’s review.

There was a brief discussion regarding the “Swift Voting System” which cost $89. In addition to the money that was generated from the Pumpkin Contest which totaled $150.00. Question: Can we put the funds back into the general fund account from the convention fund.

Nathanael made a motion. Beth seconded and it was hugely accepted.

There was a discussion on giving a $1000.00 donation to the National headquarters for their great assistance and support with getting our ballots accessible so that we may vote independently. Deb had suggested that we have that amount matched with the Freedom Scientific Campaign that is currently happening with the National headquarters. Beth made a motion for the $1000.00 to be matched making it $2000.00. She also suggested we attach a thank you note for Scott. Marchele seconded and motion was approved.

There was a discussion regarding subsidy/scholarship fund accounts

Mary made a motion that the surplus of money that we would have used for subsidies (example: Washington Seminar and National Convention), be used instead to fund the Howard E. May Scholarship and the other portion be added to the Woodward Scholarship to make it an equal $5000.00 each. Beth seconded and it passed with huge acceptance.

There was a discussion with regards to reamending the NFB of CT Affiliate annual business meeting from 2019. It was Stated that Nathanael T. Wales and Mary Silverberg be removed from the minutes. They were not present at last year’s 2019 state convention. Due to procedural purposes, it will be revised at the next convention (2021) Annual business meeting.

Meet & greet of affiliate board members:

Each member was welcomed to the board and had introduced themselves.

Thoughts and Ideas:

Deb shared how she is excited about the Parent and Children Division. In addition, she mentioned that she has some connections with the State Rehabilitation Counsel. Deb stated that she liked the idea of having an open house for the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. She would like to see individuals from various agencies come and represent their agency and provide information. The names mentioned were J. Brown (CT State of Education & Special Education), Enaida Mendoza, (Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant Counselor for the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind), Beth Reel (Transition Coordinator for the CT Parent Advocacy Center/State wide parent organization), Kathy Sullivan (children services/BESB), Nicole Rico Serrano (Council Representative: American Indian Voc Rehab Director), and the Director of Pupil Services just to name a few. A list of educational professionals will be developed for invitations. Maryanne appreciated the idea. It was suggested that Honorata and Kristen help with this initiative, since they both have experience in education. It was decided that we should wait to approach Honorata with this idea to allow for bereavement or sometime in January at the next board meeting.

Final remarks: Maryanne had given thanks for everyone’s presence, thoughts and ideas. Furthermore, she would like for the board to meet more frequently, to maintain cohesion and camaraderie as we strive to make a great affiliate.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Marchele Davis

National Federation of the Blind of CT Affiliate:

Secretary

Maryanne Melley

President