**Connecticut At-Large Chapter**

**July Meeting Minutes**

July 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:03 pm

Attendance: Justin, Jim, Kate, Adam, Jim, Chrissie, Janet, Sandra, Judy

**National Federation of the Blind pledge, recited by Chrissie**

**Legislative Update, Jim McCollum**

1. We are preparing a letter, at the national level, that will be sent to the Department of Justice. In this letter will discuss inaccessibility with state and local websites, and explanation of the Title II section of the ADA. The NFB is gathering member comments regarding the importance of accessible websites in response to the US Department of Justice’s consideration of adopting specific technical standards for website accessibility under Title II of the ADA. We need your stories, both positive and negative, regarding the importance of accessible state and local government websites. Submit them before July 31, 2016, via

<https://nfb.org/titleiisanprm>.

1. The Department of Defense is discussing an amendment to the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS). This is in regard to the Randolph-Sheppard Act. If this passes, we could have negative outcomes for our great Randolph vendors. Please fill out the below survey by Monday, August 8. Losing defense contracts could definitely harm us. The NFB is gathering member comments. If enacted, the current proposed rule would result in opportunities being taken away from blind persons and will virtually ensure there are no new opportunities in the future within the Randolph-Sheppard Program. We need feedback from those who are familiar with the Randolph-Sheppard Program and appreciate the opportunities it affords to blind people to be self-employed entrepreneurs. Please submit your comments before August 8, 2016, via

<https://nfb.constituentvoice.net/nfbreg/>.

1. Legislation concerning the funding for NLS to begin distributing Braille displays, as well as digital audio players for individuals to read Braille downloads. This is in the very very early stages, so stay tuned.

We are working to bring kNFB Reader to the Windows operating system. Stay tuned!

If you have an android device, kNFB Reader is now in the Google Play store! Be sure to purchase one soon.

**National Convention Reflection, Justin Salisbury**

What is National convention: A time for us to set the programs and policies of the Federation, a huge family reunion for us to join together, share, interact, learn, and grow!

Seminar Day: Several activities and conferences going on throughout the day, including: Job Seminar, Rehabilitation Conference, NFB Healthy Fair, kNFB Reader meet-up, etc.

The power of all people in one place is refreshing, energizing, and long-lasting.

National Convention is a time of networking and development both personally and professionally.

We hope to increase the number of Connecticut affiliate members in attendance next year!

It will be in Orlando, Florida for 2017 and 2018.

Future guest speaker discussion

Maybe another at-large chapter president to share with us.

**State Convention**

Held in Shelton, CT at the Hilton Garden Inn from November 4-6, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Webster