DES MOINES CHAPTER, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF IOWA

MEETING APRIL 13, 2024

MINUTES

President Becky Young called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Iowa Department for the Blind, 524 Fourth Street in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Pledges were recited.

Twenty-one members attended.

Two guests, Zach, a staff member at the Department, and Devon also attended. A special guest, Dan Stevens, who was in Des Moines visiting Helen for her birthday, also visited the Chapter.

Helen Mejia moved to approve the Secretary’s Report and Roger Erpelding seconded the Motion; the Motion carried.

Helen Mejia moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Terri Wilcox seconded the Motion; the Motion carried. The reporting period was February 29, 2024 to March 31, 2024; the Beginning Balance was $2,180.80 and the Ending Balance was $2,245.81.

Scott Van Gorp presented the State President’s Report.

Regarding National Convention, Kenneth Jernigan Scholarship applications are due Monday, so those who wish to apply must contact him immediately. Registration for National Convention is open through May 31st. Members should get their hotel reservations made ASAP. The Affiliate will sell popcorn, scissors, and hats, as in past years. We will be responsible for FL sales tax.

Regarding State Convention, which will be October 18, 19, and 20 this year, and Joel Zimba from HumanWare will be an exhibitor. Room rates at the Holiday Inn NW are $98.00 a night plus tax.

Catlin Curry, Mobility Co-coordinator at DART, gave a presentation about the funding challenges DART is currently facing. He was excellent, gave several facts about DART which were new to us, and answered questions. The Transit Riders Advisory Council will have open positions in 2025 for which members can apply on the DART website. Public feedback will continue to be important, Route 16 is the busiest, and the MyDart App is the most costly amenity the company presently offers and it’s the most popular one.

Committee Reports

 BELL: Helen reported that a BELL event will occur August 5th through 9th, 2024 at Grand View University. It will be a day camp starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. each day. Planning continues.

 Calling: Jim Reckhemmer reported that the members continue to leave phone messages to remind people of upcoming meetings.

 Constitution: Bob Ray had information to report because Cindy read a draft of the revised Constitution and Bob plans a future ZOOM meeting during the month wherein members can ask specific questions about the revisions. There will be another reading during the May meeting and a vote. This will be the first revision to the Constitution since 2003.

 Fundraising: Mary McGee had no report but had a vinyl cell phone pouch for members’ examination and the Committee will discuss further action with logo items for sale at its next meeting.

 There was nothing to report from the Legislative Committee.

 There was no Membership Committee Report.

 Program: Helen stated that she still seeks suggestions for future programs. Anil Lewis and State Sen. Tony Bisignano will speak at the May meeting.

 Social: Mary Sonksen discussed refreshments for May.

Helen Mejia moved and Bob Ray seconded the Motion to host a LEAP activity including a meal July 26, 2024; the Motion carried.

Presidential Release #537 was played and the highlight was: the ten Broek Law Symposium was very successful. Also, there will be a Braille Book Fair at National Convention and donations to it are welcome.

Bob Ray won $34.00 in the 50/50.

Helen Mejia moved and Bob Ray seconded the Motion to adjourn the meeting; the Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Mary L. McGee, Secretary.