National Association of Blind Students

Minutes for 10-24-2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 Eastern Time.

Members present were:

Arielle Silverman

Karen Anderson

Sean Whalen

Nijat Worley

Meghan Whalen

Isaiah Wilcox

Darien Smith

Domonique Lawless

Committee updates:

Website:

Janice has now joined the website committee. Sign-ups for Pennies for Pages are up on the website. Meghan has also posted the latest issue of the Student Slate and the Bulletin. The minutes are currently able to be downloaded, and the board agreed that was fine. Meghan talked to John Berggren about getting the archived issues of the Student Slate up on our website. We are hoping to get us linked appropriately from the NFB main page, and also get current issues of the Student Slate up on the main NFB website.

The NABS audio that David Dunphy does for us should now visually match our audio.

Arielle suggested that we put a link to the NABS list serve in our contact us page. Meghan agreed to do this.

Fundraising:

The fundraising committee has not met. There was a planned call for the auction, but there was little interest.

Student slate:

Articles are in the works from Mica Baugh, Rylie Robinson, the A-team at the national Center, and possibly Natilie Shahene. We will also be reprinting Patty Chang’s article from the Braille Monitor about winning a scholarship.

Membership:

STEM conference calls were fairly well attended. There was good discussion held at both the parent and student call.

There is talk of the next call having to do with scholarships, both the National NFB scholarship and other scholarship opportunities.

Region updates:

Domonique will be attending the Louisiana student seminar.

 Louisiana has requested that we donate water bottles as a door prize, or if we would sell them to LABS at a reduced cost.

Meghan moved that we give the bottles to Louisiana at sale price.

Sean seconded.

Motion carried.

Nijat will be going to Colorado’s convention this coming weekend.

Isaiah stated that Janice was unable to attend Georgia’s state convention. Mary Fernandez was elected as GABS president.

Karen attended West Virginia’s student seminar, which was successful for a first seminar.

Sean is attending Michigan’s convention this weekend, and Virginia’s in 2 weeks. He is on the main convention agenda there, as well as helping out with the youth track.

Sean also reminded us that Liz Botner was recently elected as president of IABS.

Darien just attended California’s convention.

New Mexico is having a student seminar, which Darien will hopefully be attending.

 Pennies for pages: We now have 6 states currently signed up. Pledgers can either give checks directly to the readers, or they can send checks directly to Nijat. We will ask that if they send checks to Nijat that they put that the check is for Pennies for Pages, and that they note who the check is meant to sponsor.

Sean is hoping to get the information out to the Affiliate Presidents list.

Domonique suggested that we try and get it in the Braille Monitor.

It will also go out again to the NABS membership list.

Meghan is drafting letters that people can send out to individuals and to chapters requesting pledges.

Treasurer’s report: The checking account has a balance of 698.32, and the savings account has 800.93.

Washington Seminar: Affiliate Action is going to send the scholarship alumni and college leadership students to Orlando to support the Blind Driver Challenge. These students won’t be getting back until Sunday night around 9:00. It was decided not to do an auction this year. There is a possibility of finding a big-ticket item to raffle off at the Great Gathering In.

There was discussion of when and where to have a social event. There will be a Student Seminar on Monday, and hopefully a breakfast for new students attending Washington Seminar before the seminar. We will also hold a lunch for presidents of state student divisions on Monday during the break in the student seminar.

People should start thinking about topics and speakers for Monday’s seminar.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Anderson