NFBI CHICAGO CHAPTER MINUTES

MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2015

Second Vice-President Jemal Powell called to order the October 2015 meeting of the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois Chicago Chapter at 1:00 P.M. Introductions-Health concerns: Happy Birthday wishes go out to Denise Avant, Debbie Stein and Teresa Meyer. Teresa has received three chemotherapy treatments and has handled them well. She has, however, experienced a fluid buildup which has to be released from time to time. Steve Hastalis friend Cynthia who was secretary in the Fredericksburg Virginia chapter passed away in September. Gregg Rosenberg had what he called a minor heart attack. He is recovering nicely. Howard Wilson has been appointed to serve on an Athletics Ambassadors committee which assists Chicago public school students in athletics and in learning to set goals for themselves. Introductions revealed that 26 members were present. One additional member came in, making for a final count of 27.

Program: The program consisted of Tips and Tricks used by Chicago Chapter members to make life more efficient. Topics addressed in this program were tips and tricks for the laundry, barbecuing, other meal preparation procedures, organizing medications, travel, organizing clothing, labeling clothes hangers, notetaking during medical appointments

Secretary’s minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve minutes for the September meeting. The motion carried without descent.

Treasurers Report: Steve Hastalis gave the treasurers report for the third quarter of 2015. Beginning balance on July 1, $5,642.42. Income, $1,545.58. Expenses, $450. Ending balance, September 30, $6,738. The report was approved as given.

Presidential Reports

National Presidential Release: Mark Riccobono, President, National Federation of the Blind reported on the following items. The National Federation of the Blind was victorious in a dispute with the Seattle Public school system concerning accessibility of information. All information will be accessible on websites from the Chicago Public schools, with vendors being held responsible if it is not. We are making progress on the “time” (transitioning to integrated meaningful employment act). The 2016 Washington Seminar will take place from January 24-28. The Great Gathering in meeting will occur at 5:00 EST on Monday, January 25. Beginning this year, reservations for the Washington Seminar will be made directly with the Holiday Inn Capital Hotel. The number to be given when requesting a reservation is N9B. The room rate is $184 per night excluding tax. To reserve, call 877-572-6951.

Reservations may be cancelled up to 72 hours prior to your anticipated arrival time. Deadline for room reservations will be Monday, December 21. If you wish to schedule a special meeting, please do so through Lisa Bonderson. Her email address is lbonderson@cocenter.org. Those meetings must be scheduled by December 10. The Rhythm of the Movement, a collections of songs first presented at our 75th annual convention is now available on CD. The price is $12 and it may be obtained from the Independence Market. Downloads are available on CD Baby. Finally, Cynthia Cross, a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia passed away in September.

State Presidential Report: Denise Avant, President, National Federation of the Blind of Illinois reported on the following items. Our state convention will take place October 30-November 1 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville Hotel. One must register by October 16 to take advantage of early registration rates. There will be a breakfast for parents on Saturday and a breakfast for students on Sunday. The cost is $10 for each breakfast. The parent-student lunch is $15 and the banquet is $30. The National representative for this year’s convention will be James Gashel. There will be several programs including an employment panel and a program on accessible software for computers. Marco Gionnatti is our door prize chairman. Please bring all door prizes to him at convention. If you wish to reach Marco his number is 773-671-4848., Resolutions for consideration must be submitted to Patti Chang by October 16. We are looking for more congressional support for HR188, the “time” act. Congressmen Robin Kelly, Danny Davis and Bobby Rush were specifically mentioned. The Washington Seminar application is now on the NFB of Illinois website. If interested, you must fill out an application and get it to President Avant by December 1. The Chicago Chapter will send four members. The Braille Readers are Leaders contest will take place from December 1 through January 22. Students may apply on November 1. This time, Minnesota will also take place in this contest. The new name for the contest is LOL Squared BRAL (Land of Lincoln, Land 9f Lakes.) The NFB of Illinois Scholarship application may be filled out beginning November 1. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2016. Our internship program is now a year round program. We will also have a Spring seminar and a Bell program in 2016.

Fundraising Report: Ken Staley announced that a read-a-thon will take place on Saturday, November 14 at the Exchequer Pub. Any sort of reading is permissible, including the reading of braille, print or audio books. The entry fee is $10. However, if one is able to raise more than $10, the entry fee will be waved. Chairman Powell also mentioned the Christmas auction which will take place following the December 12 meeting. Please bring your wallets, checkbooks and plenty of items to bid on. Finally, Games night will occur following the January meeting on January 9. Cost of the event is $25. Pizza, salad and soda will be included.

Membership: Robert Hansen encouraged all members of the membership committee to make fan out calls prior to the next meeting.

New Business: The Chicago Transit Authority ADA Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 13, at CTA headquarters. Steve Hastalis will be leaving the committee following this meeting due to term limits. He is concerned that there will be no representation on the committee from consumer organizations of the blind. Denise mentioned that we as NFBI members need to attend these committee meetings and continue to make our voices heard. Denise Avant mentioned that the convention agenda is now up on the website as well as on NewsLine. Additionally, IABS Idol will feature a costume contest. The student 50-50 raffle will be drawn at the state convention. The cost is $2 per ticket, or three tickets for $5. Finally, the raffle drawing will take place on December 12, the day of the chapter meeting. The NFB Travel and Tourism division will have a conference call on Tuesday, October 13. The phone number is 641-715-3273 with the code being 871517. If you have accessibility concerns with Greyhound, you will have a chance to address them on this call.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Meyer, Secretary