**NFB Kansas Jayhawk Chapter**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: August 16, 2014**

Call to Order:

Rob called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m.

Introduction of Guests:

We had two guests present: Mike Miller and Courtney Kivett, a married couple living in Olathe Kansas.

National Presidential Release by Dr. Mark Riccobono

Presidential Release No. 430 was presented.

Chapter President’s Report:

Rob reported that the National Convention was attended by Susan Stanzel, Leonard Silkey, Andrew Crane, Tom Page, Donna Wood, Serena Nickell and himself. Anya Avramenko, a member of the South –Central Kansas chapter was a national scholarship winner. Dr. Mark Riccobono was elected the NFB’s new President.

The “75 Days of Action” campaign begins September 2, 2014. This is a membership drive which has a goal of establishing 75 local chapters in 75 days.

The State Convention is being held at the Lawrence Holidome on November 21-23. At this time, we expect room rates to be about $95.00 a night. This could be subsidized down. This year our national representative is Kevin Worley. Friday afternoon will hold a pre-convention activity. Rob will be presenting a seminar about the basics of the NFB. Loren Schmitt will subsequently speak about the BELL Program.

Rob gave us an update on Newsline. Board members are in a planning stage in an effort to secure stable funding for Newsline. The board is funding Newsline out of the treasury for another six months. However, state funding is not sustainable. Therefore, steps are being taken to find out the feasibility of securing funding through the universal service fund. This fund is indicated on phone bills and users pay a fee into it. It is this universal service fund that finances the telephone access program which enables people with impairments to find adaptive telephone equipment. The universal service fund has an approximate surplus every year of 2.5 million dollars. That excess is put into the general State treasury. Therefore, we are going to request $90,000 from this fund to cover Newsline related expenses. Before this funding request has been made, however, there will need to be some changes made in legislation. Rob will keep us posted about this.

Chapter Vice President’s Report:

Athena had nothing to report.

Approval of Minutes:

After a brief discussion, the June minutes were approved.

Chapter Treasurer’s Report:

After writing a check to Rob Tabor for National Convention financial assistance, and after a $200.00 deposit from the Freddie’s fundraiser, the balance in our treasury is $869.44.

Old Business:

The first order of business was the continued planning of the 2014 State convention. Discussed first was the registration desk. Bob Fuller is in charge of that. Anyone interested in working a slot should let him know. The second issue concerning the convention was that of the hospitality room. Rob said that the hotel will be supplying veggie and fruit trays. We would like to move the hospitality room closer to the location of the vendors, near registration. Susan is going to make an effort to create a list of vendors who displayed last year. There was considerable discussion about door prizes. We debated the number of door prizes to secure and from whom to secure them. Cheryl will send an email to state members about potential donations, and will request a response. Rob asked for our thoughts concerning some type of chapter fundraiser at the convention. We brainstormed several ideas. Susan and Courtney contributed some good ideas. Courtney’s idea is sure to bring added excitement to this year’s state convention.

New Business:

Rob reminded us that next month is the election of new officers. Dues of $12.00 will be due. Athena and Brendie, as a nominating committee, presented the slate of nominees as follows:

Ron Miller, Treasurer

Susan Tabor, Secretary

Renee Morgan, Vice President

Rob Tabor, President

National Meet the Blind month is coming up in October. As is customary, we will again have a proclamation ceremony with the city commission. We discussed suggestions for the booth that we usually have downtown in front of U.S. Bank one Saturday in October. Susan offered to contact the bank and make arrangements for this tabling event.

Meeting Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting:

September20, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Miller, Jayhawk Chapter Secretary