National Federation of the Blind of Kansas Jayhawk Chapter

Minutes for February 21, 2015

Location: Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont ST, Lawrence Kansas

Call To Order, Welcome, and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by chapter president Rob Tabor. Seven members and no guests were present. Introductions were given by each member in turn to welcome Jackie Ouellet-Piper, our newest member.

National Report. National Presidential Release No. 436 was audio streamed and covered a wide range of items including the recently concluded 2015 Washington Seminar,, The Target Dot Com customer Feedback Survey Project, the upcoming summer internship program at the Kenneth Jernigan Institute, and the upcoming 2015 NFB National Convention.

Chapter President’s Report. Rob updated the members on the condition of Charlie Hurst who suffered a major stroke on the morning of Saturday, February 14, 2015. Charlie continues to make slow but steady improvement under intensive treatment at KU Medical Center. Renee Morgan conveys her thanks and appreciation for the moral support expressed by chapter members.

Rob reports he was contacted by Dustin Disque, a young blind man originally from Baldwin City who is an alumnus of the Kansas State School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and is employed on a part time basis at a Pizza Hut store. Dustin was provided information about the date, time and place of our meeting and was planning to come but was pre-empted by a seasonal health issue.

Washington Seminar. Rob reports the 2015 Washington Seminar was a positive experience for all seven members of the Kansas affiliate delegation which included Susan Tabor, Renee Morgan, and Rob Tabor from the Jayhawk chapter. Most of the meetings on Capitol Hill were held with legislative staffers, but Rob’s group did get to meet personally with Rep. Lynn Jenkins.

The AT Large teleconference meeting group is moving in a positive direction toward becoming chartered as a new chapter of NFBK. Rob has located a model chapter constitution and has established a line of communication with Jenivieve White, assistant director of Community relations at the Jernigan Institute. Rob states he believes Ms. White is will be an invaluable resource in helping him to ensure the new chapter formation process meets all NFB chartering requirements.

Approval of Minutes. Rob called for changes or corrections to the November 2014 and January 2015 chapter meeting minutes. There being none, the November 2014 minutes were approved as submitted by email from the secretary. Rob noted the January 2015 draft minutes did not include the ending treasury balance of $649.44. The minutes were approved with the noted correction.

Treasurers Report. Ron Miller reported the beginning checking account balance as of December 2014 was $784.44 and the ending balance as of December 31 was $649.44 which carries forward into January with an ending balance as of January 31, 2015 of $649.44. Ron notes there are 11 chapter members in good standing. The president called for changes or corrections. Hearing none, the treasurer’s report was approved as read.

Fund-raising Events. Rob notes that the chapter has had no fund-raising activity since the Freddy’s Frozen Custard and Steak burgers event on May 22, 2014, and that periodic fund-raising is essential to enable the chapter treasury to support members’ attendance at our three major events, e.g., national and state conventions and the Washington Seminar. Rob suggests that the Lawrence Freddy’s store be approached for a fund-raising supper event to be held in the middle or latter part of April while KU and HINU students are still in town and after the religious Lenten season. The group consensus being favorable, Rob stated he will set a date to have lunch at Freddy’s which will provide the opportunity to meet with a manager and make the necessary arrangements. Rob will announce the date and time for this lunch meeting on the Jayhawk Chapter list serve.

We discussed the possibility of similar fund raisers at such places as the Mercantile Co-op. Rob asked Athena if she would be willing to check there which she offered to do.

NCAA basketball tournament pool. Rob notes that the NCAA men’s basketball tournament is rapidly approaching with the tournament selection committee announcing brackets on March 15 with the field of 64 play-offs to begin on Thursday, March 19. Rob notes that a screen reader accessible tournament bracketing service was created several years ago by Terry Thompson who had worked as the computer learning lab manager at Independence Inc. in the 1990’s. Rob states he successfully participated in Thompson’s tournament pool last year and suggested we do this as a fund-raiser for the chapter. Each participant would be asked to contribute $5 and a donated prize for the bracket winner would be solicited from the Lawrence business community, thereby enabling all the money to benefit the chapter. A second prize would be awarded to the participating chapter member who recruits the most pool participants from the broader community. Rob notes the pool needs to be expanded beyond the chapter to raise at least $100 from this endeavor. By consensus the membership agrees to undertake this project. Rob states he will post account creation and login instructions when he receives Thompson’s email notice that tournament brackets are ready to be entered.

Knowledge Base. Jackie gave a presentation on the benefits of yoga. She is a certified yoga trainer and has worked in the field for several years. Jackie notes a braille yoga mat has been created to assist blind yoga exercisers to position their bodies in optimal alignment.

Adjournment and next meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Next meeting March 21, Room C, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence KS.

Submitted by Rob Tabor president