JAYHAWK CHAPTER NFB of KANSAS

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2015

Attendees: Dustin Disque, Ron and Cheryl Miller, Rob Tabor, Jim Secor, Sidney Roedel, Athena Johnson and Brendy Latare.

 At 1:10 PM, the meeting was called to order by Rob Tabor, President

 Modifications: Rob announced the appointment of Jim Secor as assistant secretary for Susan.

Presidential release #438 was played.

Chapter and State report. Local matters. There are 3 new members on the new Lawrence city commission.

Go to Www.Lawrenceks.org for archives of meetings

 We must be more active. Along with Independence, our chapter, represented by Rob Tabor, President, presented language and best practices for

 Taxi cab ordinance accessibility. Some questions remain, including:

• Enforcement? To be on a complaint-driven basis?

• Can the City Clerk as the license Granting agency revoke a license if a licensed operator is found to have discriminated against a disabled customer?

Rob stated he will contact Brandon McGuire of the City Manager’s office and will provide an updated report.

Accessibility review of Lawrence Public Library. Rob reported that he along with Bob Mikesic and a few members of the Independence, Inc. Access Task Force are scheduled to meet with Brad Allen, executive director of LPL, participate in an accessibility review of LPL on April 23rd. Rob stated he will raise questions as to the accessibility of the card catalog system, the public access desktop computers, and the recording studios.

Day At The Capitol. Newsline® Day at the Capitol, an impromptu activity arranged by the Southcentral Chapter, took place on March 24. Rob noted the event failed to result in any conversations with any state legislators, but literature about Newsline ® was distributed to all 165 legislators’ offices.

Rob reported that December 7 was the last State Board meeting and the next meeting has yet to be scheduled.

There was no Vice President's report given due to Renee’s absence.

The March Minutes were considered by the membership and Rob declared them approved as prepared and emailed.

Treasurer's report. Ron Miller announced that NFB of Kansas Jayhawk Chapter will now appear on the chapter’s US Bank checks.

Beginning balance as of March 1 was $649.44 and the ending balance on March 31 was $649.44. Proceeds from our NCAA brackets fund-raiser were deposited and will be reflected in the April financial report. There being no changes or corrections when called for by Rob, the treasurer’s report was approved as read.

Fund-raising. Rob announced that our second fund-raising supper is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Freddie's Frozen Custards and Steakburgers. 15% of all food, dessert, and beverage sales proceeds will be donated to the chapter from both drive-thru and dine-in orders. Rob encouraged members to spread the word among their circles of acquaintance and to participate in the event.

Mercantile Co-op and Salty Iguana Giveback programs. Athena reported the Merc’s give-Back NPO recipient application is available online and give-back days are awarded on a first come first serve basis. Brendy offered to submit the online application on behalf of the chapter.

Athena also reported that the Salty Iguana fund-raising dinner project donates to its chosen community NPO on a sales percentage basis similar to the Merc and Freddie's.

75 Days of Service.

Discussion continues on the “75 Days of Service” project recently launched by the NFB community service division and Rob encourages further suggestions for the chapter to participate in a service project in the Lawrence area. Community project ideas could be submitted via the Jayhawk chapter listserv.

Some ideas suggested include answering telephones during the Kansas Public Radio fall or spring fund-raising campaigns and volunteering at the Lawrence Public Library.

National 2015 convention. The 75th anniversary NFB National convention will take place from July 5-10 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. A preliminary headcount indicates Rob is the only chapter member with plans to attend at this point.

New Business. Currency identifiers. Athena announced that a new hand-held currency Reader from the US Printing and Engraving Service and is being distributed through the National Library Service for the blind and physically handicapped (NLS). Requests for the currency reader need to be communicated through the regional talking book library. Rob added that in his experience the government-created currency identifier is not as efficient or as responsive as the LookTell MoneyReader app for smartphones. The MoneyReader app is very affordable at around $10.

KRS Advisory Committee. Ranita Wilkes, a staff member of Independence Inc. is on the Advisory Commission for Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and needs input for its next meeting. Some chapter members expressed considerable skepticism that any input or feedback from NFB will be paid attention to by the current director of KRS who is on record of opposition to NFB because of our repeated demands for Federal oversight of KRS including an audit by RSA.

State House Kiosks. Cheryl expressed concerns that the touch screen kiosks at the State Capitol Visitor Center are inaccessible to visitors who are blind or have low vision. There is a talking tour but there is no audio navigation of its menu system. Rob opined this is a clear-cut violation of Title 2 of the ADA which will have to be addressed at the state or national level to remedy the violation. Cheryl encouraged others to make a trip to Topeka to gain firsthand experience of the State House touch screen kiosks.

Knowledge Base. Rob played an audio presentation of “35 Cents”, a 3-minute long vignette performed on the Nation’s Blind YouTube channel and pertaining to subminimum wages paid to disabled

Workers in a non-profit sheltered workshop. A brief discussion followed.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Secor, Assistant Secretary with Rob Tabor, president