***NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS***

***JAYHAWK CHAPTER***

***Minutes for September 17, 2016***

***Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas***

• Call to order, welcome and introductions. The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm by chapter president Rob Tabor. There were six members and three guests. Renee Morgan was out of town but joined us by phone. Guests included Tamara and Greg Kearney and June Floyd. The agenda was followed as distributed to the membership by email list prior to the meeting.

National Report. Presidential Release 453 was played in its entirety.

State and chapter report. Rob reported that the state affiliate board met via teleconference on Sunday, September 4. Rob chaired the meeting in the absence of president Tom Page who was absent due to work related obligations. Rob noted it was good to see that Tom is making good healing progress from his injury that preempted him from attending national convention.

Diane Hemphill of the South Central chapter and Susie Stanzel, president of the Johnson County chapter, are forming a blind seniors division of the NFB of Kansas. Rob is drafting a proposed constitution and is assisting with the technical aspects of new chapter/division formation. Rob encourages chapter members to look for an announcement of an informational conference call.

The Ken tiede Memorial Scholarship committee has conducted a major outreach to several high schools and post-secondary institutions to inform them that we are taking scholarship applications for the 2016-17 academic year. No applications have been received to date.

Rob has joined with Donna Wood and the two of them form the editorial team for Tap Tracks, the NFBK quarterly newsletter. The fall 2016 issue is very near publication and includes an informative piece about Patti Gregory-Chang, the national president’s representative to our 2016 state convention. The convention registration form is also included.

May and August 2016 minutes. Action is deferred on the May minutes as they are unavailable. The August minutes were approved by the president with one factual correction.

Treasurer’s report. The treasurer’s report covers the period August 1 - August 31, 2016 with a beginning balance of $489.20 And an ending balance of $454.20. The president approved the treasurer’s report as read.

Chapter fundraising. Freddy’s Percentage Night. The fundraising supper was held in our benefit at Freddy’s Frozen Custards and Steakburgers, 2030 W. 23rd Street in Lawrence on Wednesday, September 7, during a late afternoon to early evening time period. Rob stayed for the entire event and reports a good and steady crowd in the dining room. Business at the drive-up windows may have also been significant. Rob thanked various chapter members who had come to Freddy’s for their evening meals. Rob predicts the chapter should be able to receive at least $200 from this event and expressed gratitude for the positive relationship we have developed with the management team at Store number 1301, the Lawrence restaurant operation.

Accessible Arts Show. Renee reports she has been unable to get any tables donated for use during the Accessible Arts show scheduled for October 13 at the Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Renee estimates we will need about 15 tables to display artists’ works and to place food. Renee has contacted both Sunflower and Anderson Rentals and reports that the best offer from local furniture rental companies was a 20 percent discount from Sunflower, reducing the cost from $8 per table to $6.40. Sunflower will deliver the tables to the event and retrieve them after the event is concluded. By consensus, the chapter agrees to authorize and direct Renee to make a furniture rental agreement with Sunflower. Rob proposed that the cost of the tables be divided up among members who are able to help with the rental expense to avoid having it come from treasury. Susan said she would approach the KU chapter of the Delta Gama sorority about transporting unsold inventory to Aimee’s Coffee House for the post-event sale. Renee said the flyer designed by Linda Troxel is nearly ready to present to the staff at Cider to place on its website. Susan stated she will investigate having some of the flyers upsized to posters which could be placed at various locations. Renee stated that some of the artists who were contacted are willing to have their works displayed but not to sell them. Some not-for-sale signs could be posted to accommodate these artists. Renee reports a quilt is being donated and it was suggested we sell chances and draw the name of the party who wins the quilt. Various pricing approaches were mentioned. Renee reports the original deadline of September 16 for submission of artworks has been extended to expand opportunities for artists to donate art pieces. Renee announced that live music will be played throughout the show and would feature a flautist for the first hour and a local band for the other two. Rob announced that the Cider Gallery building rental fee of $480 is now fully underwritten thanks to contributions by Dr. and Mrs. Hiten (Mamta) Sony and Dr. Beverly Wilson, professor emerita at KU. However, the funds are not in chapter treasury as it was necessary to route these financial contributions through Kansas affiliate treasury in order to enable these donors to claim a legitimate tax deduction on their 2016 tax returns. This is because the state affiliate is registered with IRS as a 501C3 tax exempt organization while the chapter is not. When the event is concluded the $480 will be remitted from state affiliate treasury to the chapter as a chapter support grant. Rob directed Ron to issue a check for $240

To Cider Gallery for the unpaid balance of the facility rental fee, this being a pre-committed obligation.

MTBM and White Cane Day proclamation. Rob has made a request with Bobbie Walthall at the Lawrence City manager’s office to have us placed on the City Commission meeting agenda for Tuesday, October 4 to give a presentation of the Mayor’s proclamation ceremony to proclaim October as National Meet The Blind month and October 15 as White Cane Safety day. Rob will notify chapter membership once a date has been determined.

State convention update. Rob stated that Bob Fuller will be in charge of convention registration as he has in past years. Those planning to attend the convention may register by conventional first class mail or via email. The Ramada Inn is ready to take room reservations which may be made by phone at 785-234-5400. Members are encouraged to solicit for door prize contributions as time permits. A door prize request letter has been developed and will be posted on the Kansas affiliate email distribution list. The 2016 state convention takes place from Friday, November 4 to Sunday, November 6 at the Ramada Inn Downtown, 420 East Sixth Street in Topeka. Rob advises members to finalize plans by the October meeting so the number of people who need cash assistance or transportation to Topeka can be smoothly arranged.

Officer nominations. Cheryl has been attempting to contact prospective nominee. Thus, no report is available. Rob announced the election of officers will take place at the October monthly meeting and reminded members annual dues must be paid to be eligible to vote and to run for office. Ron received dues from seven members and has started a list of paid up members.

State House Kiosk Accessibility Update. Renee, Pat, and Rob made a visit to the State House Visitor’s Center on Wednesday, September 14, to test the two kiosks for accessibility to those who are blind or who have low vision. The team was accompanied by Bob Mikesic, executive co-director of Independence Inc. Mikesic, who navigates by manual wheelchair, provided transportation and also tested one of the kiosks for physical barriers to access. The team reports that the touch screen kiosks are partially accessible with speech and screen image magnification but they are unable to be operated without sighted assistance. The next step will be to contact Anthony Fadale, chief ADA compliance officer for the State of Kansas to bring the matter to his attention. Rob announced he will draft a resolution and propose it to chapter membership at the October meeting to present to the State resolutions committee as a chapter-sponsored draft resolution. The resolution will call state government to task and make demand for full compliance with Title 2 of ADA.

December 2016 holiday social. By consensus the membership agrees to have a chapter December holiday social event at a local dining establishment. Various possible locations were mentioned with opinions and concerns raised. Susan and Renee are appointed by the president to choose a suitable place for the holiday social. Membership agree on December 3 as a preferred date with December 10 as a backup date. As in past year, we will have a white elephant gift exchange by drawing lots.

November meeting. Membership agrees to dispense with the November business meeting on account of state convention and the meeting date being less than a week before thanksgiving.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Prepared and submitted by:

Rob Tabor | Jayhawk Chapter president