NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS JAYHAWK CHAPTER

MINUTES for January 21, 2017

Location: Room B, Lawrence Public Library 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence, Kansas

The meeting was called to order by the president at 1:15pm. Three members were present including Cheryl miller, Tamara Kearney, and Rob Tabor. There being insufficient attendance to constitute a quorum, no action could be taken except for presidential approval of routine reports.

National report. National Presidential Release #457 was played in full. President Mark A Riccobono announced the upcoming 2017 Washington Seminar and gave some information about the 2017 national convention in Orlando Florida during the week of July 10. .

Chapter and State reports. Rob announced the recent passing of Leslie Hindman of Salina. Mr. Hindman was the father of Ana Hindman, vice president of the at large Meadowlark Chapter. Rob expressed condolences to Leslie’s family and noted that he could readily be counted on to support the Federation in a number of ways including helping behind the scenes at state conventions.

Rob announced that Anya Avramenko, immediate past president of the Kansas Blind Student division and president of the Meadowlark Chapter has been hired as the assistant English language instructor at BLIND, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Anya is a recent graduate of Emporia State University with a degree in Spanish with a goal of becoming a foreign language to English interpreter.

Advocacy. Rob announced that after a three year long battle Ellen Foshag, a Meadowlark Chapter member residing in Pittsburg, will soon start a rehabilitation program at Helen Keller National Center for the deaf-blind. Ashley Neybert, former Ken Tiede Scholarship winner and Secretary of the Kansas Blind Students division, is finally working her blindness skills rehab program at Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton, Colorado.

Tom Anderson, president of the national and State Communities of Faith Division, has been appointed to the blindness rehabilitation services advisory committee as a representative of the board of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILCK.) This appointment effectively gives NFB of Kansas two voices on the KVRC Advisory committee with Tom Page being the official representative from the state affiliate.

State board meeting. The board meeting is scheduled for 3:00pm Sunday, February 5 via teleconference call. All members of all chapters and divisions of the Kansas affiliate are welcome to join the conference call. Announcements will be posted on the Home-on-The-Range Kansas email distribution list.

October Minutes. Upon calling for changes and corrections to the minutes of the October 2016 chapter meeting and hearing none, the minutes were declared approved by the chapter president as distributed via email prior to this meeting.

Treasurer’s report. Rob summarized the treasurer’s report as given him by Brendy shortly prior to the meeting. Total credits for the period November 1 through December 31, 2016 were $651 and total debits during the same period were $72. Dues were paid to the state affiliate for 12 members. The 2016 yearend balance is $1,015.40. There being no corrections or changes, the president declared the treasurer’s report approved as prepared.

2016 State Convention in review. Rob and Tamara attended the convention and agreed it was very well conducted. Rob congratulated Tamara for selling $100 worth of raffle tickets for the bed-runner and matching pillow which were unsold at the Accessible Arts Show we conducted on October 16, 2016. Rob reported that four resolutions were passed by the convention including the call for fully accessible touchscreen kiosks at the State House Visitor’s Center. Another highlight of the convention is the launch of the Kansas Blind Senior Division of which Dianne Hemphill of the South-central Chapter is the charter president. Rob notes that Ashley Neybert performed a chemistry experiment during the Saturday afternoon program session demonstrating the use of frozen carbon dioxide, commonly known as dry ice, as a beverage cooling agent.

2017 Washington Seminar. Rob announced that the Washington Seminar will take place from January 30 through February 2, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Capitol at Sixth and C Streets. The Kansas delegation includes state president Tom Page, Luke Schwinck, and Andrew Crane all of Wichita. Anya Avramenko will also participate as a member of the Kansas delegation as she has only recently moved to Minnesota to begin her new employment. The eastern Kansas part of the Kansas delegation includes Tom Anderson, Ashley Neybert, John Mestenmacher, Afton Harper, and Rob. There will be two work teams using US Highway 81 as the dividing line. Rob’s team will meet with Representatives Jenkins and Yoder and senator Moran, while Tom Page’s team meets with Senator Roberts and Representative Marshall and Representative Pompeo if he is still in Congress when we arrive in DC. The issues include a request of the Senate to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works, a request for a one time appropriation of $5 million to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) to purchase and distribute about ten thousand refreshable braille devices to enable reading of digital braille publications, a proposed refundable tax credit to facilitate the purchase of access technology, and the Accessible Media in Higher Education (AIM-High) Act

 Which would create a “purpose driven commission” to develop a set of voluntary media access guidelines intended to guide post-secondary institutions in acquiring accessible technology for curriculum and related instructional materials. The Washington Seminar will also feature a first ever student rally in the Upper Senate Park immediately north of Constitution Avenue and a Congressional reception on January 31 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Fundraising. Those attending briefly discussed the NCAA men’s basketball tournament pool which we have conducted for 2 consecutive years. Rob gave the background and basic information about the event and all expressed favorable comments for having the tourney pool this year.

Rob suggested conducting a possible trivia tournament fundraiser and offered to research options for initial setup and managing the event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Submitted by Rob Tabor Jayhawk Chapter president

Next meeting Saturday February 18, 2017, 1:00pm, Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS