Jayhawk Chapter National Federation of the Blind of Kansas

Minutes for March 18, 2017

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

Members present: Jim Secor, Rob Tabor, Athena Johnson, Brendy Latare, Renée Morgan, Charles Hurst, Pat Slick

The president called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. No guests were present and the proposed agenda was approved.

National report. Presidential Release No. 459 was played in full.

State & Chapter reports. Rob announced that the state affiliate’s subscription plan with Unlimited Conferencing has been changed and that the change from a pay-as-you-go to a flat-rated usage and billing system is estimated to save $800 to $1000 per year. A teleconference system usage policy is in the process of being drafted for approval by the state board.

February minutes. Upon calling for changes or corrections to the February minutes. Hearing none, the president approved the minutes as distributed via email.

Treasurer's report. Brendy reported a balance of $1015.40 with an adjusted balance of $1087.40. The balance was adjusted because the check to the NFBK state treasury in the amount of $72 for per capita membership dues is still outstanding. Upon calling for corrections or other changes to the treasurer’s report, the president approved it as read.

Fundraising. NCAA tournament pool. Rob noted that participation in the NCAA Accessible Bracket pool was low this year. Several members offered to make donations in lieu of brackets which were not completed before the start of the opening round of the tournament. Rob encouraged those who have donation to offer to bring them to the April meeting in order to deposit the funds into chapter treasury.

Trivia tournament. Rob stated that upon further consideration, a fall date for a trivia night would be a better option than for this spring as it would give us more time for advance promotion. This was the consensus of the membership.

Restaurant give-back programs. Several members named restaurants known or believed to have a charitable giveback program. Suggested dining establishments included Ingredient, Chili's, Freddy’s, Minsky’s Pizza, Chipotle Mexican Grill, the Salty Iguana, and Fuzzy’s Taco Shop. Brendy and Renee volunteered to research available options and make a report in April.

As to other business organizations, Jim Secor stated he would approach Mainstreet Credit Union.

Accessible arts at Spencer. Rob reported that he along with Renee and Susan met with two student interns assigned to the Spencer Art Museum on the KU campus and who are in the early planning stages of an accessible arts exhibit for this coming summer. The exhibit would feature various aspects of Kansas history and would include sculptures and other tactile art forms. Rob further stated that Spencer has a smartphone app which could be revised to include audio descriptions and other screen reader usable features. Renee, Susan, and Rob will continue the dialogue with the student interns and possibly other staff as the accessible arts exhibit comes to fruition.

Chapter summer social. Rob noted the four dates for Saturdays in June, and it was generally agreed that June 17 would be the optimal day for a social event. The place of the event as well as the possibility of dispensing with the regular business meeting is deferred to April.

Other old business and new business. Pat expressed his concern that blind patrons of the Lawrence public Library are unable to access computers available to the public as well as those in the LPL recording studio. Pat stated he mention to LPL staff that if there were no resources available to purchase a site license for Jaws, NVDA would be a viable alternative as it is a free open source screen reader. Rob opined that LPL’s failure to provide at least one accessible computers is probably in violation of Title 2 of ADA and it is appropriate for the chapter to advocate for full compliance with ADA in this area. Rob offered to prepare a letter to the chief Librarian of LPL.

New membership recruitment. It is suggested that we write and distribute news releases to local media outlets to invite younger blind persons and their allies to the summer social. Tamara suggested an iPhone class Could also attract potential new members.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:11 pm.

Next meeting Saturday, April 15, 2016, Room B, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Submitted by Jim Secor, Secretary, assisted by Rob Tabor, president