Jayhawk Chapter National Federation of the Blind of Kansas

Minutes for April 15, 2017

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

Members present: Jim Secor, Rob Tabor, Athena Johnson, Brendy Latare, Pat Slick, Ron Miller, Cheryl Miller, Tamara Kearney

Also present, Dustin Disqué

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. 460 was played in full.

State and Chapter reports. Rob reports the 2017 state convention will take place November 10-12 at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, formerly the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, Lawrence. Donna Wood, our state convention chairman, has diligently attempted to secure hotel sites in Salina and in the KC metro area, but these endeavors proved unsuccessful for various reasons.

BELL Academy. The Kansas affiliate will hold our second BELL Academy on the campus of Envision in Wichita from July 24 through August 4, 2017. Kathryn Mendez, a professional elementary school teacher who conducted the training last year has agreed to conduct this year’s event. Donna Wood is the state BELL chairman and is looking for adult volunteers to serve as assistants to Ms. Mendez and as mentors for the children. NFBK and Envision are jointly sponsoring the event, but parents are asked to make a small $25 contribution for their children’s participation.

State Board. The state board met via teleconference call on April 2, 2017. Rob presided as state first vice president in the absence of president Tom Page. The board approved a teleconference service usage policy as drafted by Rob. The next state board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 7 at 3:00pm via teleconference. Board meetings are open to all and any blind person may ask questions or make comments as a matter of right.

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 $805.40 Brendy reports the check to the NFBK state treasury for $72 for per capita membership dues has cleared the bank. There is a disbursement of $200 to State Treasury in support of the Kansas Blind Student leadership seminar as per action of the membership in March. The US Bank checking account has been charged a $5 debit. Ron Miller stated this has occurred previously and that the service charge was re-credited to the account when bank management was reminded that we are an NPO. Upon calling for corrections or other changes to the treasurer’s report, the president approved it as read.

Fund-raising. Café and restaurant givebacks. Brendy reports she contacted several local area restaurants and was informed their givebacks work in the same general way, but with some variation in percentages and with varying rules and restrictions. Upon brief discussion it was determined by group consensus that we approach the three Chipotles stores for possible dates and time slots.

Brendy will inform the membership as to available dates and time slots.

Mainstreet Credit Union. Jim Secor reports he was informed by a branch manager that this organization can be placed into consideration for a donation on receipt of a formal letter on organizational stationery. It was mention that we do not have official letterhead stock, but a letterhead format could be created using the NFB logo which can be downloaded from the NFB dot org website. Rob and Jim will work collaboratively on the contribution request letter.

LPL technology Access. Rob reports that due to intervening household events he has not been able to make the formal request for screen reader/magnifier accessibility for the computers at the library. All agree the letter should address the concerns raised by staff and management with suggested solutions.

NFB Kernel Book giveaway. Brendy stated she has several of the Kernel books stored at her home, so we may not need to request all titles made available for giveaway by national office. Rob and Brendy will conduct an inventory based on the seven book titles listed to enable us to make a precisely selected request.

Get well outreach to Sidney Roedel. Rob announces that Sidney sustained a hard fall which caused a complex fracture of her right femur. This will require surgery and a prolonged rehabilitation and recovery period. Cheryl moved that flowers and a get well card be sent to Sidney on behalf of the chapter, subject to a $50 limit. Brendy seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Summer social. The membership agrees by consensus to gather for our traditional summer social on June 10 at 11:00am at La Tropicana Mexican Restaurant at 434 Locust Street, which is the same location of our 2016 summer social. We agree further not to conduct business meetings over the summer and will resume regular business meetings in August.

Old business. Pat asked if further thought had been given to reducing membership dues. Rob stated he would research constitutional procedures for doing so.

Other new business. The national presidential release being available on the NFB website, Pat asks us to consider alternative methods for presenting this pre-recorded national report in a time-saving way. After some discussion, Pat moved that the current month’s presidential release be summarized in lieu of being streamed in full for the next four regular chapter meetings. Cheryl seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Tamara volunteered to present oral summaries of presidential releases for the May, August, September, and October meetings. The matter will be revisited at the October regular meeting.

Change of meeting date/time. Pat asks chapter membership to consider changing to a day other than Saturday to meet as this could be inconvenient an perhaps unworkable for some. Rob stated that, in view of the meeting time nearing its end, the matter will be placed on the agenda for the May meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.

Next meeting Saturday, August 1519, 2017, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

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