Jayhawk Chapter National Federation of the Blind of Kansas

Minutes for Meeting of February 17, 2018

Location: Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

• Call to order, welcome, and introductions. The meeting was called to order by the chapter president at 10:03 am. There were 6 members and 2 guests present, so introductions were given.

Review of Agenda. Rob added 2 items to the proposed agenda which was previously distributed via the Jayhawk listserv. AER-NAC accreditation letters and discussion of a possible need to change the March meeting date were added and the agenda was followed as modified.

National report. Presidential Release No. 469 by national president Mark Riccobono was played in full.

State & Chapter report. Washington Seminar. Rob reported that attendance by Kansas Federationists at the 2018 Washington Seminar was smaller than in recent years. The Kansas delegation included Tom Page and Nicole Taylor, both of the south-central chapter, Tom Anderson from the Johnson County Chapter, and Renee Morgan of the Jayhawk Chapter. Rob noted that Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins (R-KS2) was unable to be scheduled with an appointment prior to the event, but the Kansas delegation was able to meet with one of her legislative aides. Rob stated that after the event HR 620, the ADA Education and Reform ACT, was debated with action taken on the floor of the House February 15. The measure passed by a vote of 225 to 192, with Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS3) voting no. The House action will move the bill to the Senate. Rob noted and explained the range of scenarios that may occur in the Senate. Renee added her insights and impressions of this year’s event.

Rob noted that the next NFBK board meeting will be held via teleconference on Sunday, March 4 at 3:00pm. All members of any chapter or division of NFBK are invited and encouraged to dial in and participate with comments and questions.

January 2018 Minutes. The minutes being unavailable, the chapter president declared a deferral of action on January meeting minutes until March.

Treasurer’s report. The president presented the treasurer’s report as sent him by the treasurer who was unable to attend. The balance as of January 1, 2018 was $991.82, carried forward from 2017. There were no credits during January, and a total of $205 in disbursements and debits, yielding a balance of $786.82 as of January 31. The $5 bank debit will be refunded as we have started to obtain online bank statements. There being no corrections or other changes, the president declared the January treasurer’s report approved as read.

Fundraising, 2018 NCAA basketball Tournament pool. Rob announced that a detailed informational letter will be distributed via the chapter email listserv within 1 to 2 weeks. This will give us more opportunity to recruit participants than we had last year. A $5 donation will be asked of all participants as in the past 3 years of the project. Tournament brackets and pairings will be announced by the tournament selection committee on Sunday, March 11.

Freddy’s Giveback Night. Rob stated that no date is set for this event due to Susan’s recovery from foot surgery in late December 2017. Rob stated he will pay a visit to Freddy’s Frozen Custards and Steakburgers once Susan has been discharged from Rehab at Pioneer Ridge. Rob notes that the goal is to hold a Freddy’s Giveback supper event before the end of the KU and Haskell academic year.

AER/NAC Accreditation letter-writing. Rob noted the decision at the January meeting to send a letter to AER BVI regarding its intention to revive the NAC accreditation process for agencies serving the blind. Rob stated that further consideration lead him to ask members to write letters individually as concerned blind persons who receive services or have done so in the past. Rob stated that he is willing to write the first letter within 1 to 2 weeks to give chapter members a sample to use with individualized modifications should they so choose.

March meeting date. Rob noted that our next regularly scheduled chapter meeting on March 17 would occur on the same day and geographic proximity of the Saint Patrick’s Day parade. Rob stated he will take this under advisement and change the date if warranted, with timely announcements to be issued.

Old business. Pat raised various questions as to the propriety and protocols to be followed in approaching Lawrence Public Library in requesting the installation of screen reader and screen magnifying software on its public use PC’s, requesting Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) to make their release and consent forms accessible to the blind, and advocating for fully accessible kiosks at the State Capitol Visitors Center. Rob stated the first 2 items can be done without requesting clearance from the state affiliate as these are local issues. Rob noted that the state affiliate in convention has already passed a resolution calling upon the Kansas Historical Society to take all necessary steps to make these kiosks fully accessible via speech and screen magnification access. Passage of the resolution enables us to request assistance from the state board if needed. Rob stated he would request a meeting as soon as practicable with Bob Mikesic of Independence, Inc., and Anthony Fadale, state ADA compliance Coordinator.

New business. There was none presented.

Knowledge base. Rob introduced Steve and Tammy Buckner who gave a presentation on the logistics and process of conducting a trivia tournament fundraiser. The Buckners have several years of experience in conducting trivia night fundraisers for Saint John’s Parrish school and the Lawrence High School baseball team. The Buckners are willing to assist us with this without charging a management fee. Steve stated in response to a question regarding venue that he has a good relationship with Tom Conroy, the owner of Conroy’s Pub and has conducted trivia fundraiser nights very successfully at this location. Each participant is asked to pay a specified entry fee which we will determine and chooses a seat at a table with other participants who work as a team. There are categories from which to choose, covering a broad range of topics. All answers to presented questions are pre-verified for accuracy. Questions are presented both orally and via PowerPoint slides. Points are awarded to each team for correct answers and there are no pointes deducted for incorrect answers. Two alternative formats were explained for running the contest. Points increase in number as questions within each category become more challenging. Mr. Buckner stated that Mr. Conroy has assisted in several ways such as running the PowerPoint slide projector and assisting with pre-event publicity. Teams may either pre-register as a team or form itself on site at the event. Teams may wager some or all of their points for the final question. There are 2 rounds in the trivia tournament, and the event runs an average of 2 hours. Prizes may be awarded by winner take all or by first, second and third place. Cash prizes are suggested in case of a tie.

Discussion resulted in a consensus decision to pursue this fundraising idea on a Saturday evening in October. Steve noted upon consulting a KU football game schedule that October 27 is the only scheduled home game, but no kickoff time has been determined. Rob appointed Susan Tabor and Renee Morgan as an event planning team with Rob as ex officio to formulate the detailed aspects of the event, e.g., date and time, participation fees, contest categories, etc.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Prepared by Rob Tabor | Jayhawk Chapter president