NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS

JAYHAWK CHAPTER

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 2018

The chapter held its regular monthly business meeting on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at the Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence Kansas. There were 6 members and one guest present.

• Call to order, welcome and agenda review. The chapter president called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was generally accepted as proposed with changes in order of presentation to accommodate a member’s scheduling needs.

• National report. Presidential Release No. 474 was audio-streamed in full.

• Minutes of May 2018 meeting. The minutes were approved with one technical correction by the president.

• Treasurer’s report. As of July 31 the bank account balance was $651.82. The president approved the treasurer’s report as read.

• Change of meeting date/time/place. The president notes that the need to consider changing the particulars of the monthly meeting arises from the inability of the vice president and secretary to attend Saturday morning meetings. After lengthy discussion it was proposed that we meet on Monday from 4pm to 6pm., subject to consultation with Renee Morgan and Tamara Kearney. Athena agreed to present this suggested meeting slot to them, venue to be later determined. The president will revisit the matter at the September regular meeting.

• Chapter and state affiliate report. Audio-Reader update. Rob announced that KU will gradually withdraw financial support from Audio-Reader beginning with state fiscal year (SFY) 2020, at which time the allocation will reduce by 50 percent, followed by an additional 50 percent decrease in SFY 2021, with no financial assistance from SFY 2022 going forward. KU will continue to provide in-kind support for its offices and studios but there will be no ongoing support for payroll and other operational expenses. Funding for the current state fiscal year 2019 remains at the same level as in SFY 2018.

* National Convention. A total of 2455 registered for the 2018 NFB National convention in Orlando Florida including 12 from Kansas. A highlight of the convention was the announcement by president Riccobono that the 2019 convention will be held at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas Nevada from July 7-12, 2019. Rob expresses his concern that this choice of venue is problematic in light of several lawsuits which MGM, the parent company which owns the Mandalay Bay facility, has filed against many of the victims’ survivors of mass shooting that occurred in October of 2017. Rob stated he will raise the issue through proper organizational channels.
* State convention. Rob notes that state second vice president Donna Wood has recovered from some major health issues and has resumed being co-chair of the 2018 state affiliate convention to be held at the Hotel Old Town in Wichita from Friday, November 2-4. The Senior Division of NFBK will conduct an historic first introduction to blindness skills senior training seminar with the assistance of staff from BLIND, Inc., located in Minneapolis in Minnesota. The seminar will feature some light mobility and daily independent living skills training and discussions of Federation philosophy. The seminar will take place on November 1-2, immediately prior to the convention. The training seminar is free of charge and the only requirement is for participants to attend the 2018 state convention.
* New Chapter formation. State vice presidents Rob Tabor and Donna Wood will travel to Salina on Saturday, August 25 to organize a new chapter in the Salina area. The chapter stems from the high level of participation from Salina area blind people on the Meadowlark (at large) monthly conference call.
* Ken Tiede Memorial scholarships. The August 31 deadline to apply for the three NFBK scholarship awards is rapidly approaching. A report of scholarship candidates will be presented at the next state board meeting scheduled for September 2 via teleconference.

•Fundraising. Trivia tournament. Rob stated that several meetings have taken place at Conroy’s Pub to prepare for the tournament on October 13. Steve Buckner has prepared all questions except for the final question on which contestants may wager some or all

Of their accumulated points in the effort to win the contest. A flyer has been developed and will be distributed to publicize the event.

* Other possible fundraisers. Renee has had some preliminary conversations with Nancy O’Connor at The Merc and was advised to submit an applications for funding before the selection committee chooses its recipients for the upcoming year. Another possibility is Cans for The Community which collects and sells recyclable aluminum beverage cans to benefit local nonprofit agencies and voluntary organizations.

• Membership drive. Rob invited members to come up with ideas for a membership drive. Some possibilities include a social at a local dining establishment and an ice-cream social.

• Upcoming elections. Rob announced that Athena and Susan will serve as this year’s nominating committee to propose a slate of officers for the upcoming year. The elections will take place at our October regular meeting. Annual membership dues of $12 must be paid prior to voting.

• Old and new business. Some discussion ensued regarding the touchscreen kiosk at the State Capitol Visitors Center. Rob stated this needs to be followed up with the Kansas State Historical Society.

• Knowledge Base. Our guest speaker was Bob Mikesic, Executive co-director of Independence, Inc. Bob made an appeal for ongoing collaboration his organization and the Jayhawk chapter in the areas of systems change advocacy and peer mentoring including answering staff and consumer questions about JAWS, accessible iOS devices, and other assistive technology for the blind. Bob engaged us in conversation and agreed to provide a letter of support for the Advisory Committee’s recommendations for better practices in funding vocational rehabilitation service plans for blind Kansans.

• Adjournment. There being nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Submitted by Rob Tabor Jayhawk Chapter president