JAYHAWK CHAPTER NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2020

LOCATION: CONROY’S PUB, 3115 W 6TH ST. UNIT D, LAWRENCE, KS

Members present: Rob Tabor, president, Lynda Anders, secretary, Brendy Latare, Treasurer, Cheryl and Ron Miller

Guest, Tom Anderson, state affiliate board director

• Call to order and preliminaries. The meeting was called to order by the president at 4:10 pm. The president approved the proposed agenda with one modification, to wit, information on the national new member onboarding program was deferred to March.

• National report. Presidential Release 491 (redacted) was audio-streamed.

• January meeting minutes. Upon the president’s call for revisions or corrections and hearing none, the president approved the January meeting minutes as drafted and distributed via email.

• Financial report. The ending bank balance as of January31 was $823.82. Brendy notes there are 13 members in the chapter. The per capita membership has been paid to State treasury. There being no changes or corrections, the president declared the treasurer’s report approved as read.

• State and chapter report. Rob announced that work will begin soon on site selection for the 2020 state convention. State president Tom Page had approached the Hyatt Place Hotel in Topeka, but it was too expensive for our budgetary requirements and management refused to negotiate rates. Rob suggested without objection that he would work with state senior leadership to secure a location in Lawrence.

State president Pages has secured a sponsor for the Blind Parents Rights bill which will be ingtroduced by Rep. Ponka-We Victors of Wichita. Rep. Eileen Horne of Lawrence has signed on as a co-sponsor. Rob stated we need to secure some Republican co-sponsors to avoid the appearance of partisanship.

Rob stated he has filed an online application for a governor’s appointment to the state Use Law Committee, a group which consults with and gives guidance to the State Director of Purchasing. Rob stated that the goal of having NFB represented is to bring access and equity issues to the state bid and purchase process. Rob is awaiting the next step in the application process.

• Fundraising. NCAA tournament pool. Rob asked if the chapter is willing to conduct a pool for the 2020 NCAA Division 1A men’s basketball tournament, and the consensus was to conduct the pool. Rob will serve as pool manager as in past events. Prizes will be awarded for the participant with the highest points, and a second prize will be given to the person who recruits the most participants from outside the chapter. Rob stated the tournament selection committee will announce brackets and pairings on Sunday, March 15 at approximately 5pm local time with television coverage on channel 5 in Kansas City and Channel 13 in Topeka.

¦ Restaurant giveback. Suggestions remain open for possible restaurants to approach. Brendy suggested Chipotle’s Mexican Grill who has worked with us a few years ago and who has been willing to help specific NPO’s once per year. Other possible dining establishments include El Mezcal and Buffalo Wild Wings. Rob stated that one restaurant giveback campaign per calendar quarter could net us about $1 thousand per year.

¦ Other ideas. Suggestions remain open for other fundraising ideas. Lynda suggested an auction of pre-wrapped gifts at the Christmas party in lieu of a white elephant gift exchange which was done at the Johnson County Christmas party last December. Rob encourages members who buy online from Amazon to do so by logging into smile.amazon.com and choose the Kansas affiliate who will receive a percentage of sales through the Amazon giveback program.

• Washington Seminar Report by Tom Anderson. Tom reported that seven (7) delegates attended from Kansas including Linda Anderson and himself, Ashley Neibert, and don and Jody Mulik, Tom Page, and Bruce Roberds. The first five (5) mentioned are members of the Johnson County chapter while the others are in the south-central chapter. Tom summarized the three pending bills on the agenda which include the Access Technology Affordability Act, (HR 2086 and S815, the GAIN Act, (HR 3929) and the Aim High (AIM-HE) Act, (HR 5312 and S 3095. The Kansas delegation was able to meet with Rep. Sharise Davids (KS3), and Rep. Roger Marshall, (KS1.) With these exceptions, the meetings were conducted by various congressional staffers. Tom states that the Congressional Reception was held in the Kennedy Caucus room of the Russell Senate office building. The even was standing room only and was addressed by 10 or 12 House members and 3 or 4 Senators.

¦ KRS Advisory Committee. Tom stated that Governor Kelly is proposing to consolidate DCF and KDADS into a new Department for Human Services with an adult services division under which rehab services would be assigned. Tom notes that the Governor’s reorganization proposal is subject to approval by the state legislature. Tom reports that KRS Director Michael Donelly is being transferred to KDADS and a search is under way for his successor.

• Other business. There being none, the president adjourned the meeting at 5:18 pm.

Submitted by Rob Tabor | president acting in lieu of secretary