**JAYHAWK CHAPTER NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS**

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2020**

Location: Conroy’s Pub, 3115 W 6th, Unit D, Lawrence, KS

Members present: Rob and Susan Tabor, Cheryl and Ron Miller, Brendy Latare, Dustin Disque, Tamara Kearney, Athena Johnson

• Call to order, welcome and introductions. The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm.

• Review/modification of meeting agenda The agenda was approved as drafted.

• National report. Presidential Release No. 492 (redacted) by National president Dr. Mark A Riccobono was audio-streamed.

· Chapter president’s and state reports. National convention. . The Kansas affiliate board met via teleconference on Sunday, March 1. The board approved a financial assistance package for eligible members wishing to attend the 2020 national convention in Houston Texas in July. Amounts are $1200 per person or $2000 per couple or family with an overall spending cap of $20,000. Rob stated those wishing to attend need to contact him via text or email. Names will be forwarded to state president Tom Page who has authority to make the final decision as to who will receive financial assistance. Rob stated there are some basic expectations including attendance at the resolutions committee meeting, the national board meeting, at least one additional committee or division meeting, all general sessions, and the banquet.

· State Use Law Committee. Rob was interviewed on March 3 by Governor Kelly’s Director of Appointments, Scott Allegrucci, in processing his application for appointment to the State Use Law Committee. Mr. Allegrucci stated he will commend the Governor to approve Rob for appointment.

· KRS update. State board member Tom Anderson, am member of the Kansas Rehab Services (KRS) advisory committee, has announced that Dan Decker has been hired to become the new director of KRS. Mr. Decker has some experience in job placement for the DCF supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) program and for District 2 of the Workforce Innovation program with the state Department of Commerce.

· Legislative advocacy. The Kansas version of the Model Blind Parents’ Rights bill was not introduced in time for the legislative turnaround deadline of February 27. Rob stated efforts are under way to ask the House Federal and State Affairs Committee to introduce the bill as this committee is exempt from all deadlines on the state legislative calendar. Rob stated we may need to mobilize to advocate for the bill’s passage on short notice as the legislative session is in its last full month. Even if the bill does not pass this year, we still have a very good opportunity to build relationships with key state legislators to put us in a stronger position for next year. Rob stated the bill will have to be introduced afresh next year as this is the second year of the 2 year legislative cycle.

· Local accessibility evaluation. Rob has received a request from Evan Korynta to recruit members to assist him in reviewing access needs that the City of Lawrence may have in achieving better compliance with the ADA and its regulations. Rob stated he will participate personally and invited other members to do the same. Evan Corynta succeeds Tammy Bennett as the City’s new ADA compliance coordinator.

• Approval of minutes for February, 2020. Upon the president’s call for additions, changes, or corrections to the February minutes, the president approved the minutes with technical corrections, mainly the spelling of some names.

• Chapter treasurer’s report, Brendy. The bank balance as of February 29 was $823.82, which remains the same as reported at the February chapter meeting. Therefore, no financial transactions were made. The president approved the treasurer’s report as read.

• Fundraising – a. Consideration of restaurant give-back fundraisers. Rob stated that due to the upcoming NCAA Accessible basketball tournament pool fundraiser it is probably not feasible to approach a dining establishment for the current calendar quarter. We should instead set our sites on the upcoming quarter beginning April 1. Brendy offered to contact one of the local Chipotle stores.

· Accessible NCAA tournament pool fundraiser. Rob stated that the NCAA tournament selection committee will announce the brackets and pairings for the 2020 Division 1A Men’s basketball tournament. All pool participants are asked to contribute $5 to participate in the pool. Prizes will be awarded for the pool winner and for the person who recruits the most outside participants. Rob will manage the pool as in past years and will send instructions on the Jayhawk chapter email distribution list.

• New member onboarding program and appointment of membership chairman. Rob announced the appointment of Tamara as the chapter’s membership outreach coordinator. Tamara is tasked with helping prospective new members to apply for membership to assure that new members are entered into the national membership database and for members to receive their welcome packets and membership medallions. Tamara will work in collaboration with Ashley Neybert who is the state membership engagement coordinator.

• Knowledge base/program. Chapter members heard an informative presentation by Tamara about her recent travel to Costa Rica. Tamara stated she was impressed by tour guides and other personnel to accommodate tourists with disabilities including blindness. She stated the people of Costa Rica are accepting and welcoming of US Americans.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Submitted by Rob Tabor president and Susan Tabor acting secretary