NFB MA At-Large Chapter Meeting notes 6/11/2024

The meeting was called to Order at 7:07PM. It was followed by Shara Winton’s ice breaker. Those in attendance were Gannon Olson, Shara Winton, Debbie Malone, Liz Lesperance , Cullen Gallagher, Brian Langlois, Sandra Burgess, and Alan Larkin. Liz Lesperance recited the NFB Pledge. Gannon Olson presented the secretary’s report which was moved to be accepted by Cullen Gallagher and was seconded by Liz Lesperance. The minutes report was accepted.

Sandra Burgess provided the treasurer’s Report which mentioned our balance was $514.48 and is still the current balance. The treasurer’s report was moved to be accepted by Alan Larkin and was seconded by Bryan Langlois. The treasurer’s report was accepted. Gannon Olson presented the Presidential Release Summary. The highlights include the following. President Riccobono introduced the first ever IEP Advocacy Academy from today through June 1st. The goal of this program is to increase the number of advocates available to help families through the IEP process, but equally as important to connect them with the network that is the National Federation of the Blind. He then thanked the affiliates across the country that are getting ready to host or have hosted NFB BELL Academies or STEM 2U programs. He then reminded members that June is Pride month. He then mentioned there is a NFB LGBTQ group in the National Federation of the Blind, and if you are interested in being part of the group, you can email Sanho Steele Louchart and he would be pleased to get you connected with the group. His email is sanho817@gmail.com. He then introduced a representative from Equality Florida. The representative was Jon Harris Maurer, who is Equality Florida's public policy director. He works on lobbying work for the LGBTQ equality effort in the state of Florida. He then mentioned that we have developed a partnership with Social Offset.

Shara Winton provided the President’s Report which included the following highlights. The independence market is the store at the national convention and Shara sent out an email asking people are interested in working the table, and we also will have a table for our state. The MA table is mandatory for people receiving help for the convention, and the independence market is voluntary. The national convention is three weeks away. Kendra Scott fundraiser was a massive success. We will have a caucus at the convention. Will occur after the resolutions. People are strongly encouraged to attend all general sessions. Friendly reminder that the Bell Academy is from August 5-16, ages 4-12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm. This is vital for all members to know the NFB Pledge for meetings going forward. The pledge is as follows, I pledge to participate actively in the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to achieve equality, opportunity, and security for the blind; to support the policies and programs of the Federation; and to abide by its constitution.