NFB MA

At-Large Chapter

Meeting Minutes

8/13/2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05

Roll Call: Those in attendance included Gannon Olson, Debbie Malone, Stephanie Valdez, Cullen Gallagher, Aislinn Abbott, Zachary Gousie, Liz Lesperance, Elizabeth Ann Johnson and Brian Langlois.

NFB Pledge: The NFB pledge was recited by Gannon Olson. 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. It is mandatory for all members to know because the chapter president Debbie Malone will randomly be calling on members to recite the pledge in all meetings from now on.

New Business:

Stephanie Valdez presented on a Blind Fencing Team. The information was as follows is develop a fencing team for the state of MA. People who are interested in fencing as a hobby to start training in September. Funding is still be looking into. Lessons would be two times a week and the club is in West Roxberry. Aislinn Abbott and James Mead presented on the Seeker Navigation. Developed a navigation solution for information in public spaces specifically signs and they developed an accessibility solution. They are in the process of trying to launch the product soon. It is an app that a help with airport travel. For the app you put in your flight info and it gives directions. Zachary Gousie is a new member.

Secretary’s Report: Gannon Olson presented the secretary’s report. It was motioned to be accepted by Cullen Gallagher and seconded by Cristina.

Treasurer’s Report: Sandy presented the treasurer’s report and the update was. The balance was $514.48 It was motioned to be accepted by Cullen Gallagher and seconded by Liz Lesperance.

Presidential Release Summary: Liz Lesperance presented the update. Some highlights were people that attended in person was 2,500 and those in attendance virtually were 665, seeking feedback on the national convention. July 26 was the 34th anniversary of the ADA passage. Senate and House are supporting the monarch. October is blind equality acheivment month.

Blind Equality Achievement Month

We talked about doing a Activity in Salem in October to promote Blind Equality Achievement Month. The activities we discussed included having a table where we present on giving the public information about proper sighted guide training, cane training, and guide dog presentation along with several other ideas.

State convention

The state convention is from 3/14-3/16, 2025 in Springfield MA. We also talked about possibly finding volunteers to help coordinate transportation to Springfield.

Fundraising

Gannon Olson, Debbie Malone, and Sandy are working to come up with fundraising ideas to increase our budget.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.