

Student Division Teleconference Call Minutes

July 5, 2020

In Attendance:

- Jeff Crouch, President
- Robert Parsons, Vice President
- Victor Marques, Secretary/Acting Treasurer
- Steven Crouch, Intern

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 PM

1. Meeting Quorum Requirements

- Due to low attendance and infrequent participation from students interns, with the inability to regularly make meeting quorum using our previous structure for several meetings this year, and after guidance from the NFB National Association of Blind Students, quorum will now be determined going forward by attendance of a majority of the elected board positions (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer). A minimum of three of the four positions will be required in attendance for quorum.
- For tonight's meeting, all four officer positions are represented, along with one member intern. We are thus able to proceed with the business of the Student Division at tonight's meeting under the existing structure before voting on the constitutional amendment. See below under "New Business" for motion to amend our constitution to make this new quorum change official for future meetings.

2. Ongoing/Existing Business

- **Upcoming NFB Convention and NABS Registration:** An email and WhatsApp message went out, asking students to identify if they had registered for the NFB National Convention and specifically for the NABS meeting. Dustin is requesting these numbers for planning purposes. At the time of the meeting, four students from MI-ABS had expressed that they were registered for convention with 2 being registered for NABS. It appears that the NABS business meeting is Wed. July 15 at 8 PM Eastern.
- **Registration for NFB NABS Participation at Upcoming NFB Convention:** Robert - registration for NABS dues has already been sent out by email. Jeff to repost to the MI-ABS email list and to the general NFB of MI email list serve to remind all that registration is required ASAP. Registration numbers are low at this point. At the time of meeting, there was no information on an agenda or event times, however at the time of publication of these minutes, the Attendee Hub platform has now been released where individuals can view event times and create their

personalized conference schedule based on which events they wish to attend. This platform is available on the web and as mobile apps for iOS and Android, search for Crowd Compass Attendee Hub.

- **NFB of MI state caucus:** to be held Friday, July 17 at 11 AM. Sessions are to be recorded if someone needs to participate in more than one state caucus, as all state caucuses are being held concurrently. As a MI student/resident, we ask that you please attend the Michigan caucus.
- **NFB Independence Market:** is now back online and can be reached by phone for orders and will continue to operate through the upcoming convention.
- **Existing Financial Activity on MI-ABS Student Division Bank Account:** Jeff is in process of recovering Venmo access to the existing account after previous treasurer Haley resigned the position. This should be complete by 07/06/2020 and Jeff Crouch will be able to create login access to Venmo at that point. Discussion that NABS will be sending \$75 (two door prizes of \$25 and \$50) to Dustin at NABS as our contribution to the NABS door prize efforts for the upcoming national convention.

3. New Business

- **Board Membership Constitutional Amendment:** Motion to amend our constitution to remove student intern positions of membership and fundraising from the elected board, thereby reducing the board membership from six to four elected members (going forward, the board will consist of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer). Motion proposed by Robert, seconded by Victor. Discussion: Jeff is going into the BEP program and will need to take a less active role after August. Discussion also that we need to focus on building membership for our division, and perhaps placing responsibility on student interns immediately was not the best approach, rather students should be mentored for some time in order to assume leadership roles and responsibilities within our group. In this way, strong leadership skills will benefit the division after this mentorship period with board leaders who are able to drive the work of our division going forward in future years. Steven volunteered to mentor, and others on the elected board are certainly able and willing to do so as well. Interest in membership has been low, and that must be the Division's focus at this time, to build numbers and quality leaders. There was discussion of folding the division's assets into the state affiliate, however our board leadership and NABS feel strongly that this should not be the case. Motion to amend the constitution as proposed was approved unanimously.
- **Upcoming NFB of MI State Convention (November 2020):** This will be a virtual event this year. Planning must commence for this event now.
 - **"Michigan's Got Talent"** is the Student Division's traditional event held at the annual state convention. This year, being virtual, video clips will be submitted for judging deliberation and broadcast on the Sunday of our virtual convention. This is not strictly a

singing competition, all forms of talent on display are to be encouraged. Plans are for 3 equal prizes to be awarded in “most classic”, “most original” and “most IT-factor” categories. Judging panel to be drawn from NABS and our board. Fundraising to be tied to this event possibly through viewer tickets or contestant entry fees. Planning on a subcommittee is ongoing.

- **Fundraising:** This is an important aspect of our division work at state convention in order to send students to Washington Seminar, cover scholarship expenses, etc. Discussion of a raffle, with suggestions of baked goods for a basket, gift cards, etc. (a desire to have a significant prize of at least \$100 and a lengthy time to sell tickets). Robert suggested the idea of a third party who can manage online sales of tickets that can be tied to social media promotion of this raffle to run from August 1 up to convention in November, but more information is needed (i.e. can they manage bundle pricing for multiple entries). Initial discussion of the prize being an airline voucher of \$100, shifted to the possible choice of an Orbit Writer Bluetooth braille keyboard of the same value. More discussion is needed, and we may meet outside of these teleconferences as a group to launch this by August 1.
- **Scholarships:** **We are to contribute \$250 to the third scholarship award newly created for this year, the other two scholarships are funded by the state affiliate. We already had this money raised from last year’s Michigan’s Got Talent and Jerusalem’s \$85 fundraising efforts at Washington seminar which would have gone to fund the hotel costs of the NABS rep. Traditionally, we also fund the registration/banquet/travel/hotel costs of the NABS representative and scholarship winners, but this year being virtual, we will not incur those costs. However, despite this good position, it is important to fundraise to ensure we have funds set aside for the 2021 state convention for these expenses.**
- **Transition of Division Bank Account: Motion to officially remove the former treasurer from our bank account and place Victor Marques (acting treasurer) and Jeff Crouch (president) as the two signatories on the account who can access account information and perform financial transactions on behalf of the division, with both parties reporting back to the board on all financial matters. Robert motioned; Victor seconded. Discussion: Jeff will be returning to Kalamazoo after August 1, Victor and Jeff will attend to this matter at that time. Both parties need to attend the bank in person (preferably together or separately within a very short time period), provide identification and at least one copy of these minutes with original signatures of both Jeff and Victor as the new parties to be placed on the account. Motion was unanimously approved.**

Meeting Adjourned: 7:49 PM

Next meeting: Aug. 9 7PM

