**NABS Notes**

***July 2012***

**In this edition of NABS’ monthly bulletin:**

**1. NABS Annual Meeting a Huge Success**

**2. Welcoming New Blood to the Board**

**3. So, You Wanna Help Out?**

**4. State Updates**

**5. No Meeting Minutes**

**NABS Annual Meeting a Huge Success**

Thanks to all of you who came out to the NABS meeting on July first in Dallas. With 225 students paying to register, this is the largest crowd we have had at a NABS meeting in a long time. Big thanks also to all of the individuals who took the time to share their stories with us and present on the agenda. We thought it was a fun and informative meeting, and hope you all thought so, too. If you have any feedback (positive or negative) about the meeting, or suggestions of how we might improve in the future, please just send an email to Sean Whalen at [nabs.president@gmail.com](mailto:nabs.president@gmail.com) and let him know.

**Welcoming New Blood to the Board**

Congratulations to Gabe Cazares of Texas and Justin Salisbury of Connecticut for being elected to the positions of Board Member 2 and Board Member 4, respectively, at our annual business meeting. The whole board is excited by the skills and talents that they bring to the table, and looks forward to a successful year. With these two additions, the current board lineup stands as follows:

President, Sean Whalen (VA)

First Vice President, Karen Anderson (NE)

Second Vice President, Darian Smith (CA)

Treasurer, Shelby Ball (GA)

Secretary, Cindy Bennett (WA)

Board Member 1, Candice Chapman (MS)

Board Member 2, Gabe Cazares (TX)

Board Member 3, Briley Pollard (VA)

Board Member 4, Justin Salisbury (CT)

**So, You Wanna Help Out?**

As you likely know, the majority of the work of NABS is carried out through committees. Getting involved on one of these committees can be a great way to use your passion and talents to further the work of NABS, an also to develop new skills and meet new people. If you would be interested in helping out with our website, fundraising, planning events, or anything else that we haven’t even thought of doing yet, please contact Sean Whalen at (608) 332-4147 or [nabs.president@gmail.com](mailto:nabs.president@gmail.com). Or, just reach out to any member of the board and let us know what you have in mind. All questions, as well as suggestions, are always welcome. So, come on! Let’s work together to build a brighter future for blind students all over the country!

**State Updates**

Connecticut

The Connecticut Association of Blind Students will be founded on November 3, 2012, in Hartford, CT, at the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut State Convention. The national rep for our state convention will be Alpidio Rolón.

Trevor Attenberg and Justin Salisbury, two blind students from Connecticut, are organizing a group of ambitious blind students to form our new student division. The convention will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. We will have a student track separate from the general session during the afternoon.

Interested students should contact Justin Salisbury at [justin.salisbury@earthlink.net](mailto:justin.salisbury@earthlink.net) and make plans today to attend our state convention!

North Carolina

The North Carolina Association of Blind Students is excited to be having its second annual student track at the 2012 National Federation of the Blind of North Carolina State Convention. Our state convention will run from Thursday, September 06, to Sunday, September 09, at Camp Dogwood in Sherrils Ford, NC. Our student track will run from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday, September 08. The first 2.5 hours will feature a GPS technology demonstration, gender group breakout discussions, a para-transit presentation, a disability rights discussion, and an Apple product showcase. We will conclude with our annual business meeting.

We are most grateful to our state affiliate for allowing a generously discounted, all-inclusive student rate of $50, which covers lodging, meals, registration, and banquet.

We hope to continue our tradition of great success with our snack pack fundraiser.

We welcome students from across the nation to join us for a great time!

Visit www.ncabs.org for more information.

**No Meeting Minutes**

The NABS board did not hold a meeting in the month of July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, and minutes from that meeting will be distributed with the NABS Notes for August. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or suggestions. The NABS Board works for you, and we want to know how we’re doing! Thanks for reading, and we’ll be back in July.

Sean Whalen

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