North Carolina Association of Blind Students

Monthly Conference Call – February 8, 2010

Members present:

Brice Smith, President

Cindy Bennett, 1st Vice-president

Justin Salisbury, 2nd Vice-president

Sean Mealin, Treasurer

Sharon Newton, Secretary

Gary Ray, President, NFB of NC State Affiliate

Julius Locklear

Cala Estes

Abbey Lanier

Ronnie Marshall

Dasha Radford

Jewel Shuping

Alan Chase

Announcements:

1. Washington Seminar - Cindy Bennett . Legislative issues for this year are (1) Quiet cars (2) Technology Bill of Rights (3) Social Security

2. Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic is now offering free memberships. They also have a $1,000 essay contest.

3. The Science Academy offered by NFB National still needs mentors for the students.

4. Labeling audio books at public libraries - Jewel is working on obtaining funding for this project. The Raleigh library system will be first, followed by other public libraries in the state as funding becomes available.

5. Scholarships – Gary Ray. State and National scholarship applications are still being accepted. State application at www.nfbofnc.org, due June 30, national application found at www.nfb.org/scholarships, due March 31.

6. NCABS seminar - The registration form and program outline are on our website, www.ncabs.org. Pertinent details of the seminar were discussed by various members.

7. GMS student schedule change – Gary Ray detailed the background of this proposed change and NFB of NC’s reasons for opposing it. NCABS members discussed the issue and voted unanimously to write a position paper stating our opposition. This paper will be presented to the proper authorities who at this stage of the process are the secretary and deputy secretary of DHHS.

Our philosophy question for this meeting: What words do you use to describe your blindness and how do you feel about them and why? We had a great discussion!

The next conference call will be March 8, 2010 at 9:30 p.m. The meeting will last approximately an hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Newton, Secretary