April 23, 2022

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska Board of Directors Meeting

Graduate Hotel, Lincoln, NE

President Jamie K. Richey called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

In attendance: President Jamie K. Richey, First Vice President Christine Boone, Second Vice President Michael Hansen, Treasurer Cheryl Livingston, Secretary Kimberly Scherbarth, Board Members: Nancy Coffman, Rachna Keshwani, Geralyn Konruff, Maura Loberg, Linda Mentink, and Rebecca Stevens

Also in attendance: Barbara Loos, Brad Loos, Shane buresh, Amy Buresh, Sarah buresh, Carlos Servan, and Jeremy Richey.

Board Activity – “Eleven Minutes of Why.”

Michael Hansen moved to approve the March 26, 2022 National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska Board of Directors meeting minutes as read and First Vice President Christine Boone seconded the motion, the motion carried.

Treasurer Cheryl Livingston explained the set-up of the Treasurer’s Report.

Board Member Nancy Coffman moved and Board Member Linda Mentink Seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read.

NFB-Newsline Report was presented by NFB Newsline Coordinator for Nebraska, Kimberly Scherbarth.

President Jamie Richey presented the ”President’s Scoop.” Updating on upcoming events and happenings in our affiliate since she was elected as our National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska state affiliate President at our March 26, 2022 board meeting.

* Older Blind Conference to be held in Grand Island
* College Blind Conference -partnering with Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
* Teachers of Tomorrow
* Blind educators award, May 1, 2022.
* Presidential release to be held virtually on May 2, 2022

The following committee reports were given:

* BELL Academy: In Home Edition to be held this Summer. Planning for an in-person program next year.
* Membership Committee- consists of one member from each chapter or division. Currently, President Jamie Richey, Jerry Whitlow, Linda Mentink, Rachna Keshwani, and Maura Loberg.
* Second Vice President Michael Hansen reported on online storage. Board Member Nancy Coffman, President Jamie Richey, and Michael Hansen will test the new storage option, Proof of concept using Microsoft 365 . Second Vice President Hansen will send a written report to Secretary, Kimberly Scherbarth.

Discussion of purpose of online storage and who may access/upload items. This will be a place to store current information, history, archives, etc. . .

Second Bice President Hansen provided an update on the ongoing issues with our website – currently working with our national office to resolve issues. In the process of moving all affiliate websites to the same server, which will have a common look and feel. Also, this will make sure that all sites are backed up.

Discussion of online membership form. Only those with access to the link to the membership page will be able to access the form.

Second Vice President Hansen stated that we are Looking to transition from online hosting to Microsoft 360. We won’t have a monthly fee anymore.

Discussion of Accessible online bus tracker - There are parts of the tracker that no longer work and we do not have a person with the skillset to make the updates. Allowing the partially functional tracker to remain on the site is a dishonor to Rachel’s memory because it cannot be maintained. President Richey stated that a discussion was held by the Lincoln chapter, and it was recommended to take down the tracker and put something on the bottom of the webpage to honor members who have passed away and note their contributions.

 This will be tabled for a future discussion.

We will retire the tracker and take down this website and will no longer pay for that server.

Old business:

2022 National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska State Convention –wrap up.

* Second Vice President Hansen will post the Keynote speech to YouTube.
* President Richey noted that the Zoom bill, paid to Second Vice President Hansen for the second Zoom account, will be on the next quarter’s Treasurer’s Report.
* Board Member Maura noted that raffle prizes should be received soon, if they have not already been received.

Discussion of Spring convention.

* Next Spring March 16 - 19 at the Graduate Hotel in Lincoln and maybe a senior seminar and student seminar on March 17.
* Room Rates will be $99per night.
* President Richey will appoint a convention committee and sub- committees by July 1st.

Discussion of obtaining office space.

 Second Vice President Michael Hansen moved to locate an office space for the purpose of a physical address and for storage of Federation property. Board Member Maura Loberg seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion of Zoom Account from the National office which is available for all chapter, division, and committee meetings. Oly one group at a time. Reach out to Second Vice President Hansen regarding scheduling Zoom meetings.

Discussion of reimbursement for transportation to board meetings. First Vice President Christine Boone recommended appointing a committee to develop ideas to bring to the board. President Richey stated that we will table the discussion for now and put together a committee.

New business:

Discussion of 2022 National Convention and activities. Convention to be held July 5-10, 2022 in New Orleans.

* Convention assistance: Applications must be received by May 10, 2022
* Convention assistance (and awards) committee: Treasurer Cheryl Livingston, Barbara Loos, and Jeff Altman.

Treasurer Livingston moved that we allocate $8,000 For National Convention assistance and Board Member Nancy Coffman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Discussion of whether the National office covers the expenses of the alternate delegate to National Convention. Past President Buresh stated that they could/or have when it was necessary, but it has not been needed.

President Richey would like to see us pair individuals who have not attended National Convention with a mentor who has attended more conventions.

Treasurer Cheryl Livingston moved, and Board Member Maura Loberg seconded that we donate $250 each to the White Cane, Sun, TenBroek, and Jernigan funds and $100 to the NFB Camp Fund if requested. The motion carried.

Pre-Authorized Contribution Table and Door Prizes:

Board Member Nancy Coffman moved, and Board Member Maura Loberg seconded, that we donate $50, in cash or gift cards, to door prizes and the motion carried.

Board Member Maura Loberg moved, and Treasurer Livingston seconded that we donate $25 to the Pre-Authorization Contribution Table and the motion carried.

Discussion of Nebraska Table in the exhibit hall at the National Convention.

First Vice President Boone moved, and Secretary Scherbarth seconded that we sell the Mill coffee and popcorn balls at our affiliate table and the motion carried.

Board Member Rachna Keshwani moved, and Board Member Maura Loberg seconded that we have a table in the exhibit hall and the motion carried.

President Richey asked that members notify her if they are interested in working at the affiliate table and also in the Independence Market.

Creation of the following committees was discussed:

Award and Assistance Committee: established today.

Chapter and Division Building Committee: to attend and provide support in chapter/division meetings; to help establish new divisions, such as the Parents of Blind Children division; and to work hand-in-hand with the membership committee. Those interested in serving on any of these committees should let President Richey know.

Convention Arrangements Committee: to be appointed by July 1st. First Vice President Christine Boone will be the chair and Second Vice President Michael Hansen volunteered to serve on this committee.

* There will be several sub-committees appointed.

Deaf Blind Committee- President Richey would like to see Jolene Boshart of Lincoln serve as chair of that committee and maybe Leah Johnson, from Omaha, and Steven Senteney of Scottsbluff serve. Jerry Whitlow from Kearney and Alek Balaberda from Lincoln were also mentioned.

Digital Media: Facebook, Twitter, post to list-serve, involve news media at events, etc. . . President Richey would like to see Rebecca Stevens chair and Robert Newman serve on this committee. Board Members Maura Loberg and Rachna Keshwani are also interested in serving on this committee.

Education Committee: Work on Braille initiatives, and reach out to Teachers of the Visually Impaired and students in the Teachers of the Visually Impaired program at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Work with Nebraska Center for the Education of Blind and Visually Impaired Children, Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Talking Book and Braille Library. Suggestions for this committee by President Richey: First Vice President Christine Boone, Board member Maura Loberg, Barbara Loos, and Amy Buresh.

Finance committee ; Board Member Nancy Coffman moved and Second Vice President Michael Hansen seconded that we designate a committee to perform an annual audit of our Treasury, starting May 1st of each year and submit a report to this board by September 1st of each year. The motion carried.

President Richey suggested, Treasurer Cheryl Livingston, Bob Burns and Board Member Geralyn Konruff to serve on this committee.

Legislative committee: for both local and national legislation, coordination of events such as Washington Seminar and local events, such as the legislative breakfast, contacting Senators and Congressmen, keeping membership up to date on bills and initiatives. President Richey has suggested Shane Buresh for this committee and other volunteers are needed.

Membership committee: This committee has already been established and Board member Linda Mentink has expressed interest in chairing this committee.

BELL Committee: Currently coordinated by Secretary Kimberly Scherbarth. President Richey would like to see this as a committee that works all year long, supporting the coordinator, getting the word out about BELL, reaching out/following up with families, creating the program, working with teachers of the Visually Impaired to possibly get them involved. President Richey suggested reaching out to our current membership (and past) to get them involved. One current member suggested, Shane Buresh.

Online Storage and Website management committee: Currently President Jamie Richey, Board Member Nancy Coffman, and Second Vice President Michael Hansen. Some possible new committee members Jeremy Fifield, Alek Balaberda, and Brandon Peters.

Scholarship Committee: Currently chaired by Shane Buresh with a representative from each chapter/division serving. Board members Linda Mentink and Maura Loberg, and Secretary Scherbarth are interested in serving on this committee as well as a suggestion of Brandon Peters.

Leadership retreat: Previously scheduled and cancelled due to COVID-19. We have credit with Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont. President Richey will reach out to Calvin Crest regarding possible Fall 2022 availability.

Future meetings:

Board Member Nancy Coffman moved, and Treasure Livingston seconded the motion to have our next board meeting in Kearney on August 13, 2022 and the motion carried.

End of year meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Brief Chapter reports:

Lincoln Chapter: Picnic in June and Salt dog game in July. The Lincoln chapter meets , the third Saturday of each month.

Omaha Chapter: Picnic May 21st at 10 a.m. Chapter meeting held the third Saturday of each month.

At-Large chapter: Summer picnic, date and time to be determined. At-Large chapter has moved the meeting dates to the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Senior Division: Special offer with ATguys.com, NFB22 Code until April 24, 2022, Free shipping orders of $79 or more. The speaker for the next Senior Division meeting is Betty Collier who wrote an article in the Braille Monitor. The Senior Division meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. central time via Zoom.

Columbus Chapter : Meets at 12:45 at the Columbus Community Center on the second Monday of each month.

Student Division: Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Other announcements:

Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired will hold their next Commission Board meeting on May 7, 2022 in Kearney at 9:00 a.m. No focus topic, due to the evaluation of the Executive Director. Other 2022 Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired board meetings are scheduled for: Friday, July 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Lincoln; Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Omaha. The new Commission website is about to be launched and Treasurer Livingston stated that she was asked to test the website. President Richey is also interested in testing the site.

Friends of the Commission: First Vice President Christine Boone reported that there will be a Blind Science camp for children between the ages of 12-17 years of age from anywhere in the state. Hosted by two professors from Doane University, with assistance from Independence Science . Topic: From the Prairie to the Sky, the Science of Prairie Eco-systems. Looking for two or three Federationists to be dorm counselors and maybe one person to work as a daytime assistant. This will be a three-day camp held in the Summer of 2023 at Doane University.

Secretary Scherbarth moved, and Board Member Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Scherbarth, Secretary

National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska