President’s Update

May 2017

I find it amazing to think that we were beginning our 2017 state convention exactly 2 months ago today. The convention broke all recent attendance records for registration, board meeting attendance, and attendance at the banquet. We all enjoyed getting to know our national president, Mark Riccobono, and his banquet speech helped us understand his blindness journey, and gave much food for thought. I want to thank everyone for their participation. There will be a recap of the convention in the Spring/Summer newsletter.

Our 2018 convention will be held at the Red Lion in Twin Falls, April 26-28. Room rates will be $81.00. A full breakfast will be included. I appreciate the work of Judy Jones who researched locations and dates and worked with the Red Lion to get this excellent rate. I will be looking for good convention program ideas. The time to start planning is now. We will keep a similar schedule to our 2017 convention.

Thanks to the work of Ramona Walhof, we received a $16,000 grant to help people who are either first time attendees, or haven’t attended a national convention in a long time, to go to convention. This is the best way to help members understand the broad scope and impact of our organization. There are 20 people attending with the grant, and I know of 6 other members attending. Idaho has not sent such a large delegation in years. We have a Jernigan scholarship winner, Megan Geisler. We have had a Jernigan scholarship winner for the past three years, so it pays to apply.

I, along with other NFB members, will be helping at a resource fair for the ICBVI college days in mid-June. I will also be doing a Toastmasters class for SWEP students this summer as well, and teaching in our BELL program in Boise.

Our benefit concert will be held on October 15, a great way to celebrate White Cane Safety Day! I am considering having our fall board meeting that weekend, which would help ensure more statewide participation in the concert, which is a state rather than a chapter fundraiser.

Speaking of fundraisers, Treasure Valley Chapter, under the direction of Al Schneider, just concluded the 2017 Cycle for Independence, on Saturday May 20. Both our sponsors and our ridership were up considerably. Thanks to the hard work of Al and everyone who participated. I rode 25 miles. The weather was beautiful and I had a great time!

I’m heading to California this weekend to visit friends. I will return on June 7. If you have a situation that cannot wait until I return, please call me on my cell phone. Enjoy the rest of spring. I think it’s finally really here!

Dana Ard, President

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