# National Federation of the Blind of Arizona

# Quarterly Board of Directors meeting

# February 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:57 AM. Board members present:

Donald Porterfield – president

Marcus Schmidt – First Vice-president

Bob Kresmer – Second Vice-president

Garret Mooney – Secretary

Sami Hamed – director

Brian Duarte – director

Amy Porterfield – Director

Megan Homrighausen – Director

Brad Kuhn – Director

Sharonda White – Director

Donna was absent from the meeting.

# Secretary and Treasurer's Report

## Secretary's Report

Garret Mooney

The minutes for the November meeting were read. Amy moved for their adoption, Marcus seconded, and the motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report

Donna Silba

Donna was not present to give a report. In the past few months she has suffered several hardships. She has had difficulty receiving services from VR. Additionally, she has broken her ankle. Donald asks that Donna be given more time to generate a report. He is confident a report will be available soon.

# Code of Conduct

The national board has adopted a code of conduct. They are asking all affiliates to do the same. All elected officials of affiliates, chapters, and divisions are asked to sign but are not required. The adoption of the code of conduct is in reaction to recent public instances of abuse by high ranking officials of other organizations. Sharonda read the code of conduct for all to hear. Bob moved to adopt the document as the affiliates official code of conduct. Brian seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

# Legislative

Sami Hamed

## Phoenix Seminar

SB1040 (service animal) unfortunately passed out of the senate government committee but remains stalled in the judiciary committee. Law makers have informed Sami they plan on not moving forward with the bill.

Representative David Livingston has verbally agreed to impute language that exempts technology purchased by VR from procurement in the appropriations bill. Senator Kate Brophy McGee has introduced SB1290 which removes the entire Department of Economic Security from procurement. Lawyers for the department are opposed to the bill. Sami says the goal is to convince the Senator to stop advancing her bill.

Senator Nancy Barto has introduced our blind parent’s legislation (SB1198). The bill unanimously passed through the senate government committee and the whole of the senate. SB1198 has now been transferred to the house and awaits committee assignment. Sami informed the board that the bill is stronger than the Utah legislation. Now that the bill is in the house we need to work to find a champion to help it move forward.

## Rest Stops

Governor Dug Ducey will need authorization from the US secretary of the Department of Transportation to commercialize rest stops. We will ask the Arizona Congressional Delegation to send letters to the Secretary asking for the governor’s request be denied.

## Washington Seminar

six members attended from the state of Arizona. The Accessible Instructional Materials in Higher Education act has been included in the Prosper act. The Access Technology Affordability Act was included in the tax over hall legislation passed in December but was removed at the last second. Law makers will need to pass a cleanup bill this year and will include it in the bill.

Unfortunately, the ADA Education and Reform act (HR620) will be put to a vote in the house of representatives this coming week. Members are asked to call and email their representative and request them to vote no. Garret will send Donald the twitter account information of all Arizona representatives for members to contact. Constituents living in representatives sinema and McSally’s districts are especially encouraged to contact their representative because both are co-sponsors of HR620. The

fourth issue at Washington Seminar was the treaty without borders.

# Constitutions

President Riccobono will be sending chapter and division constitutions back to state affiliates for their approval. Once approved they are then to be sent to him. When new members pay their dues, they are to be voted into the chapter at that time. Additionally, they must be present to be voted into the chapter Requirements on a minimum number of chapter meetings attended before being allowed to pay dues or voted into the chapter will not be allowed.

# Membership Connections Data Base

National would like chapters and divisions to start using the membership form on the NFB website. They want to better maintain the information of our members. Additionally, they are asking for the entire state roster on the proper forms.

# Affiliate Committees

Donald would like each board member to send him their committee preferences. If he does not receive them by the end of the week he will make committee assignments.

# NFB Scholarship Program

March 31 is the deadline for the national scholarship application. On February 12 at 6:00 PM SAAVI will be holding a scholarship info seminar. Former state and national winners will be there to answer questions for applicants.

# Leadership Seminar

Bob suggested we hold the seminar in august or October. Hotel prices tend to be the cheapest and they are the least busiest months for the affiliate. Marcus recommended the seminar take the place of the May board meeting. Brad moved to have the seminar in November 2018 and have it take the place of the board meeting. Bob seconded the motion. Brad amended his motion to have the seminar in march of 2019 and Bob seconded. Brad amended his motion to hold the seminar on September 29 of 2018. Bob seconded the motion and the it was adopted.

The meeting recessed at 12:23 PM for lunch and reconvened at 12:45 PM.

# Transit

Megan Homrighausen

Members are asked to send letters detailing good and bad experiences of Dial-A-Ride to the transit committee at nfbaz.transit@gmail.com and Valley Metro at csr@valleymetro.org. To be helpful letters must include the date and time. To calculate where Dial-a-ride operates, Valley Metro uses a specific formula. To help better understand and advocate on behalf of our members Megan asks that we look into the exact details of the Formula.

# BELL Academy

Amy Porterfield

Tucson’s BELL Academy will be held from May 28 to June 10. The Phoenix program will be from July 16 to July 28. Amy will send out a notice telling members how to apply for a position.

# Chapter and Division Reports

# Phoenix

Brad Kuhn

Long time members Paul Wagner and Ruben baron have passed. Additionally, Tom Johnson's father has died. Joe Goode and Sharonda White have recently engaged and are looking to marry this upcoming October. The chapter has raised $400 from selling lanyards. brad says they will continue to sell them. During a previous chapter meeting fried chicken and peach cobbler was raffled to also help raise money. Sixty members attended the annual Christmas party. on April 8 the Phoenix chapter picnic will be held at Chaparral Park.

## West Valley

Marcus Schmidt

A community outreach program has been formed in the chapter. The chapter had a table at the Sun City Health and Wellness Expo. A social will be held on February 20. In march the chapter will hold their elections.

## East Valley

Megan Homrighausen

elections were held in November. Ruth and Jim soul welcomed the chapter into their home for the annual Christmas party. A Mexican fiesta fundraiser was held at Debra Smiths Swift BEP Location.

# Tucson

Sami Hammed

In November Tucson held elections. Sami is excited to work with the newly elected board members. There annual Christmas party had over 80 members in attendance. Members also got to enjoy a snow ball fight.

In January the chapter showed Do You Dream in Color. Tucson is now working their annual race track fundraiser for the next six weeks.

For teacher appreciation day the chapter will be giving gift baskets to teachers of the visually Impaired in Tucson and Pima County. Sami asked the affiliate to help pay for the baskets up to $350. Bob moved to authorize the request, Brian seconded, and the motion carried. Additionally, the chapter asked for $250 to help pay for the dinner for the graduating Seniors. Brian seconded the motion and it was adopted.

## Students

Brian Duarte

The Christmas gift baskets raised $210.

## Merchants

Megan Homrighausen

Will continue to work with the state to stop the commercializing of rest stops.

# Announcements

All NFB national and state conventions will be Aira free spots. Subscribers will not be charged minutes while in the hotels. Sharonda moved to table the treasurer’s report, brad seconded and the motioned carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

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