# National Federation of the Blind of Arizona

# Quarterly Board of Directors meeting

# May 11th, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Board members present:

Donald Porterfield- president

Marcus Schmidt- First Vice-president

Bob Kresmer- Second Vice-president

Donna Silva- Treasurer

Colin Wong- Secretary

Brian Duarte - director

Amy Porterfield - Director

Megan Homrighausen - Director

Jordan Moon- Director

Joanne Gabias- Director

Sami was absent from the meeting.

# Secretary and Treasurer’s report

* Marcus read the Secretary’s report for the February Board Meeting

Amy made a motion and Megan seconded. The motion carries.

* Treasurer’s report was read by Donna

Megan made a motion and Marcus seconded. The motion carries.

# Announcements and Updates

* Donald made an announcement stating that any fundraising that is designated for convention, upon his discretion, will have the 50 percent profit that is normally given to the state waived.
* Donna requested that whoever is in charge of square provide her with the transaction information so she can properly document the funds

# Legislative Report- Jordan Moon

* On March 19th the Arizona Senate passed a resolution regarding secret ballots

Passed SCM 1005 which is the concurrent memorial regarding this issue

Resolution was passed in the Senate by Senator Austin

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs was present

* A resolution was given to Secretary of State Katie Hobbs urging voters with disabilities to have equal access to anonymous voting like everyone else.

All 15 counties in Arizona have been made aware of this

* The bill regarding police training has been dropped.

There is a stakeholder’s meeting on May 20th about this issue

* Transition to competitive employment act will phase out Section14c or subminimum wage over a 6 year period
* Access Technology affordability act is being discussed on a federal level

Neither of these bills have a sponsor from Arizona

* The federation is working on stopping the privatization of vending machines in rest areas

This would hurt thousands of blind individuals and severely affect the business enterprise program

Deborah Smith is working with the National Center to eliminate this regulation

# Issues with RSA -Amy Porterfield and Bob Kresmer

- -RSA is not hiring counselors who know how to work with the blind

-Newly blind people are being turned away from services

-Most blind people are being put on Category 2 which means their services are on hold

-All VR Staff needs training including Supervisors, senior counselors, and new counselors

Consumers are getting turned down because of their vision

Over 60 children and many adults have been turned away from services

Training needs to include immersion training at the 3 centers in Arizona and the NFB national convention

# National Convention

-Donald sent out a letter regarding National Convention for anyone who needs financial assistance

The NFB AZ State Board will be providing assistance for people who reach out to Donald for financial assistance

It is not intended to cover all of convention

Marcus researched and discovered that Flix Bus would be the most cost effective way to travel to convention

Flix bus is able to provide accommodations including wheel chair access

Shuttle buses will pick individuals up from Caesar’s palace

Megan said she is able to coordinate flix bus reservations for the state

Jordan proposed that the state charges 20 dollars per person

Joanne seconded

Brian recommends that people should pay the full amount or increase the amount charged to members

Brian amended to charge the members 44 dollars the cover 100 percent of the transportation costs to get to national convention

Jordan agrees to the amendment

Mark seconded

Resolution passes

# Code of conduct

* A new code of conduct was created last year

Any conduct issues will be reported to the National Office

The NFB Website is down and Brian is working on fixing it as soon as possible

All members need to abide by the code of conduct whether or not you have signed it as paying dues mean that you agree to abide by its policies

# Leadership Seminar

The leadership seminar will be facilitated by Anil Lewis

- Leadership seminar will be taking place May 25th and 26th

Donald has already reached out to those who have been invited to go

# State Convention

- State convention will be taking place August 29th-September 1st

- Jordan is the Convention Arrangements Chair

If anyone wants a seminar for state convention, reach out to Donald and be prepared to lead it

The cost for convention has gone up every year for the affiliate but the cost has not been placed on to the members

The cost of state convention has not gone up since 1986

Mark makes a motion to increase the cost of the whole state convention from 90 to 100 dollars

Amy seconded

The motion carries

There will be financial assistance for people interested in state convention

For anyone who wants to make a resolution for state convention, send it to Jordan and Sami

* For Anyone who is able to recruit a sponsor for state convention, reach out to President Porterfield and Joanne

Brian is willing to help work with registering people to state convention

# NFB Bell Academy

* We are expecting over 20 Bell students in Tucson and over 15 in Phoenix

Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering at this event

# Constitutions

Bob Kresmer made a motion to approve the Phoenix Chapter Constitution

Joanne Seconded

The motion passes

Megan mentioned that that the East Valley Chapter constitution has not been voted on

Bob Kresmer makes a motion to approve the East Valley Chapter constitution as amended

Amy seconded

Motion passes

# Committee Reports

## Fundraising- Joanne

* Joanne said that the sweaters for fundraising this year will be grey and purple. It will come by June 15th and ready for convention.

The committee decided to bring down the price of the pullover sweaters to sell more of them. The price will decrease from 30 to 25 dollars for the pullover

Brian makes a motion to reduce the price of the pullovers from 30 to 25

Amy seconded

The motion passes

Joanne reached out to “Run Tucson” and the NFB was offered to become a beneficiary of current existing races. They are willing to donate 1,000 to the State Affiliate with NFB participation. They also offered a free vendor table and discount participation for races

Bob makes a motion to become a beneficiary for the Run Tucson races and for the state participation

Amy seconded

The motion passes.

Transportation for other chapters have not been discussed

The East Valley Chapter is holding a raffle for a Roomba

## Membership

* Membership coins have arrived

Brad suggested that convention should be a way to distribute the membership coins

Brian suggested the caucus at national convention

* The roster for the members of the state affiliate are close to completion

Those who are not on the membership roster, please reach out to your chapter president

## Education committee notes

-The IEP Workshop was a success

There have been many parents reaching out for IEP Advocating

Volunteers are welcome but will need to be trained to become IEP Advocates

## Technology Committee

Technology committee is seeking new members to participate actively in the committee

Brian has reached out to google to get a representative for the state convention but was declined

## Convention arrangements

There was a meeting in April

The exhibit hall will be at a much larger location and some exhibiters have already committed

The goal is to increase people to come to State Convention and Jordan has a call to action to all chapters to reach out to people outside of the chapter to get more members into the NFB

## PR Committee

Tarik has stepped up to become the chair of the PR Committee

Reach out to Tarik if you are interested

## Scholarship Committee

Arizona has 2 national scholarship winners

One from Tucson and another from Phoenix

# Chapter and Division Reports

Bryan makes a motion to table the chapter and division reports due to time and have them email them to the State email distribution list.

Amy seconded

Megan calls for the floor for the East Valley Chapter

Brian’s motion was withdrawn

## Phoenix Chapter

The picnic and spaghetti dinner was successful.

It was a memorial for NFB members who have recently passed away

A community outreach group was set up

Phoenix is working on State Convention arrangements

## West Valley

Elections were held at the last meeting

Lisa is President

Deborah Smith is now Secretary

Board members are KJ and Laurie

Vice President Position is still open

Mark is treasurer

The location of the meeting will be changed to the Haymaker

## East Valley

The East Valley is fundraising with a raffle to win a Roomba

The tickets will be sold at National Convention

The West Valley is hosting a pool party potluck

There is also an active twitter feed

There is also a Facebook page

## Tucson

Tucson’s Annual Picnic was successful

Taught kids how to cook and barbecue

Brian makes a motion to support senior night with up to 300 dollars on May 21st

Megan seconded

Motion passes

The race track fundraiser brought in about 4,000 dollars

## Student division

In March they participated in a fundraiser to sell bracelets

Great turn out at the student spring seminar

## Senior division

First meeting in March

Is interested in doing a seminar at state convention regarding fraud and senior resources

Marcus mentioned that Ruston recently suffered a tornado affecting the Louisiana Center for the Blind and the National Center has ways to donate and support them

# Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 p.m.