NFBA Board Meeting minutes of May 8th, 2021

The meeting took place via zoom, which was also accessible by phone at 408-638-0968 with meeting-id 97110572674.

It was called to order at 9:40 by Donald Porterfield.

role call was taken by Marc, finding all board members to be present,

being Donald, Jordan, Bob, Donna, Marc, Amy, Brad, Collin, Joanne, Megan and Tarik.

About 15 other members were present.

Marc read the minutes of February 13th.

Minutes were though a few changes were recommended.

- under diversity and inclusion, add jessica and misael.

- under the litigation, national office recom to not file litigation yet, but still on table.

- zoom license between $150 and $200.

Donna gave treasurer report:

- beginning balance of feb 13th 112,470, incomed income totaled 190 and expenses totaled 730.

- this leaves balance totaling 112,105, of which 5131 is restricted, leaving 106,973 unrestricted, that is when includes some checks that Donald will deposit soon.

After clarifying a question from Joanne about Amazon Smile donations, the treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Sami gave legislative report:

1) for the Ataa, david schweichart is only congressman who's co-sponsored hr 431; people are encouraged to urge their rep to co-sponsor this legislation.

2) hr 2784 was introduced for funding Ilb with 500k; though it's too late to be considered, it may still be considered for inclusion in the budget.

People are encouraged to reach out to regina Cobb at rocobb@z.leg.gov and david gowan at dgowan@z.leg.gov to add this appropriation to the budget, so that senior blind can receive the independent living services that are badly needed.

3) hr 2373 has been introduced in US house as TIME act to eliminate section 14c of the fair labor standards act, so that disabled couldn't be paid subminimum wages.

Joanne suggested that we develop an outreach to educate business owners about section 14c, dispelling the notion that its abolishment would be unrealistic.

Congressman Grijalva is willing to support this, but other reps need encouraged to cosponsor this legislation.

4) concerning senate bill 1 about voting, the Nfb is promoting an amendment that would include Ada provisions of Hava.

Donald urged chapters who don't yet have representation on the legislative committee to designate an active participant.

Chapter reports:

East valley by megan:

- She reported the they've been working on getting guest speakers.

- they're also considering returning to in-person meetings soon.

Phoenix by Brad:

- their membership continued growing;ng;e

- they're working on a virtual picnic, but no details could be shared yet.

- modifying the constitution is in the works.

- they've made donations to national convention as well as door prizes.

West valley by marc:

- In Lisa's absence, Marc reported that the chapter plans to return to in-person meetings soon; once that happens, they will hold the elections, that are normally conducted around March.

- most of the chapter's members vaccinated, they hope to step up outreach and fund-raising activities soon.

yuma chapter:

- In misael's absence, no report given.

Tucson by Tarik:

- The chapter had a "spring event" as a social.

- They've held a Seas Candy fund-raiser before easter, which brought in $240.

- 3 new members were a.ed last meeting.

Division reports:

1) students division:

No report was given in jessica's absence.

2) merchants:

In debra's absence, Megan reported that merchants are still struggling to handle pandemic.

There was a Blast conference recently, but no specifics were shared.

3) seniors by connie:

- The seniors division board met in april and focused on state convention's seniors seminar.

- They've also been sharing about history of influential blind persons.

- Connie reached out to some senior centers, and has gotten interest from the Beatitudes campus.

4) diabetic action network by brad:

- Brad had nothing new to share.

5) parents of blind children by ashleigh:

A social was held virtually on april 12th.

A discussion will be held around article "where's my plunger".

In june, a braille workshop for parents is planned.

Committee reports:

1) convention planning by jordan:

All members are encouraged to register for convention and review the details online.

The next committee meeting will take place on may 23rd.

Their goals include informing people better, cultivate more helpers, creating more meaningful connections during convention and helping people get more comfortable with the technology.

This year, the business meeting will be held sunday morning, making things less rushed during saturday.

No exhibit hall will be held, but a list of sponsors will be posted online.

The desire is to send out agenda by august first, which will require that all seminars be worked out by end of june.

Brad has started working hard on gathering door prizes and auction items, with the next meeting this coming tuesday.

A theme won't be chosen until after national convention.

He reminded that anyone interested in volunteering should contact Marc, to connect them with the appropriate committee.

Tasnim volunteered to be a zoom runner.

It was approved to set aside $1000 in door prizes.

2) Bell Academy:

Amy reported that Bell academies will be starting June, withy with another in july and last in august, which will be split into groups by age better than last year.

People with an interesting story about elementary school years should contact Amy, to be included as story teller.

Enrollment in our state has been slow, as most kids are tired of virtual sessions.

Our state's lead role in spanish program is helping people around country.

It was approved to appropriate $2500 to support national bell program.

3) membership by Tarik:

- A meeting was held on April 27th, focusing on getting people involved.

- He encouraged everyone to reach out to at least one person from whom they haven't heard in a while.

- They also discussed how to mobilize chapters to encourage people to attend state convention.

- Donald reminded everyone that members joining need to fill out national new-member form, in order to get added to national database immediately and be eligible to receive the membership coin.

- The list of our membership for national database will be updated again May 31/; so, those having changed their phone, a.ress or email, should contact Donald or Tarik before then.

4) educN by collin and Ashleigh:

They have been working on planning a seminar for state convention, including presentations from education company (like Peerson), student's presentation on what has helped her be successful and updates on covid.

They will meet with Elissa Trollinger about getting resources to students during pandemic, teachers' certification concerns, getting proper accomodations for students for whom english isn't primary language.

5) diversity and inclusion but Collin:

The committee has been focusing on 3 things, producing content for state convention, developing spanish translation routes, creating process for those who want to participate on the committee.

6) fund-raising by joanne:

- All chapters are encouraged to promote the current Seas Candy fund-raiser.

- She clarified that the enscription in the color-changing cup is something the customer can choose, but the Nfb logo is too complex to use.

- So far, 24 cups have been ordered, bringing in $108 into the affiliate.

7) technology:

Brian reported that the website has been updated to receive donations toward state convention and registration.

It also contains the fund-raiser for color-changing insolated cups.

Those with questions or concerns with the website should contact him via email at bjduarte@su.edu, preferably after 6 pm Eastern time.

8) transportation by Marc:

- there are some bus-route cut-backs planned in fall, for which some committee members plan to attend public meeting end of month.

- they're also getting educated on maricopa association of government's long-range transpootation plan, called "our momentum", and mrouide input through umcoming "pick your path" online sessions.

- some members volunteered test newly improved ride-choice portal.

- Committee urged again to invite people from Tucson and Yuma chapters.

- Bob urged the committee to move process along to get Ben onto Vmaag.

9) scholarships by amy:

To Amy's knowledge, no applicants from our state won national scholarship.

So far, 8 students have applied state scholarships,ips, but deadline for state scholarship not until may 31/.

She reminded people the 3 scholarships are being awarded this year rather than the customary two.

Other items:

1) Pac plan:

Donald mentioned that, given how formitable our state is viewed by national zfice, our state's contributions and number of donors is under-representative.

Thus, he's looking for someone who will actively promote the Pac plan.

No volunteers stepped forward during the meeting, though some recommendations were made.

2) In-person meetings' guidelines:

Donald urged the chapters and divisions continue to follow Cdc guidelines.

One of those guidelines is that meetings be 10 or less, unless everybody is vaccinated.

Some expressed concerns about limiting meetings to only those who are vaccinated as being not as inclusive as we want to be.

Donald wants us to be considerate of those among us who are more fragile health-wise, knowing that even those who have been vaccinated can spread the covid virus to others.

It was moved to require meetings continue virtually, until a committee, chaired by Donald, discusses this to develop guidelines for in-person meetings.

3) national convention:

Donald reminded people that people need to register by may 31/, for which members must be current on dues, in order to be allowed to vote.

Watch parties are accepted and will be recognized, but should notify Donald.

If people donate $20, they're entered into raffle for all expenses paid to next year's national convention.

All veterans are encouraged to identify themselves with vernan humfries, so they can be recognized during the annual ceremony.

Chapters donating to national funds should notify donald and donna.

It was approved to donate $1000 each to jernigan, tenbroek and white-cane fund as well as $200 in door prizes.

4) Climate assessment survey:

Donald encouraged all participants who've gone through Rainn training to complete this survey by the 12th, which is deadline given.

5) Survivors taskforce meetings:

On may 23rd, there's a code of conduct Faq meeting, which doesn't require registration.

6) Covid vaccinations:

Free rides to vaccination appointments are being offered by Lyft, but requires a code which Donald will provide anyone who asks.

Brad publicly thanked Saavi for providing vaccinations at their phoenix location.

Vaccinations are being offered at Tucson's training center on may 14th.

New business:

National office is looking for greater participation in blind parents group, for which seeking a rep from each state to serve nationally.

An Nfb radio station is being started, to share content in its vast national library; they're seeking people with technical skills.

A legal call to action for amazon fulfillment centers has gone out, for which people experiencing problems with receiving accomodations should contact Donald.

Donald highlighted our members serving on national committees:

- tarik cochair of membership;

- tasnam chair of new nfb muslims group;

- collin cochair of diversity and inclusion.

- Amy prior chair of rehab professionals.

Announcements:

Garrett Moony is about to graduate from law school.

Brian Duarte found a home back east and won the bid for it.

Misael Marquez is graduating with Bs in computer science with Gpa at or near 4.0.

Ryan Thomas is about to receive masters degree as Cpa.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 Pm sharp.

Submitted by Marcus Schmidt