2022 Arizona affiliate's 76th annual state convention

Elections took place Saturday afternoon with the following outcome:

Director 5 (1-year term): Mark Feliz

Director 6 (1-year term): Sharonda Goode

Director 1 (2-year term): Amy Porterfield

Director 2 (2-year term): Joanne Williams

Director 3 (2-year term): Rachel Kuntz

Board position 4 is held by Tarik Williams and was not up for election this year.

Sunday's business session of September 4th:

tributes to those who passed away this past year (Justin and Carrie) were given.

Comments about Carrie Taylor included:

- loved music, especially jazz (Tina);

- worked as counselor for drug a.icts many years (Ruth);

- enjoyed her holy spirit (Ruth);

- positive and up-beat, avoiding discussing disease (Ruth and Mark);

- concerned about how people in your life are doing (Sharonda).

Comments about Justin Hughesincluded:

- faithfully attended meetings, conventions and other events (Donald);

- loved his birthdays, as it gave him an occasion to see his friends (Jenny);

- loved calling friends, though often at inopportune times (Donald);

- knew everything about everybody (Mark);

- contentment, despite many serious health problems (Donald);

-

People were urged to raise their contributions to PAC plan, as Arizona would move from 15th to 13th place if the affiliate raised its contribution (currently at $885) by just $30 a month, thereby passing Utah and New Mexico.

Donna gave the annual treasurer's report, including:

As of 08-31-21, total balance between checking, savings and bequest account was 112,493, of which 5,211 were restricted, leaving $107,281 unrestricted.

Income totaled 195,134, of which 178,182 were bequests, $594 united way, $5640 21's auction, $301 phoenix fund-raising, $65 merchant division dues, $900 national convention donations from chapters, $5594 strype donations (largely unknown purposes).

Expenses totaled $161158, including $12,000 bell academy, $3000 scholarships, $2100 Pac, only $83 fund-raising expenses, $847 phone, $6127 freelance interpreting, $5200 national convention donations, $4600 national convention assistance, $23,291 22 convention's hotel, $3111 covid tests, $2000 22 scholarships, $89,091 sharing bequests with national, $8054 fraudulent charges.

Ending balances as of 09-04-22 totaled $151,301, of which $5433 restricted, leaving $145,869 unrestricted.

Because Donna still cannot access details on what strype's donations are for, Donald indicated that we'll be switching back to Paypal soon.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Chapter and division reports suspended but a few highlights were mentioned:

- Ammar Tarin has become student division president.

- 18 of Phoenix chapter's 20 members were present at the convention.

- Matt Mazak has become diabetes action network chairman.

Concerning blind equality and achievement month, Donald urged chapters to plan activities during October, such as:

- Urging local mayors to issue proclamations about declaring October 15th White Cane day.

- Phoenix holding picnic on Oct. first, starting with walk around park, for which need volunteers.

Phoenix seminar planned for Jan. 17th, held in person at the capitol.

It was approved to set aside $750 for food at the seminar.

It was also approved to set aside a maximum of $10,000 for assisting people for Washington seminar.

It was approved to raise total contribution to two Bell programs from 12,000 to $16,000.

It was approved to allocate up to $10,000 for assisting people to attend next year's national convention in Houston.

It was approved to raise affiliate's monthly contribution by $30 a month to $205.

It was approved to raise the scholarships to 3 $1200 contributions, one of which would be offered to someone working full-time and studying part-time; each would still include attendance at current year's state convention and next year's national convention.

Donald concluded the session by publically thinking everyone who contributed to putting on this state convention.

He also urged everyone to get involved in the ongoing fight for every blind person's equality and independence.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 Am.

Submitted by Marcus Schmidt