National Federation of the Blind of Arizona

August 13 Board Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Members present: Donald Porterfield, Jordan Moon, Bob Kresmer, Donna Silba, Amy Porterfield, Joanne Williams, Tarik Williams,

Members absent: Marcus Schmidt and Abdallah Shoolie

Guest present included, Mark Feliz, Debbie Chatfield, Tim Calk, Monica Nunez, Lori kirsop, Cheryl Susunkewa , Marianna Florez, Michael Smith, Ashleigh Moon, Liberti Moon, Cindy Garfio, Sharonda Goode, Tina Sohl, Toney Sohl, Jean Parker.

Pledges

The American Pledge was recited

NFB Pledge was recited.

Introduction

President Porterfield reviewed zoom etiquette , and the modified Rosenburg rules of order that the federation follows during meetings. Including muting when not speaking, and calling for the floor by saying one’s own name when seeking permission to speak.

Secretaries report

The Secretaries report that was sent out with the current meeting agenda was reviewed by the board. Bob Kresmer moved that the minutes were approved, and Tarik Williams seconded the motion. The Motion carried and the minutes were approved. President Porterfield told the guest that if they at any time see something that needed to be corrected in the minutes, they may send their thoughts to Marcus Schmidt, and corrections can be incorporated.

Treasurers report. President Porterfield stated that he sent the treasurer’s report to the board, but did not send to the whole list serve for financial protection. Bob Kresmer moved that we only send out financial information to the board members and not to the whole list. Tarik Williams seconded. The motion carried. President Porterfield stated that if an individual member wishes to see the report, they may either connect to the board member in their chapter or go directly to the President to receive a copy.

Donna Silba reviewed the treasurers report with a June 11 balance of171214.22 and current balance of 163993.12 Amy Porterfield pointed out that several people attempted to pay their membership dues, and they were either not included in the appropriate membership sheet, or their payment did not go through, or the individual was not assigned to the correct chapter. Donna Silba stated that it was important for everyone to send her the receipts. Amy Porterfield moved to adopt the treasurers report, and Jordan Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously. ,

Donald Porterfield reviewed Bob Kresmer’s previous motion to evaluate moving from Stripe back to PayPal as the issues we had with PayPal were much less problematic than the record keeping issues we face with Stripe. President Porterfield stated that he has received many questions on why we do not use ZELL. He stated that the National office does not support using Zell because it is a direct cash transfer, and there is little recompense if there are any mistakes. Marianna Florez from the floor stated she supported using PayPal because people get a receipt, and it is very accessible. Michael Smith from the floor also voiced his support for PayPal because it was easier to track, and there were many concerns where money is coming from. President Porterfield stated that he could get little technical assistance with Stripe, and that the technical assistance is more available with PayPal. The decision whether to switch will be made and reported by the November board meeting.

NFB news.

Alan Harris, a longtime leader in the Federation has passed away. His passing was preceded by his Wife’s Joy Harris the past President of Alabama.

Carrie Taylor, our Arizona Member Recently passed away . We will have a memorial for all our members who have passed during our Sunday Morning business meeting at convention. If anyone would like to speak please let President Porterfield know so time can be allotted A moment of silence was taken in remembrance.

President Riccobono stated in his last president’s message that they are looking to present his October’s presidential release from a chapter or affiliate location. President Porterfield stated he would like us to make a proposal. Jordan Moon stated that the Phoenix chapter would like to invite him to participate in their BEAM month opening activities. Tarik Williams stated we needed a space that would be comfortable for 60 people at least. He suggested one of the new Saavi buildings. Amy Porterfield stated the Saavi Phoenix Building Fiesta Bowl Charities Hall could old over 100 people with High-Speed Internet with Ethernet ports. Bob Kresmer moved to invite the President to an affiliate event at the Phoenix Chapter meeting on Saturday October 1st. Tarik Seconded the motion . Jordan Moon stated that the Phoenix Chapter’s Picknick would occur on the 1st and that their meeting is on the 8th. Amy Porterfield clarified that we would have to do it when the National Office wishes to do the presidential release. Bob Kresmer modified his motion to make it an affiliate event and not connected with a chapter meeting. Tarik seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. President Porterfield asked for ideas for the event. He suggested inviting the Phoenix Mayor to read a BEAM proclamation. Cheryl Susunkewa suggested a mariachi band or other live music. Bob Kresmer suggested that we invite the governor. Tarik agreed that we needed to make the event exciting with music and catering, and that we invited many people and have many people there. Jordan Moon stated he would reach out to the mayor’s office, and that we need to consider transportation to be sure people wo need it can come. Joanne suggested that we have tamales, and pay for or have students make tamales. Mark Feliz, suggested pinata. Tarik suggested moved that we set aside 1000 for the event, and Joanne seconded, President Porterfield, suggested that the motion include live music and catering of Arizona related food. Tarik agreed to the modification and upped his dollar amount to $2000. Joanne seconded. Mark Feliz stated that we up the amount to $3,000 to account for cost of food and entertainment. Jordan Moon agreed and asked us to consider transportation cost as well. Tarik modified his motion to cap the event to $5,000, and Joanne seconded. President Porterfield recommend that the motion include a goal of spending $3,000 and a and a cap for spending $5,000. Tarik modified the motion again and Joanne seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Donald stated he would develop the written proposal and send to President Ricco Bono’s office. Jordan Moon stated he would reach out to the mayor’s office and Congressman Gallego. Tarik stated he would chair the event. President Porterfield asked all interested people wishing to serve on the committee should contact Tarik. Marianna stated she would help. Jordan Ashleigh stated that bell ringers could do jokes at the end.

President Porterfield stated that each person can get up to 3 Braille calendars by going to actionfund.org or emailing [callendars@actionfund.org](mailto:callendars@actionfund.org).

Donald Porterfield asked all people who setup zoom meetings to use the invitation option, so it does appear in attendees’ calendars.

Philosophy

A philosophy session occurred on the topic of the question. “Web you hear the\_\_\_14 phrase Blindness is a characteristic, what does that mean to you?

National Convention Review and discuss

Reviewed NFB change to the national constitution. The amendment allows for a subset of the group of the Board to review any code of conduct violation appeals. The subgroup would investigate the appeal, and the board would vote on the appeal based on recommendation. This protects the name of the person who was disciplined based on violation

2023 convention will take place in Houston Texas.

Anyone can complete post-convention survey at [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org).

State convention

2022 state convention takes place September 1-4 at the University of Arizona Marriott. The link on the website to make the hotel reservation is not our direct group link. It will be corrected on the website, and the correct link was also sent out to the list serve.

Julie Deedon will be our national rep.

The theme for our state convention is Our Movement, Our collective Story.

Covid Protocols, the draft protocols were sent tout to the list serve an include.

Mandatory testing before attending convention including the bus

Mandatory masking

Isolating if receive symptoms ..

Bob Kresmer Moved to adopt the draft policy provided by the committee, and to allocate up to $5000 for covid testing and for masking and supplies. Amy Porterfield seconded the motion. Joanne Williams urged that everyone follow the policy and take it seriously. Jordan Moon stated that the policy includes all aspects of convention including being in the hotel, on the bus, and all social activities. Tarik Williams inquired if we could ask people to bring their own free tests, and Donald Porterfield stated that we would need to anticipate how many tests to buy. Jean Parker asked how many people would be at a banquet table, and Amy Porterfield answered there were eight rather than 10. Jean Parker asked how the tests would be verified, and Amy Porterfield stated that it would be confirmed by a sighted volunteer or with Aira. Donald Porterfield stated that only people who tested negative would get a name tag, and name tags are required. Debbie Chatfield from the floor asked for clarification on how many people we are expecting, and how many tests do we need. Amy Porterfield stated that we expect three hundred people, and are looking into purchasing 400 tests to be sure we have enough. Debbie Chatfield asked if they need two tests, one at the buss and 1 at the door. Amy Porterfield clarified that we would just need one at the point of entry. Mark Feliz from the floor asked about how to test at the east valley location. Amy Porterfield stated they had discussed having someone there with a table in the parking lot to test , but that the committee needs to work with him on logistics. Tina Sohl asked how we would know if someone was not wearing their mask. Jordan Moon stated that we would have sighted, and blind martials to help make sure people are wearing their masks and giving them masks to wear. Tina Sohl asked what happens if they test positive during convention. Donald Porterfield stated that if they have symptoms they need to stay in their rooms. Amy Porterfield stated that anyone who experiences symptoms during convention should remain in their room, a test would be brought to them, and they will be transported home if they arrived on the bus. She clarified If they test negative, we will bring them their meals they purchased until symptoms abate. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Moon stated the convention planning committee are meeting each week. He stated Registration is open at az.nfb.org/registration and Misael Marquez has spent a lot of time on our website to make it easy to navigate.

President Porterfield reminded the board that we passed a motion to subsidize the meals to make it special for our first convention back together. Meals are as follows.

Plated lunch of Urb roasted chicken with potatoes and vegetables

Box lunches include turkey sandwich on ciabatta bread with avocado, Ham and Salami, and Chicken Wrap with aioli,

Banquet is New York strip steak with potatoes and vegetables.

All options include fish, and vegan options

Sunday chapter breakfast is a plated breakfast with scrambled eggs protein and potatoes.

Please note on registration if need gluten free.

Audio visual: President Porterfield stated that in the past, we have been able to rent audio equipment for an inexpensive price. After a great deal of research, the committee found that This is no longer possible. WE will need to use the hotel Audio Visual equipment. Joe Good and Donald Porterfield met with the hotel and received a quote. The quote was for $880 per day with a total of $3,200. The included audio and internet for streaming, mixer, Speakers, four wired and 1 wireless microphone and stands. Amy Porterfield moved to allocate 3500$ for audio equipment, and Jordan Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously. President Porterfield clarified we will use Saavi’s and Chapter sound systems for a total of four sound systems for break out seminars. Donald Porterfield asked the board and all members to consider any resources they may have for audio equipment we can use the future.

On Behalf of Joe Good, Jordan Moon reported that the convention will be streamed only, and the audience will not be able to interact. The street will include The Friday Lunch and Saturday general Session and Banquet.

Sharonda Good reported that registration is underway, People may register by going to az.nfb.org/registration or on the first heading on the az.nfb.org. Sharonda is getting email verifications for all who register. Sharonda and her committee are prepared to All who need to call for questions can call Sharonda at 602-281-5955 . President Porterfield reminded us that we must fill thirty rooms on Thursday a d 60 each night Friday and Saturday. If we do not fill the rooms, then the affiliate must pay for them. If we have to pay for the rooms then the next convention will need to be smaller.

Debbie Chatfield reported that we still are collecting door prizes. She stated the committee has asked for a person for the door prize committee from each chapter to collect and coordinate door prizes. She clarified Coordinators include Mark Feliz from East Valley, Joe Good from Phoenix, Cindy Garfio from West Valley, Jean Parker from Tucson, Ashleigh Moon from Parents, and Connie Leblond from Seniors. Vicky Hodges reported there is a door prize letter that can be provided to anyone who is interested in collecting door prizes. She clarified Interested members should contact their coordinators to get the letters. She stated WE are not disseminating to the general listserv. Vicky Hodges reported that they are not focusing on an auction, but any door prizes that are donated that have hire value, will be auctioned at convention time. She stated they are looking at no more than 10 items. She added that Any door prizes that are mailed should be mailed to Saavi Tucson campus. Vicky Hodges stated Anyone who gets a door prize from a business should collect a business card so we can thank that business. Donald Porterfield stated they are collecting some auction items so there will definitely be an auction at banquet. . Connie Leblond asked where people should make checks to, and President Porterfield clarified if it would be a general donation or if it is for door prizes. Vicky Hodges asked for them to discuss at the door prize committee held tomorrow.

Rachael Kuntz reported there are four levels of sponsorship, platinum at 2500 Gold at $1000 Silver sponsor at $500, and Copper at $250, She stated that we have a gold level sponsor from Saavi Services for the Blind and a silver Level sponsor from Meg’s Vending. All people interested in sponsoring can get information from Rachal at 927-245-0547, or email at [rkuntz@saavi.us](mailto:rkuntz@saavi.us). President Porterfield asked if we could inquire if Megan Homrighausen would be willing to make er donation in the form of product for hospitality. If so, then Present Porterfield asked Tarik Williams to connect with her. Jordan Moon reminded everyone to visit the website to learn more about sponsor activities.

\* Rachael also discussed the NFB Splash down fund-raiser. She stated this would include Four people from different chapters to compete against each other to raise the most money. The person who raises the most money would get to dump a bucket of water on the person who raises the least. Tarik Williams from the Tucson chapter, Scott Tokunaga from Phoenix chapter, Toney Sohl from east Valley chapter, and we still need a brave member from the West Valley.

Mark Feliz reported that the NFBA has chartered a bus to transport people from Phoenix to the Convention hotel and back. He clarified the buss would first pick up people at the Saavi Phoenix campus and then at 913 n Dobson in Mesa. He additionally clarified There is a check box to select if one needs transportation and they can pay at that time online. He stated that This is important to get an accurate count. Mark Feliz stated round trip would cost $30, and the NFBAZ is subsidizing the remainder of the cost. He added the bus does have wheelchair access.

Scott Tokunnaga reported that the hospitality night will be called either fun fest or Arcade night . He added There will be seven games that will be played on hospitality night. He clarified People will win a token and those who have the most tokens will win a grand prize. Jean Parker asked if we need to ask for funding, Scott stated they needed to ask for funding for three levels of prizes, and food or snack. Amy Porterfield stated that they had discussed a cash bar. Tarik Williams clarified that the hotel would charge $75 for the cash bar. Jean Parker said they were waiting for hotel options before asking for funds. Scott clarified that they are asking for $90 for game prizes. Amy Porterfield moved to allocate $175 for game prizes and cash bar. Jordan Moon seconded; the motion carried unanimously. President Porterfield recommended that the board table the discussion on snacks until we have a quote and put that to an email vote to the board next week. Tina and Toney offered to bring Uno to the games committee. Tarik Williams stated that they are looking at individually wrapped snacks and would get the quote when he visits the hotel this Monday.

Scott reported that the PR committee will be doing many Facebook live events including

Getting individual stories on Facebook live during convention from members and exhibitors.

Interviewing people during convention asking fun questions before lunch and banquet and prior to general sessions.

Promoting sponsors on social media

#nfbaz22

Jordan Moon reported that there are currently ten exhibitors, and growing. Affiliate will be selling cane tips, and Saavi may sell canes, Exhibit Hall page in on website.

Amy Porterfield reported that they need many people to function as martials for calling rooms and helping with mask support, registration table, exhibit hall and testing tables. All people are needed.

Tarik reported that August 22nd is our rooky round up. He added it will be virtual to make sure that all people hear all of the important details they need to participate fully and safely in convention.

President Porterfield stated we currently have two resolutions and are still accepting more. He clarified We will be resubmitting passed resolutions and will be submitting national resolutions for our state level. He asked people to Please submit all resolutions by August 27 so they can be embossed.

, Bob Kresmer moves that we support a 10-room allocation for financial assistance for convention. Jordan Moon asked how many we would support for each room. Donald Porterfield stated that we typically supported two to a room unless they asked to have more rooming together. He stated that even though a person has always received a room does not mean they will get a room every time, and anyone who gets a room will be expected to work even every day. The motion carried unanimously.

President Porterfield reminded the board that we did spend a lot on convention, and it may mean that we spend less on events in the future, and we will not always spend this much on next convention.

NFB Museum

President Porterfield stated This museum housed at our national center will be highlighting our collective story both verbally and in physical exhibits. He stated NFB has received a lengthy proposal for what is needed.

Donald Porterfield Stated that the Federation is Looking for people who are willing to fund the museum at a 6-7 figure level. He asked that if any member knows of Anyone willing to fund the museum at that level please let President Porterfield know.

President Porterfield stated that the NFB of Arizona is looking for a historian to collect historical information on our affiliate. He added that this is our seventy-six convention we are one of the oldest affiliates, and we have a place in this collective story.

NFB BELL Academy

Amy Porterfield reported that we had 10bell ringers in Tucson and twelve in Phoenix. She added that We had three brand new blind students who lost their vision this year. She clarified WE had many success stories and new volunteers from all over. Bob Kresmer Moved that we fund the BELL program for 2023 at the same level as last year of $6000 for Tucson and $600 for Phoenix totaling $12,000. Tarik Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Donald Porterfield encouraged everyone and anyone to get involved and volunteer their time to grow the program.

Joanne Williams moved that all other agenda items be emailed to the board, and Tarik seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bob Kresmer moved to adjourn; Tarik Williams seconded. The motion carried unanimously.