National Federation Of The Blind, Tucson Chapter

Minutes for the Meeting of March 4, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 PM.

There were 12 people attending in-person and between two and five people attending via Zoom. Due to poor connectivity it was difficult to know the exact number of Zoom attendees.

• Both pledges were said by all in attendance.

• New members were introduced and welcomed to the chapter.

• The February meeting minutes were read by the secretary and approved by the membership. It was mentioned that email distribution of the minutes will commence with the next meeting in order to save time at the meetings.

• A motion was approved to table the treasurer’s report due to the illness of the treasurer.

• Tarik and Abdullah conducted the philosophy session which focused on expectations. It was mentioned that the reason we have these discussions at chapter meetings is because there are often new members in attendance. It was emphasized that we should set the bar for success high for ourselves to counteract the low expectations of the wider society. We should make our choices based on our skills and interest rather than society’s expectations of us. This includes blind people assuming leadership roles and positions of great responsibility. The importance of lifting up others as one succeeds was emphasized by “holding the door opened for the person behind you”. Finally, the work of the outreach committee as essential to changing low expectations was mentioned.

• The annual chapter picnic is scheduled for Saturday March 11, 2023 at the park at 1st Avenue and River Road. There will be barbecue and games and people should bring chairs. The picnic will take place from noon to 3:00 PM. Music requests for the picnic should be sent to Mariana.

• Legislative report: Tarik reported that the bill on integrative employment has been introduced along with the medical device accessibility bill. He asked members to thank their representatives for their co-sponsorship of these initiatives. Details of the bill that would open the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind to other disability groups were discussed. This bill was quickly blocked thanks to emails that were sent opposing it. Members will attend relevant hearings on the various bills under consideration in Phoenix next week.

• It was announced that the V-RAITE event will take place in Phoenix on Friday March 31 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to staff the NFB table at the event and those wishing to volunteer should notify Abdullah. Those who wish to attend and need transportation should email Tarik and Amy. Members were encouraged to check the event web site for information about exhibitors and speakers.

• Barbara announced that accessible voting machines will be available at the April 11 meeting of the Tucson Society of the Blind. This is a good opportunity to become familiar with these devices well ahead of the next election.

• Uber now has a tool-free phone number people can call to get rides instead of using the app.

• Barbara said that Sunsounds of Arizona plays described movies on a regular basis.

• It was announced that the NLS e-readers are now available to all patrons.

• Barbara said that low vision assessments and devices are available in Tucson. She has further information about the medical provider of this service.

The next chapter meeting will take place on Saturday April 1, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Minutes compiled by Jean Parker, secretary.