National Federation of the Blind

Tucson Chapter meeting minutes

October 7, 2023

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 by President Tarik Williams
2. The American pledge of allegiance and the NFB membership pledge was recited by all.
3. In attendance were Tarik Williams, Abdallah Shoolie, Jay Rasmussen Marianna Flores, Tim colc, Donald Porterfield, Mara Ulvested, Bob Kresmer Lynn Kresmer, Breanna McDowall, Barbara MacPherson, Tasnim Alshuli, Sean Ulvested, Joanne Williams, Jana Paton.
4. The secretary’s report was approved unanimously with a motion by Marianna and seconded by Bob Kresmer
5. Treasurers report was presented by Joanne Williams with a starting balance on September 1, 2023 of 1,585.00 and ending balance on September 30, 13,65.00 there are still pending transactions which will leave a balance of 1,288.91. The treasurer’s Report was approved by Bob Kresmer and seconded by Marianna.

* Donald porterfield commented that our fundraising has declined since we have stopped our 50-50 raffle at the horse racing track. He asked us to find some time to focus on finding another reliable and steady fundraising source. He mentioned seeking other events where we can do another 50-50 raffle, or more events like we did for supporting community race events. He is suggested that we all brainstorm ideas and bring them to a meeting, so we are ready to have an action driven meeting.
* Tarik stated that he and Joanne were looking for other racing events and asked people to bring ideas to him.
* Bob Kresmer asked if anyone has connections to the spring training or hocky leagues to see if we can do raffles at the games.
* Tim stated that they choose specific organizations that they invite for events. He also is working on partnership with stores to do fundraising for gift wrapping outside stores like Walmart.
* Barbara suggested selling 50-50 tickets at the 4th avenue street fair.
* Donald stated that it would be best if we can all email our ideas to Tarik including what steps people have taken towards those ideas. Then we can come together with some things to work on.

1. Blindness Equality and Achievement month

* Patrick Harpley from the Department of transportation is looking for feedback from the community including street widening and other critical road works. We are still targeting a presentation date later in the month or next chapter meeting.
* Tucson Meet yourself Saturday October 14th which is whit cane awareness day. All people should meet at the southwest corner at Pennington and Stone at the old bank of America building at 12:00 where we will enjoy the activity together and hand out brochures and alphabet cards. All members attending should email Tarik or Abdallah.
* October 29, cyclopia which is an event where Tucson closes down several main streets and people can cycle through the city. We would be in charge of an intersection to direct traffic. There are many people in the community booths and fun. This is an event that occurs twice a year. We will have our banner. The event starts from 9:00-3:00. We will set up shifts. All interested should contact Tarik. People can bring camp chairs as we take shifts.
* We are working on identifying a date to have the Pima County Recorder’s office to bring accessible voting machines for us to try.
* Bob Kresmer stated that we needed to include a specific person to work on spreading our PSAs.
* Sean stated that he worked with the northern Arizona radio stations to start running the PSAs.
* Donald stated that he asked national office for the list of media they used to promote the Route 66n so we can use those contact for our outreach.

1. Tarik played the presidents release for October.
2. Affiliate report with Donald Porterfield

* Donald discussed the title II regulations that were drafted which provided seven exemptions for state governments to not make their website accessible. These set of regulations weakens the Americans with Disabilities act. Members should be ready for a call to action.
* Phoenix Seminar is January 16, we are planning to do a full activity at the state capital. We will have our initiatives at our board meeting on November 11.
* Board meeting will be November 11 in person at Saavi Services for the Blind. We will have refreshments.
* The Jernigan Leadership program has mostly been selected from those who have already attended the president’s leadership seminar. These are leaders who are emerging leaders. Be sure to speak to your chapter or division president to gain experience. Leadership does not come just with elected positions by often is in chairing and acting on committees. Growing members and leaders are one of the most important reasons why we raise funds.

1. Tarik re-emphasize that BEAM month is important but all of the events that we do throughout the year are all critical. Leadership is about actively engaging and taking place in all of our activities.
2. Announcements,

* Barbara announced that.
  + everyone can listen to Tarik’s podcast speak your vision, as well as a podcast cooking without looking.
  + described movies with sun sounds are on Alexa.
  + Ibugtoday.com is a website that offers free IOS classes on zoom.
  + Disability pride day is Sunday December 3rd at the Tucson convention center.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 2:56.