National Federation Of The Blind, Tucson Chapter

Minutes for the Meeting of March 2,, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

There were 19 people attending in-person and 6 on Zoom.

The February minutes were adopted as sent to the membership.

The treasurer’s report was approved as read.

Tarik reported that Vicki won the cutting board and Miranda won the coffee machine in last month’s raffle.

Tim is still working on the Texas Roadhouse Steak House fund raiser but needs the nonprofit tax exemption documentation in order to move forward. When that is in place a date in April will be chosen.

Concerns were raised about the upcoming national convention to be held in Florida in July given the current political situation in that state. Donald Porterfield said that the planning committee has been working closely with the hotel to make the convention as safe as possible for all attendees.

A discussion took place regarding some donated sweat shirts with incorrect messaging that should not be distributed. It was decided to discuss this outside of the meeting but it was requested that they be moved on conscientiously.

Mariana and the picnic committee reported that the annual chapter picnic will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 11:00 to 3:00 at Reheto Regional Park at 4502 N. First Ave. Ramadas three and four have been reserved. There will be both meat and vegetarian options followed by a dessert potluck. There will be games and entertainment. An outreach flier is pending and the expected attendance is about 60 people. It was mentioned that care should be taken to not purchase to much food and that the SAVI students should take the lead on grilling and serving the food. A phone and text tree will be established to invite people to attend. Those who want to help with the planning should let Mariana know. Everyone thanked Mariana and the committee for all of their work planning this event.

Amy and Jean will work on consolidating the membership list so that everyone receives all email communications.

Washington seminar: Donald said that messages have been delivered to legislators and now follow-up on the various initiatives is important. Similar actions are required for the Arizona legislators. If there are questions, people should contact donald for current information about either national or state bills.

The deadlines for the NFB national and state scholarships are March 31 for the national and May 31 for the state. In addition, the Jernigan scholarship is available for those who want to attend the convention. This scholarship is due on April 15. All of the scholarship applications require a conversation with Donald Porterfield as the state president so applicants should allow enough time for this to take place. Further discussion about the chapter and affiliate subsidizing convention attendance this year was tabled until the April meeting.

Elections: Mariana presented the election slate on behalf of the nominating committee which was previously sent to the membership. Cody Beardslee was elected as president, Abdullah Shuli was re-elected as vice president, Jean Parker was re-elected as secretary and Joanne Williams was re-elected as treasurer. In addition, Brianna McDowell was elected to board position 1, Tim Kalk was elected to board position 2 and Tarik Williams was elected to board position 4. Everyone thanked Tarik for his service as president of the chapter especially during the pandemic. Cody introduced himself to the chapter as he is new in the community.

The board will meet well prior to the next meeting and an outreach committee will be established to work on strengthening the membership. Cody committed to have the outreach committee in place by March 10 and a mechanism for giving input to the board will be put in place.

Barbara announced that a group called Computers For The Blind has computers along with technical assistance. She also said that the Hadley School has courses on personal safety and audio description.

The discussion about having a horseback riding event was tabled until the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Submitted by Jean Parker, Secretary