National Federation of the Blind of Tucson

Minutes for the Meeting of April 6, 2024

This was a Zoom-only meeting with eleven people attending.

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM.

Both pledges was recited.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes for the March meeting were adopted as sent to the membership.

The treasurer’s report was adopted as presented.

Introductions were made featuring an ice breaker question.

Donald reminded everyone that various award and scholarship deadlines are approaching. The deadline for online registration for the national convention is May 31.

He said that this year’s legislative session was difficult with our bills meeting strong opposition. He indicated that there might still be hope for the older blind program bill but the outcome will be determined in an administrative process at a later time.

The state convention will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Phoenix. The dates are August 22 to 25. Members interested in helping to get convention sponsors should begin the process as soon as possible.

The annual picnic will be held on Saturday April 13 from 11:00 to 3:00. Concern was expressed about attendance given the late notice to the membership. Cody will send the notification to the membership. He said that we need to continue evaluating and refining the processes for the chapter.

Tim said that he submitted the nonprofit tax exemption letter to the Texas Roadhouse but due to the length of time that has elapsed between the original request and now, there are no openings for us to do a fund raiser until after July. Tim is contacting other restaurant options. Several people emphasized the need to get the tax exemption letter more quickly in the future so we don’t lose opportunities. The idea of handing out water at road races was also discussed. Related to this, Donald has an article about the water stations which he will send to the board.

Cody would like to begin planning for the October Meet The Blind Month now. Those with ideas should contact him directly.

Cody is still testing the listserv and working with the national office to get all of the membership information added to the list. He is also working with SAAVI to institute a phone robo call list to notify people about meetings and events.

The subject of how to enhance the chapter meetings was discussed. If we have technology education it should be planned in advance and sent out with the meeting reminders. These should be something informative but also facilitate social interaction. Restructuring the business meeting was also discussed. Suggestions included inviting the Red Cross to teach first aid and inviting city leadership to present on a particular topic,. Cody said that beginning with the May meeting, anyone who wishes to join the board for snacks or a meal at a local restaurant is welcome.

The Barbara Report:

Barbara said that Sunvan will be conducting user surveys and public input meetings in the near future. She emphasized that it is important for everyone to participate.

She said that for those who have difficulty using the Uber and Lyft apps, a service called Go-go Grandparents is available by phone for an additional cost.

Barbara also explained that JAWS has a new feature called picture smart that provides image descriptions.

Amy said that medical bags containing a variety of accessible items are available from SAAVI for anyone who would like one.

Jean said that Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports has tandem riding and would like to expand into disc golf and rifle shooting for blind people if there is enough interest. Contact Jean for more information.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM

Submitted by Jean Parker, Secretary