National Federation Of The Blind, Tucson Chapter

Minutes For The Meeting Of May 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM.

Attendance: eight in-person and six on zoom.

Both pledges were recited.

The secretary’s report was adopted as sent to the membership on April 15th.

The treasurer’s report was adopted as read.

The next state board meeting will be held on Saturday May 10 at 9:30 PM via zoom.

Everyone was reminded about the Arizona State Convention to be held at the Phoenix Hyatt Hotel from August 22-25. Seminar ideas should be sent to Donald by the end of May. If someone has a seminar idea they are responsible for organizing it. The seminars should be blindness-related. Ideas for guest speakers should also be sent to Donald by the end of May.

Amy reported that there is still a slim chance of getting funding for the independent living for blind seniors program. Action emails on this will be forthcoming.

The National Convention will be held in Orlando from July 3-8. Some financial assistance is available and anyone who would like to apply should contact Donald. Anyone receiving financial assistance should be available to volunteer at the convention.

Amy gave an update about SAAVI. She said that the residential program will be moving to new apartments closer to the center. The BELL Academy program is upcoming as is the summer RSG program. There are some new youth programs beginning in Phoenix. SAAVI expects to take 90 people to the national convention this year. They are also beginning an alumni program for students of both centers and this should be a good recruiting opportunity for the NFB chapters.

A motion was passed to commit $100.00 from the chapter towards one of the lunches at the BELL Academy. Chapter members are welcome to attend the first day of activities and anyone interested in doing this should contact Amy.

It was suggested that the horseback riding activity should take place in October or November. A planning committee comprised of Bob, Tasnim and Jean will research the possibilities and make a report at the June meeting.

It was suggested that a community involvement committee be established to do things like food bank and school supplies activities. Cody will follow up on forming this committee.

Cody said that a committee to plan the BEAM activities has been formed by the board with Tarik as the committee chair. Tucson Meet Yourself is on the first weekend of October this year and the chapter will have a table. We will also plan events for October 15 which is White Cane Awareness Day. It was suggested that we get a Mayoral Proclamation for that day. There are also other proclamations we can get and those interested in serving on this committee should contact Cody.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was passed to contribute $300.00 to be distributed to all of the national funds during the national convention. $200.00 will be for the funds and $100.00 will go to assist members with registration costs.

A Dutch auction was held.

The October 5th Gaslight Theater fund-raiser idea was discussed at length. Concerns were raised about the language in the proposed contract. A motion was passed to postpone this fund raiser until the contract can be clarified.

The picnic was briefly discussed. Everyone agreed that we will work towards increasing the attendance next year. It was emphasized that event success is a collective responsibility. The committee was thanked for their work on this event.

Two new members will be voted in at the June meeting.

Announcements:

Jean said she will be on a panel at the Solutions Focus book club held at the Southern Arizona Community Foundation on May 23rd. The book to be discussed is Disability Visibility by Alice Wong.

She also said that Lyft now has woman connect plus in Tucson for women who would like to set a preference in the app for a female driver.

Mariana said she is working with the Tucson Food Shares program, anyone who wants to join her can contact her directly.

The idea of adjusting the time of the meeting will be discussed at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Submitted by Jean Parker, Secretary