National Federation Of The Blind Of Tucson

Minutes For The Meeting Of June 1, 2024

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

Attendance: 13 in-person and four on Zoom.

Both pledges were recited.

The minutes of the May 2024 meeting were adopted as sent to the membership.

The treasurer’s report was adopted as presented.

Several new people introduced themselves and were enthusiastically welcomed.

Donald reminded everyone that the state convention will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Phoenix from August 22-25. Those who want to volunteer at the convention should contact Amy Porterfield.

Donald also reported that the Arizona legislative session is ending soon with 500 million dollars yet to be cut for the budget to balance. It is therefore unlikely that there will be any funding for the older blind independent living program again this year.

The deadline for state scholarship applications has been extended. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The NFB national convention will take place from July 3-8 in Orlando, Florida. There are in-person and virtual options for attendance. There are still funds available for those needing financial assistance. Those who are interested should contact Donald as soon as possible.

Arizona has one national scholarship winner this year.

A motion was passed to skip the July meeting but the events committee should continue to meet so planning momentum is maintained.

Eve Sanchez gave a presentation on the NFB of Arizona’s senior division. She said that everyone is welcome to participate in the work of the division. Most meetings are held on Zoom with every third meeting held in-person. The next meeting is Friday June 14 at 5:30 PM. Eve can be contacted at 208-339-2430.

Ammar Tarin gave a presentation on the work of the student division. He said that the division has a whatsapp group for its members. Anyone interested in joining this division should contact Cody.

Amy gave an up-date on SAAVI. She said that the BELL Academy being held in Tucson and Phoenix is going well. The move into the new apartments closer to the center has been completed. The summer camp for teens has 15 participants so far and the extended school year program is beginning in Phoenix. The STEM program will also take place in Phoenix later in June.

Bob reported that the rate for horseback riding would be approximately $75.00 per person per hour plus transportation and lunch. Concerns were expressed about the chapter’s ability to subsidize this cost for those needing financial assistance to participate. After a discussion, it was decided to find a less expensive activity for chapter members. Options such as assembling school backpacks, attending a live audio-described theater performance, working in an animal shelter or working at the food bank were suggested. Merging the various planning committees was also discussed to consolidate planning.

Many different opinions were expressed about the possibility of changing the chapter meeting date and time. A motion was passed to move the chapter meeting to the fourth Saturday of the month beginning at 11:00 AM. The first hour of the meeting will be a social or learning activity with the business meeting beginning at 12:00 PM. The business meeting will be kept to one hour and those attending will have the option to go out for lunch after the meeting is concluded. It was decided to make this change beginning with the September meeting and to evaluate how it is working at the meeting of February, 2025.

Amy will create a survey link that the membership can use to contribute ideas and suggestions. Tasnim volunteered to assist anyone who is unable to complete the survey online. The chapter board will develop questions for the survey and those with input for the questions should contact Cody by June 8.

The Gas Light Theater fund raising activity has been postponed pending a new contract from the venue. A motion passed to delegate this task to the chapter board with consultation with Barbara who originally had this idea.

Tim said he will contact the Texas Roadhouse to secure a new date for our fund raiser.

The Barbara Report:

Barbara said that Sunsounds of Arizona has described movies every Friday at 6:00 PM. They also have an app and the archives can be searched by anyone who wants to access past material.

Barbara also referred everyone to a book called Windows Primer by David Kingsberry. This author also has a series on learning to use Apple products.

Everyone was encouraged to listen to Tarik’s podcast

Jean requested that representation on the Tucson Disability Commission be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Submitted by Jean Parker, Secretary