National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Presbyterian House Apartments

1045 Oak St

Jacksonville,  FL 32204, in the first floor lounge, & on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

Introductions

In attendance:

President: Kaye Baker

Vice President: Denise Valkema

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Russ Davis

Board Member: Marty Miller

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Board Member: Glen Baker

Vice President Greater Daytona Chapter and Affiliate Board Member: Peggy Fleischer

Members: Sarah Jacobs, Jose Morales, Andy Rood, Jason Keve, John Lennon, Vicky Lennon, Latoya Kendrick, Erica Jones.

Visitor: David Fleischer

Guest Speaker: Amanda Crawford

NFB Pledge, and One Minute Message – Recited by All: Andy recited the pledge, and Russ recited the one minute message.

Guest speaker, Field Representative Amanda Crawford from Congressman Aaron Bean’s office: Kaye, Adriann, and Russ conducted a mock Washington Seminar where our three legislative priorities were presented: the Medical Devices Non Visual Accessibility Act, which was presented by Kaye, the Blind Americans ReturnTo Work Act, which was presented by Adriann, and the Websites and Software and Applications Accessibility Act, which was presented by Russ. Amanda would discuss the status of each bill after it was presented and also discussed ways we can get Congress to support our legislative priorities. Russ briefly presented a bill regarding Accessible Autonomous Vehicles since Congressman Bean serves on the Transportation Committee.

Approval of the April Secretary’s report – Fallon: Andy motioned to accept the minutes as distributed. Denise seconded. The motion passed.

Approval of the April Treasurer’s report – Russ: Fallon will send out the treasurer’s report to the chapter this weekend. Russ read out loud the treasurer’s report as follows: the beginning balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,758.85, and the ending balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,559.07. The beginning and ending balance in the chapter’s savings account = $100.00. For PayPal, the beginning balance = $72.79, and the ending balance = $93.66. Adriann motioned to accept the treasurer’s report as read. Glen seconded. The motion passed.

2024 National Convention  
July 3 through July 8  
Orlando, Florida  
[Register now!](https://u32452178.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=u001.dPovOk22q531-2BRJhKyInEEcJb2poLs3yz-2F789HG368MRdxOYnKN2xL5f7-2B8gp5GiX27EDaJX3saX-2Bs3DP6eQemN5dpoM3f9jaqG8rjexsIY-3DsfPr_QSih0ToQAJ8eDAaZMyeCaHbLUcZkpz4HU-2BmRuxMlZhhOwoL9MyVuaGyuhWPHMwwYsa5YOCJcADNmwuFfUzx326xq8sBA5wdJC-2BQIF6PAyOoCm2mui3T94aJcNhc0PrI5W6Hv18PLFSk4hZCL-2B3UJ9F8bQ4-2F5SiekjAGESaABhcj4yDLYoOEJxZPibROQV-2FFueIuQSJCle2-2FuAxrYz9BrnlsTxy3dxnR30t4NykYUcfw-3D)

Registration is now open. Everyone is encouraged to register online by May 31 for the reduced rate of $25. If you register after May 31, the rates will increase to $30.

National Convention Planning meeting taking place the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM.

This is our convention to plan. Come and bring your ideas. Russ purchased the two Visa gift cards that will be raffled off as our fundraiser for national convention: one for $200 and one for $100. It was decided we sell 1 raffle ticket for $2 and 3 raffle tickets for $5. We have not purchased the raffle tickets yet. Russ brought some as a demonstration. The affiliate works with Raffles For Less and Vista Print on their raffle tickets. Sylvia has offered to help us with our raffle tickets. Marty volunteered to help with putting together raffle tickets with Kaye’s guidance. Russ motioned to spend $150 for raffle tickets. Glen seconded. The motion passed.

National Federation of the Blind of Florida State Convention updates

October 11-14 at the South Bank Hotel

We will be the host again.

We are thrilled to be hosting this year with the Tallahassee Chapter

State convention planning meeting is held on the 4th  Wednesday at 8:00 PM. Please come and share ideas. Kaye is coordinating volunteers. We will also have the hospitality suite and will have breakfast options.

Community events for 2024 including walks – Denise: Denise discussed the diabetes event that is planned for November and that we could also do an Independence Fair showcasing different products.

Possibility of having a summer party: We discussed planning a summer party and what that could be. Walking around the Riverside Arts Market and going back to the Cummer Art Museum and having a lunch afterwords like we did several summers ago were suggested. The events committee will plan the summer party. Glen has been appointed to the events committee.

Permanent meeting place for the rest of this year: Denise has filled out paperwork with her apartment complex so that we can meet here for the rest of the year except for July and December since we typically do not have meetings during those months..

Final thoughts and next meeting date: Our next meeting will be June 1 at 10:00 AM hybrid at the Presbyterian House Apartments and on zoom. We discussed different ways we can bring more members to attend meetings in-person and different ways we can change our meetings so that they are not repetitive. Chapter participation was also discussed throughout the meeting. Kaye would like to meet with the board sometime this month to start putting suggestions regarding topics that were discussed at the meeting in place.

Glen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Fallon seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.