National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Riverside Presbyterian House Apartments

1045 Oak St

Jacksonville, FL 32246 in the 1st floor lounge and on zoom

 The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

 Introductions

 In attendance:

President: Kaye Baker

Vice President: Denise Valkema

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Russ Davis

Bord Member: Marty Miller

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Members: Jose Morales, Andy Rood, Sarah Jacobs, Latoya Kendrick, Erica Jones, Jason Keve, James Jacobs, Bob Randall, Cathy Randall, Gail Utterback Mills

Visitors: Peggy Fleischer, David Fleischer, Jean, and Faith.

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

 Acknowledgement: Kaye thanked everyone that has sent her condolences in the wake of Glen’s passing. She briefly described his memorial service which occurred a week prior to the meeting at the Colonial Point Clubhouse. Members spoke of their memories of Glen.

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

 Approval of the August Treasurer’s report – Russ: Russ emailed the treasurer’s report out to the chapter prior to the meeting. Of note, Russ accidentally paid Scott Larson a Sunrise and Shine prize of $20 from the chapter’s checking account. He paid back the chapter the money from his personal checking account and apologized for the error. Jose motioned to accept the treasurer’s report as distributed. Fallon seconded. The motion passed..

 Donation To Chapter: Russ mentioned that Joe will donate $100 to the chapter in the name of Emily Pfohl who was Joe’s V.I. teacher when Joe was in school who he has remained closed to. Fallon advised that the donation is to be used for either Braille literacy or education.

 Reminder of on-going fundraiser: Kaye reminded the chapter of our ongoing fundraiser where the winner will either receive a pair of the Ray-Band Meta Smart Glasses or cash value if the winner does not wish the have the smart glasses. The raffle tickets are $5 per ticket. Kaye described the glasses’s functions. Fallon motioned that we extend the raffle until Thanksgiving Day. Andy seconded. The motion passed. The raffle was originally scheduled to end during State Convention. Kaye encouraged everyone in the chapter to sell raffle tickets and spread the word.

 State Convention Update

The State Convention will be October 11, 12 and 13 at the South Bank Hotel in Jacksonville Florida on Prudential Drive.

We are thrilled to be working with Tallahassee.

 Hospitality room: Kaye provided an update on donations for the hospitality room. Kaye also advised that we can purchase from Chick-fil-A 50 chicken biscuits and 50 sausage biscuits for $323 for breakfast for October 12. Since Chick-fil-A does not operate on Sundays, other breakfast options can be looked in to for October 13. Jose motioned to spend the money for the biscuits. Andy seconded. The motion passed. There will be a Keurig for the hospitality room. Kaye will donate coffee pods for it, and Marty will donate Splenda. Fallon will be getting a free hotel room sponsored by the affiliate. Kaye described changes going on within the affiliate.

Dollar Auction Items to donate: It was decided that Kaye would purchase a Cosori Air Fryer and Keurig Coffee maker for the chapter to auction off at the dollar auction at our State Convention.

 White Cane events: Kaye described the White Cane event we will be hosting before State Convention on the morning of October 11 at 10:00 AM which will leave from the hotel and cross the street near the hotel. Kaye will send out an email to the List Serve regarding the event and encouraged chapter members to attend. Jose advised that CIL Jacksonville, along with other groups in the city ,are hosting a White Cane event on October 19. Participants will walk from CIL Jacksonville to DBS. The month of October is Blind Equality Achievement Month.

 Selection of Nominating Committee for upcoming election: At our October meeting, we will have our annual election. The positions that are up for election are as follows: Vice President, currently held by Denise Valkema, Treasurer, currently held by Russ Davis, 2nd Board Position, currently held by Adriann Keve, and 3rd Board Position, which was held by Glen Baker. Denise, Russ, and Adriann’s positions will be for two year terms, while Glen’s position will be for a one year term. Jose, Andy, and Marty were appointed to the nominating committee with Jose as the committee chair. If you would like to nominate someone, including someone who is already serving in the position,  please send an email to the committee as follows::

Jose Morales – jmorales@ciljacksonville.org

Andy Rood - radiorexandy@gmail.com

Marty Miller - bbmross1125@gmail.com

You may email one member of the committee, or all three, but be sure to get your nominations in by October 15 so the committee has time to meet and come up with a slate of candidates. When you nominate someone, be sure to check  with them first to be sure they are willing to run for the position that you are nominating them for.

 Possible change to October meeting date: In order to accommodate members that have activities throughout the month of October, as well as State Convention, it was decided that our October meeting would be held on October 19 from 3:30-5:30 PM a the Colonial Point Clubhouse located at 5201 Atlantic Blvd Jacksonville, Florida 32207. There will not be a virtual component for this meeting due to Internet issues at the clubhouse.

 Events Committee Report – Denise: The events committee met on September 4 and discussed the following events for 2024:

It was decided we would look in to going to the Police & Firefighters museum instead of the Mosh since a docent would not available until the end of the year.

September 14: Brunch at Jax Beach Brunch House at 10:00 AM 610 3rd Street South Jacksonville, Florida 32250

October 5: Heart Walk as well as the Abacus Bee which Adriann described. It is from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and is put on by the Florida Informational Material Center. The deadline to register is September 20.

October 10: Sunset Cruise from 6:15-7:45 PM $22 and would be open up to the affiliate

October 11: White Cane Walk as previously discussed.

October 19: breast cancer walk

November 7th - November 17th: Fair at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds

November 13-14: Senior Expo at UNF from 9:00 Am-3:00 PM. Denise described the event.

Kaye will contact Haven Hospice Care Center to see what the chapter could donate for thanksgiving or the holidays.

We discussed different restaurants that offer holiday dinners.

**December 14: Jacksonville Holiday Marketplace at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds from 10-00 AM-5:00 PM.**

 How do we see our chapter now, and in the future? There were several suggestions for recruiting new members, including an Open House, membership drive, and ice cream social. Chapter participation and acknowledging members efforts were also discussed.

  Final thoughts: Russ advised there will be a joint meeting with JTAC and MDC discussing transportation issues on October 15 from 3:00-5:30 PM located at the Jacksonville Public Library Downtown at 303 North Laura Street Jacksonville, FL 32002. This meeting will be the first in a series of meetings throughout the year.

 Russ motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.