National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Greater Jacksonville Chapter

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Jacksonville Center for Independent Living

2709 Art Museum Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32207 and on Zoom

The meeting was called to order at  10:04 AM.

Introductions

 In attendance:

President: Kaye Baker

Vice President: Russ Davis

Secretary: Fallon Minichiello

Treasurer: Jason Keve

Board Member: Marty Miller

Board Member: Adriann Keve

Members: Andy Rood, Jose Morales, David Fleischer, Denise Valkema, Marita Winston, Latoya Kendrick.

Visitors: Charles McCormick and Patricia Williams..

NFB Pledge, and 1 minute message; Recited by all: Andy recited the pledge, and Russ recited the 1 minute message.

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

Approval of the October, November and January Treasurer’s reports – Jason: Russ and Jason are still working on October and November’s treasurer’s reports and will also work on the annual report for our state treasurer. They will also be submitting the state roster as well. Russ described the reports

For October and November. Fallon emailed January’s treasurer’s report to the chapter prior to the meeting. which Jason read out loud as follows: the beginning balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,437.91, and the ending balance in the chapter’s checking account = $2,462.91. Restricted Funds = $580.00; $100.00 for Braille and Education related expenditures and $480.00 for Fund raising related expenditures from the Navy Wives. Non-Restricted Funds = $1,882.91. The beginning and ending balance in the chapter’s savings account = $100.00. For PayPal, the beginning balance = $0.00, and the ending balance = $96.53.

Kaye asked about a transaction in January that was not listed. Russ advised the transaction which was made on 01/31/2025 did not clear until 02/01/2025. Adriann motioned to accept January’s treasurer’s report as read. Fallon seconded. The motion passed.

If you have not paid Chapter dues for 2025, please plan to do so soon so that you will be included in the chapter roster that will be sent to Sylvia by March 31. Members can pay dues via cash, check, or PayPal which is nfbjax@gmail.com.

Washington Seminar Update – Russ: Adriann, Russ, and Kaye updated us on Washington Seminar. They met with 23 House districts and did not meet with Senators but are hoping to have virtual meetings with them soon that the affiliate can attend. . When they got there, they were presented with a fact sheet regarding sources of funding that need to be protected such as education, vocational rehab, free matter of the Blind, National Library Service, Older Blind, Protection In Advocacy, and Medicaid. They led off every meeting with the laws that need to be protected such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the IDEA Act of 1975, and the ADA which was signed in to law in 1990. Russ thanked the chapter board for contributing $100 toward Ride Share costs during Washington Seminar. Jose advised the MDC is worried about 508C for the federal government due to DEI programs being eliminated. Jose will be in Tallahassee on February 11 to meet with state legislatures. Russ was recognized by JTA CEO Nat Ford for his advocacy work for people with disabilities which Jose showed a video of. Andy asked about the status of sub minimum wages. Russ advised it may be a bill that will not be pushed, but it was mentioned when discussing other bills. Kaye advised the National Association of Blind Government Employees is ready to take action whenever it is needed. Members discussed previous advocacy efforts and gave their feedback regarding Washington Seminar. Russ and Kaye encouraged members to contact their elected officials regarding their feelings on current events in the disability community.

Open Board meeting  to be held February 23, at 7:00 PM.

Come and hear what our affiliate board has planned for this year. Also ask any questions that you may have for the board. Russ encouraged members to attend. Marita asked if there will be an email regarding this meeting. Russ advised that an email will be sent out from the list serve and that Fallon will forward it out to the chapter.

  Community involvement for 2025. Let’s get back out into our community. Kaye reminded everyone of the various topics we have discussed at our meetings and wanted to get feedback from members regarding community involvement for 2025.

Suggestions from you,  our membership!

What would you like to see our chapter doing for 2025. Do you have suggestions of fundraisers or activities?

Nothing is to big or small. Ideas that were suggested include the Disability Expo on July 26 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center where we can get a table for free, gym advocacy, voting as a group during elections like we have in the past, bowling with Brooks which is every other Friday and billiards which is also every other Friday. For the Brooks events, Brooks encourages members to individually register.

Events Committee Report – Latoya: The events committee will meet before our next chapter meeting where they will discuss events they are planning for this year.

Final thoughts and next meeting date: It was decided that our next meeting would be on March 1 at 10:00 AM at the CIL and on zoom. Charles McCormick was accepted as a member.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 AM.