Tampa Bay Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Chapter Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2018

Beef O’Brady’s

8810 N. Himes Avenue

Tampa, Florida

President Miranda Kilby called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. All present introduced themselves. There were 15 members in attendance, plus we welcomed a guest Derrick Jenkins. Miranda called for a moment of silence in honor of Daytona Beach chapter and NFBF leader Peter Cerullo who passed away recently.

Merry Schoch led the chapter in the NFB pledge.

Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports

A motion was made by Merry, seconded by Dan, to approve the January chapter meeting minutes as emailed. The motion passed.

Dan read the treasurer’s report and our current balance is $2,570.95. A motion was made by Merry, seconded by Marion, to approve the treasurer’s report as read. The motion passed.

President’s Report

Miranda reported that our Beef O’Brady’s fundraiser Spirit Day in January brought in $43.55. She thanked Beef O’Brady’s for their generosity in agreeing to allow us to host this on several dates.

She said NFBF Board member Camille Tate has started a book club which will be held each fourth Thursday of the month. For now, NFB speeches will be the topics. She mentioned the NFBF Presidents call, which discussed our ukpcoming state convention. She mentioned that May 3 will be the cutoff date for room reservations at the NFBF special hotel room rate. She encouraged everyone to call in to the Events Committee meeting on Feb. 28, chaired by Gloria.

Miranda asked Merry, who is legislative co chair with Camille Tate, to give a summary of the NFB Washington seminar and the pertinent legislation which was discussed there. Merry told us that Florida’s Rep. Gus Biliracas Jr. came to the opening of the Washington Seminar, the Great Gathering-In, and spent half an hour there, which was impressive since this was the night of the State of the Union address.

Merry said we got additional cosponsors for the AIM High Act. She mentioned we oppose the 620 ADA Education and Reform Act, and will be asking Florida Members to work to see that it does not pass.

Marion spoke about the ongoing work of NAGDU to help Delta to understand why it needs to rescind its new policy requiring burdensome check-in procedures by guide dog users. Marion said he and NFB staff member Aneil Lewis met with Delta officials in Atlanta to work out a reasonable solution.

We took a break to eat lunch, and played NfB Trivia.

The meeting resumed at 1:05.

Chapter elections

Chapter elections were then held, with Paul Martinez conducting them

Election results:

President: by acclamation, Miranda Kilby

Miranda then took over and conducted the remainder of the elections.

Vice president: Merry Schoch

Secretary: by acclamation: Sherrill O’Brien

Board Member 1: Marion Gwizdala

Board Member 2: Jeanette Torres

Board Member 3: by acclamation: Gloria Mills Hicks

Miranda thanked the outgoing Board members, Lloyd Matthews and Barbara Gaw, for their service to the chapter.

The 50/50 drawing, worth $31.50, was won by Barbara Gaw.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sherrill O’Brien, Secretary

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