Tampa Bay Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Chapter Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2018

Chili’s Grill and Bar

2903 N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

Tampa, Florida

The meeting was called to order by President Miranda Kilby at 12:10pm.

She introduced our speaker from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Michelle Ogilvie. Her topic was long range transportation planning. This organization is seeking participation from as many interested groups and individuals as possible for a comprehensive survey. She explained the survey’s twelve questions. We expressed concern that the survey was online and not accessible to those who cannot read print. Merry generously offered to fill out the survey for anyone wishing to call her.

HART News

Merry mentioned that HART has terminated their contract with United Cab because of unreliable service, especially due to extremely long wait times, often resulting in customers being forced to cancel and call Uber instead. HART’s policy is that when a customer calls Yellow Cab, if they have to wait over thirty minutes, they should file a complaint with HART’s customer service department. Merry urged everyone to attend the next HART board meeting which will take place on September 10 at 5:30. It will be especially important because it will deal with their budget.

Following a break for lunch, we resumed the meeting at 1:05. Introductions were made, including three guests, Jeanette Barnes, Linda Evans and Louise Peyton. There were eighteen in attendance. Merry led us in the NFB pledge.

Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports

A motion was made by Marion, seconded by Paul, to approve the minutes as emailed. The motion passed.

Dan gave the treasurer’s report, and we have a balance of $3,099.14. A motion was made by Merry, seconded by Janice Butler, to approve the treasurer’s report. The motion passed.

President’s Report

Miranda said we had to choose Chili’s for our meeting because there was a miscommunication about our August meeting, and our usual room was already booked. We will return to O’Brady’s in October. We will hold our September meeting, as was previously agreed upon, At O’Brien’s Irish pub in Brandon. We will meet at 11:00, an hour earlier than usual, and Marion will ask whether we can come in as early as 10:30. Our speaker will be from the League of Women Voters, and her topic will be the amendments to the Florida Constitution which will appear on November’s election ballot.

Social Activities

Jeanette Torres reported that our first social activity will be bowling on either September 8 or 15 at Oakfield lanes in Brandon. They have three bowling rails available. Our next event will probably be attending a comedy club some time in November.

Meet the Blind Month Report

Merry reported that Sherrill will check to see if we can hold an event at her church. We may show the NFB documentary Do You Dream in Color at such an event. We will investigate showing it to other organizations such as to TVI’s, Self Reliance or groups from the Lighthouse. We are still in the process of determining at which intersection to hold our White Cane Safety Day walk.

Legislative Report

Merry said she will be accompanying Marion to Baltimore in September for his trip to meet with Delta officials regarding their service animal policy. She will go to Washington to meet with legislators to educate them on sponsoring important legislation which NfB is supporting. She will email us to let us know how we can help.

Fundraising

Marion said he and Gloria had a fundraising meeting. Suggestions so far range from a themed party such as for Mardi Gras or St. Patrick’s Day. A casino night or carwash were also mentioned.

We discussed selling the greeting cards with the NFB’s logo. A motion was made by Marion, seconded by Merry, to proceed with this project. The motion passed. They will cost us 29 cents apiece. We will sell them for twelve dollars for ten cards. The chapter will purchase 500 cards for about $150. The chapter will use them as thank-you cards and make them available to other chapters. They will arrive in time for our next meeting. Marion will write a marketing message and send it to Dave Andrews for distribution to all the NFBNnet lists.

Paul reported that the next NFBF state fundraiser will be our annual Holiday Calendar Raffle which will be held This year in December. Tickets will be five dollars each. Week night winners will receive $25, and Saturday and Sunday winners will get $50. The big winner will be drawn on December 31 and will receive $200. Whoever sells that ticket will also win $200. The chapter will purchase twenty tickets through a donation from a friend of Sherrill’s.

We decided to purchase chapter polo shirts in sunflower yellow.

Barbara Gaw won the 50/50 drawing and received $22.50.

Our next meeting will be held on September 22 at O’Brien’s Irish Pub in Brandon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sherrill O’Brien, Secretary

Tampa Bay Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

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The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise expectations because low expectations create barriers between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want! Blindness is not what holds you bac