Tampa Bay Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Chapter Meeting Minutes

Beef o’Brady’s

8810 N. Himes Avenue

Tampa, Florida

October 27, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Miranda Kilby at 1:01pm. All introduced themselves. There were 16 persons in attendance, including one guest, Jeanette Barnes. Sherrill led everyone in saying the NFB pledge.

Secretary and Treasurer’s Reports

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

Dan gave the treasurer’s report, and we have a balance of $3188.46.

A motion was made by Sherrill, seconded by Paul, to approve the treasurer’s report as read. The motion passed.

President’s Report

Miranda said she and Merry participated in the NFBF presidents and vice presidents teleconference call, and chapter involvement in doing community outreach was discussed. We will look into that possibility at the beginning of the new year.

Miranda said we are in the process of setting up a PayPal account. This will enable us to sell our new NFB greeting/thank-you cards throughout the country.

Miranda said she was happy to report that the Marrakesh Treaty has finally passed. We discussed how it will work, and how we can take advantage of it. Miranda will look into that.

Miranda said our White Cane walk on October 13 was very successful, and that she appreciated the participation of so many chapter members.

Meet the Blind Month Event

This will take place on November 10 in the Fellowship Hall of the East Tampa Christian Church. Quite a few vendors have agreed to attend, including Rus Davis who will showcase NFB-NEWSLINE. Marion has written a press release for the Tampa Bay Times. Chapter members will supply snacks, and will indicate what they plan to bring via the chapter’s email list.

Holiday Calendar Raffle Fundraiser

Miranda asked that money raised from the sale of the tickets be turned in to her either at our November 10 event or mailed to her right after Thanksgiving, as the drawings begin on December 1. The winner of the big drawing on New Year’s Eve will receive $200, along with the chapter which sold the winning ticket.

Social Activities

Activities chair Jeanette Torres recommended that with Meet the Blind Month and the holidays coming up we wait till the new year to start up our social activities. Members agreed with this.

Miranda said the next HART Board meeting is November 5. She will attend and speak on behalf of the chapter, but hopes others can attend.

New Business

Miranda explained the national NFB annual program Braille Readers Are Leaders, run by the Illinois affiliate, which encourages blind children grades k through 12 to enjoy reading braille. It awards prizes for the most braille pages read. It begins December 1 and continues for seven weeks. We can assist locally by getting the word out to teachers and parents of blind children. Following discussion, a motion was made by Paul, seconded by LouisePeyton, that our chapter contribute $10 toward our affiliate’s 100 dollar sign-up fee to participate in NFB’s Braille Readers ar Leaders program. The motion passed.

NFB Senior Retreat

Gloria attended this retreat and gave a report. It was held at the South Carolina affiliate’s camp. This was the first time the opportunity to attend was offered on a national level. Braille and mobility were two of the important offerings, along with social activities. Gloria said it was at times challenging, but also rewarding and enjoyable.

Louise Peyton spoke about her experience attending a class on learning to use the iPhone, which was offered at the Lighthouse. She found it to be very helpful.

Our next get-together will be the Meet the Blind Month event on November 10 at the East Tampa Christian Church.

We will hold our annual holiday party on December 8, time and place TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

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