Tampa Bay Chapter

National Federation of the Blind of Florida

Chapter Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2019

Beef O’Brady’s

8810 North Himes Avenue

Tampa, Florida

The meeting was called to order by President Miranda Kilby at 12:40PM. All introduced themselves. There were 28 persons in attendance, including eight guests.

Miranda led us in saying the NFB pledge. Marion then recited NFB’s One-Minute Message.

We had a pleasant surprise via speaker phone when NFB President Mark Riccobono called in to wish us a good meeting. Vice President Merry Schoch was at the national office as a member of the NFB national scholarship committee and asked him to make the call.

Treasurer and Secretary’sReports

Dan gave the treasurer’s report. Our current balance is $3795.19. A motion was made by Sherrill, seconded by Paul, to approve the treasurer’s report as read. The motion passed.

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

President’s Report

Miranda reported on the following state and chapter happenings:

the latest quarterly Presidents and Vice Presidents teleconference dealt with how to keep members engaged, offering many helpful suggestions.

The chapter Board voted to support the Women’s Luncheon at state convention by contributing 25 dollars.

The BELL Academy training was held on April 13 at the office of Dr. George and Yvonne Rosanelli in Tampa. The application is now online, and we already have one child registered.

Miranda and Paul were once again invited to Speak about the NFB and the Tampa Bay chapter to a group at the Lighthouse. As a result, several of those people attended our chapter meeting.

Five chapter Board members attended a meeting with HART’s new CEO Ben Limmer, along with Greg Bracken and Ruthie Reyes Burckard. The meeting was held on April 24 at Merry’s office.

We signed a thank-you card to be sent to the Breeze Horse Ranch. On April 20, a total of fourteen chapter members participated in horseback riding, and eighteen attended the bonfire afterwards. We gave a round of applause for Jeanette Torres for coordinating this event.

State Convention

The deadline for reserving a room is May 5, and the same date is the deadline for the women’s luncheon registration.

Miranda said many attendees will choose to go to convention by train, and she assured those who have never traveled by train that those who have done so will lend them a hand.

We discussed the fundraising auction baskets, and what we might want to contribute to ours.

Florida BELL Academy

Miranda reported that we will host the Florida BELL Academy From June 17 to June 28 in Tampa at the Boys and Girls Club facility at 1301 N. Blvd. We will have access to the entire facility, including the multi-purpose room and gym. There is a park adjacent to the club. We will have a field trip for the children at Zoo Tampa, which will include a behind the scenes hands-on tour involving petting various animals. We are working with HART to see if they will provide bus transportation, giving the children a teachable experience. We are working on publicity to hopefully find children for this program.

Monique announced that she is working for Avon, and invited chapter members to go to her website to check it out.

HART News

Marion said that Hillsborough Commissioner Stacy White has filed a lawsuit stating that, in spite of the fact that county residents approved the referendum, they do not have the authority to tax themselves. Marion urged chapter members to support the tax which county voters passed, which includes HART funding. He encouraged members to attend the hearing concerning this tax at the courthouse on Friday, May 3. If the lawsuit is overturned, HART will receive $125 million.

Sherrill read and presented a birthday card to Miranda on behalf of the chapter. We celebrated with cupcakes.

State Fundraiser High Roller Raffle

Miranda announced that the Tampa chapter will receive thirty percent of what we sell for the latest state raffle entitled High Roller Raffle. The winner will be drawn at NFB’s national convention in Las Vegas.

Paul thanked everyone who came from the Lighthouse to the chapter meeting. Several were voted in as members.

The following guests were voted in as chapter members:

Shanti Aaron: motion by Marion, seconded by Dan

Angie Chism: motion by Marion, seconded by Sherrill

Daniel Jagielski: motion by Marguerite, seconded by Dan

Kenny Prather: motion by Noe, seconded by Paola

Paul’s mother Miriam won the 50/50 drawing, receiving $34.

There will be no meeting in May since we will be attending state convention.

Our next meeting will be held on June 22 at Beef O’Brady’s.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

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