National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky

71st Annual State Convention

Hilton Garden Inn Northeast

Louisville, Kentucky

October 12th, 13th and 14th 2018

Minutes

Friday, October 12, 2018

Convention began at 9:00 AM Friday morning with our first ever job fair and workshop hosted by the Technology Assistance Division and the Entrepreneur Division. This proved to be a successful event. Later that afternoon the Sports and recreation Division got things moving with a scavenger hunt through the hotel and surrounding area. Participants had a great time taking part in this scavenger hunt adventure. This was followed by the business meeting of the Sports and Recreation Division.

Next was the resolutions committee meeting, chaired by Todd Stephens. This committee discussed the 2018 resolutions that would be voted on from the convention floor during the business meeting session.

To top off the evening, the NFB of Greater Louisville hosted a Hawaiian luau. Members had a great time wearing their grass skirts and Hawaiian leis. In addition, there was a live auction which earned money for the affiliate.

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Saturday started out bright and early with the annual scholarship breakfast. We had two scholarship finalists, Jacob Hack and Amelia Lillie. We were joined at breakfast by our national representative, Anil Lewis.

Morning General Session:

President, Cathy Jackson call the general session to order. George Stokes from the Frankfort Chapter gave the invocation. Sandra Williams from the Greater Louisville Chapter sang the national anthem. Lisa Dameron from the Ashland Chapter sang My Old Kentucky Home. Then, the membership said the NFB Pledge. Nickie Pearl, president of the NFB of Greater Louisville welcomed everyone to Louisville.

Chapter and Division Updates:

Ashland: Lora Stephens, President

Frankfort: Karen Mayne, President

Louisville: Nickie Pearl, President

TAD: Sandra Williams, Vice President

Entrepreneur: Todd Stephens, Treasurer

NAPUB: Angela Dehart Henderson, President

Next, our national representative, Anil Lewis, director of the Jernigan Institute, presented the report and update from our national office.

A favorite part of the agenda came next. Our 2018 NFB BELL Academy students shared their experiences at our BELL Academy. Addie Clarkson, Makenna Harrod, Anthony Brettnacherr and Colten Peters joined us this year. Next, Taryn Seif shared her experiences at the NFB EQ “Engineering Quotient” Stem Program that she attended in Baltimore, MD this summer.

Then, our 2018 NFB of Kentucky Scholarship finalists were introduced. Jacob Hack and Amelia Lillie are both first semester freshmen at Eastern Kentucky University. They were excited to attend their first NFB of Kentucky state convention.

Next on the agenda was Cora McNabb, executive director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; however, Cora suffered from a sudden illness and was unable to join us for the 2018 convention. Dr. Craig Meador, who was listed next on the agenda, had not yet arrived. So, Cathy Jackson, NFBK state president presented her annual report. And, finally before lunch, Dr. Craig Meador arrived and gave an update of the new things on the horizon for the American Printing House for the Blind.

Annual Luncheon Board Meeting:

(See board meeting minutes)

Afternoon General Session:

President, Cathy Jackson called the afternoon general session to order. First on the agenda was Kenny Jones, retired teacher from the Kentucky School for the Blind. Kenny reported on the current status of KSB. He polled the room, and about 90% of those in attendance have some affiliation with KSB. The current situation at KSB is not good, and we must be vigilant.

Todd Stephens served as chairperson of the Resolutions committee. Lora Stephens and Danielle Burton served on the committee. Three resolutions were brought before the membership in 2018. The first two dealt with concerns over the situation at the Kentucky School for the Blind. The third deals with the inaccessibility of documents and forms from state government. The first two resolutions dealing with the Kentucky School for the Blind passed unanimously. The third resolution dealing with state documents and forms accessibility and being able to complete those forms without sighted assistance was discussed and passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, president, Cathy Jackson reported on current legislation efforts. Four individuals from Kentucky attended Washington Seminar this year; Cathy Jackson, Jayne Seif, Angela Dehart and Michael Freholm. Four issues were presented at the national level for consideration. In Kentucky we have been working on a Parent’s Rights bill for the state of Kentucky. So far, due to other legislative issues in state government, we haven’t gotten very far with it. It made it to committee, but did not get out of committee. We will continue to work toward getting it through the state legislature.

Next on the agenda was a reading of the newly adopted Code of Conduct. This is an effort passed down from the national level to clarify behavior of leaders and membership of the National Federation of the Blind. Ranelle Mackey read the entire Code of Conduct to the membership. The Board voted to adopt the Code of Conduct at a board meeting, and signed the Code during the luncheon business meeting.

General Business Meeting:

Treasurer, J. Mike Freholm presented the treasurer’s report as follows .

General Checking: $7,340.37

Newsline: $6,596.88

Morgan Stanley Funds (break-out below):

Allen Scholarship Fund: $44,466.74

NFBK Fund: $39,323.02

The BELL and Cameron Funds are a part of the General checking account.

BELL: $563.36

Cameron: $568.07

$2,066.30 from the defunct Merchant’s Division was put back into the general fund.

There have been issues with setting up a PayPal account. This year was the first time that NFB of Kentucky State Convention registration was completely on-line with payments made through PayPal. These funds went through the NFB of Greater Louisville account because there were issues with setting up the state account. Mike reported that a PayPal account must be registered in an individual’s name, a human being, not the name of an organization. PayPal will have to be registered in the treasurer’s name. Mike will continue to work on this. In addition, Mike discussed that the National office prefers that chapters and division keep their checking accounts under a certain amount, about $1,500. This is important because chapters and divisions are not 501-C3 entities. If chapters and divisions have larger amounts of money, these funds may be held in escrow by the state affiliate because it is 501-

C3 protected. Funds should be coming in and out of treasuries. Make money to spend it, not to save it. The motion was made to accept the treasurer’s report. The treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously.

There was no old business to discuss.

Danielle Burton, chair of the nominating committee presented the nominating committee report. The following slate of officers were placed in nomination.

President: Cathy Jackson

1st Vice-President: Jayne Seif

2nd Vice-President: Todd Stephens

Secretary: Lora Stephens

Treasurer: J. Mike Freholm

Board Members:

Danielle Burton

Sandra Williams

 President: Cathy Jackson was elected by acclamation.

1st Vice-President: Jayne Seif was elected by acclamation.

2nd Vice-President: Todd Stephens was elected by acclamation

Secretary: Lora Stephens was elected by acclamation

Treasurer: J. Mike Freholm was elected by acclamation.

Board Positions:

Danielle Burton was elected by acclamation

Sandra Williams was elected by acclamation.

There was no new business to discuss. The general session adjourned at 4:38 PM

Annual Banquet:

Sandra Williams served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. Our national representative, Anil Lewis gave the banquet address. Jacob Hack and Amelia Lillie were each awarded $1,000 Charles and Betty Allen Scholarships. Todd Stephens was awarded the T. V. Cramner Award for his work in the National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky serving as the president of TAD and the state coordinator for Newsline.

Sunday, October 14, 2018

The 2018 NFB of Kentucky state convention concluded with the business meeting of the NAPUB Division, which the membership voted to dissolve, as the NAPUB division was dissolved at the national level during the 2018 national convention. Funds from the NAPUB treasury will go back into the general fund to support our NFB of Kentucky BELL Academy. The technology Assistance Division and the Entrepreneur Divisions also held business meetings. The 2018 state convention concluded at approximately 11:00 Am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Felty Stephens, Secretary