National Federation of the Blind of Missouri

April 1, 2016 Minutes

The board meeting that took place at the 54th convention was called to order by President Wunder at 1:15 PM. He invited Pam Allen, our national representative, to speak to the board meeting. She expressed her excitement about all the enthusiasm and hard work that is taking place in the Missouri affiliate.

Dacia Cole took the roll, and all board members were present. Guests present: Susie Stanzel, Debby Powell, Brandon Hahs, Tom Anderson, Carol Morgan, Brian Wekamp, Jeff Wright, Ruby Polk, Debbie Wunder, Amy Plumlee, Bob Williams, Holly Carneal, Pam Allen, Roland Allen, Deb Busch, Ashley Neybert, Randy Carmack, Jenny Carmack, Robin House, Dale Ham, Dan Keller, and Rita Lynch.

Dacia Cole read the minutes from the January 30 board meeting. It was moved by Carol Coulter and seconded by Gene Coulter that the minutes be approved as read with corrections/amendments. The motion was approved.

Carol Coulter read the treasurer's report. The following balances were indicated: checking account balance as of 12/31/15: $1,338.35; checking account balance as of 3/26/16: $10,620.33; non-restricted funds: $29,937.24; restricted funds: $27,166.03. It was moved by Chris Tisdal and seconded by Shelia Wright that the treasurer's report be approved as read. The motion carried.

Dacia Cole read the action points. A copy of the current action points can be found at the end of these minutes.

Amy Plumlee reported on talking to the social work department at University of Central Missouri where she attends college. She informed us that the chair of the department will make sure that the parent video is shown in its social work classes. The chair of the department also stated that she would send a link to the video to a social work listserv.

President Wunder reminded the assembled that if one is on a closed committee, all discussions that happen between the members of that committee in their transaction of business are confidential and should not be discussed with anyone.

Erin Magoon brought up the idea of giving the Myer-Briggs personality test at next year's convention. The board seemed interested in the idea, so Erin will look into how to administer the test.

Carol Morgan reminded all of us that there were still slots to work the affiliate table in the exhibit area. She thanked everyone for their support during her recovery from a fall she took just prior to the national convention.

It was moved by Shelia Wright and seconded by Dacia Cole that we have our next board meeting on June 4, 2016, in Warrensburg. The motion carried unanimously.

President Wunder informed everyone that Helen Parker, the president of the South Central chapter, has written a book. He has been given permission by Helen to sell it to members for five dollars. Please see him if you are interested in purchasing the book.

It was moved by Erin Magoon and seconded by Julie McGinnity that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dacia Cole, Recording Secretary

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri 54th Annual Convention

April 2, 2016 Minutes

The opening session was called to order by President Gary Wunder at approximately 8:15 AM. He introduced Dacia Cole to sing the National Anthem. President Wunder then introduced Erin Magoon, the president of the Springfield chapter, to give a warm welcome from the host chapter. She thanked everyone for all the generous help with hospitality.

Debbie Wunder then read the names of those we have lost or who need our support in their recovery and requested we have a moment of silence. Those we have lost: Robin Schweitzer, Carson May, Patty Giesing, Melinda Ford, Mary Keyhoe, Elizabeth Grauel, John Thompson, Pat Plevka Arnold, Rosalee Baker-Thompson, and Rose Branch. Those who need our prayers and support: Larry Arnold, Phil Rios, Laura Rios, Patricia Morrow, John Wunder, Shirley Sutton, Bill Neal, Gail Lundberg, Carl Hirsch, Annette Rhodes, and Jason Clover.

Erin Magoon asked that all the veterans who were in attendance come forward and be recognized. Both the Pledge of Allegiance and the NFB Pledge were recited. Erin played "God Bless the USA" from a recording byDolly Parton.

Julie McGinnity introduced the scholarship winners for 2016. She asked them to say something about themselves. Mark Meyers will be attending Missouri University of Science and Technology and will be beginning his sophomore year. He is majoring in computer science and engineering. Jenny Carmack is attending the University of St. Louis and is getting her degree in special education. Brandon Hahs will be graduating from Jackson High School and will be attending South East Missouri University. He will be majoring in English and getting a minor in history.

President Wunder welcomed visitors from out of state. They were: Susie Stanzel, Tom Anderson, Ashley Neybert, Debby Powell, Ben Kane, Brent Batron, Wayne Marshall, Pam Allen, and Roland Allen.

President Wunder introduced our national representative, Pam Allen, director of the Louisiana Center for the Blind. He reported that he was on the scholarship committee when she applied for a national scholarship. She brought greetings and well-wishes from President Riccobono and our immediate past president, Dr. Maurer. Her report concentrated on several things including our Tenbroek Law Symposium, how strong we are as a Federation, and fundraising for the various programs we do. She also spoke about the Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy (BELL Academy). The importance of accessibility, primarily on the internet, was also very prominent in her national report. She informed everyone that there is a new opportunity being established to be a mentor for new blind parents. If you are interested in this program, email Melissa Riccobono at <parenting@nfb.org>. She recognized Shelia Wright for her governmental affairs work on both the state and national level.

Chris Tisdal gave the nominating committee report. The slate that is recommended by the nominating committee to fill expiring board positions is: Gene Fleeman, Daniel Garcia, Melissa Smith, Roger Crome, and Chris Tisdal. The committee recommended Gary Wunder be the delegate and Shelia Wright the alternate delegate. It was moved by Gene Coulter and seconded by Amy Plumlee that the nominating committee report be approved. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The convention adjourned for a ten minute break.

President Gary Wunder reconvened the meeting at 10:10 AM. He asked that Erin Magoon come forward to present the 2016 resolutions. She began with 2016-01 regarding the National Reading Media Assessment. It was moved by the resolutions committee that it pass and seconded by Tom Stevens. The resolution was adopted.

Resolution 2016-02 discusses the right to a secret ballot in all government elections. It was moved by the resolutions committee and seconded by Gene Coulter that it be adopted. The motion was approved after discussion and suggested amendments. She continued with resolution 2016-03 regarding Grey Hound bus lines and the ability to purchase tickets over the phone. It was moved by the resolutions committee and seconded by Carol Morgan that this resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. Resolution 2016-04 discusses the Marrakesh Treaty. It was moved by the resolutions committee and seconded by a person the secretary could not identify that this resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. The focus of resolution 2016-05 is to accept out-of-state non-drivers ID cards. Lawrence Luck suggested an amendment to explain that we want all blind citizens who are from out of state to have the same right as Missouri citizens. The resolution will be edited and brought back to the convention to be voted on Sunday. Resolution 2016-06 discusses PRE Research and the inaccessibility of its drug studies. There was a lot of discussion, and it was suggested that Erin edit the resolution and bring it back in her segment Sunday so it can be reread and voted on.

Keith Roderick, the fiscal and administrative manager from Rehabilitation Services for the blind, delivered a report on transition services and the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA). Keith shared a story about how his son chose to adapt three games with Braille for blind children for an Eagle Scout project after he overheard a conversation between his father and Gary Wunder regarding the importance of Braille and how technology is making it harder to persuade students to want to learn Braille.

WIOA has two categories for transition services: The first one is youth with disabilities, which means youth from age fourteen to twenty-four. The second category is students with disabilities that are sixteen or younger who are in school and receiving services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). WIOA requires that 15 percent of the grant that RSB gets must go to working with transition students who are in high school. There are five categories that this money must be spent on. Several members had excellent questions for Keith regarding his presentation.

Julie McGinnity gave a presentation on how to be a performer and how not to let your blindness stop you. She spoke about how to break through the glass ceiling. She stressed the importance of being confident and taking chances when it comes to auditioning and performing. She stated that blind people shouldn't just play blind characters, but should also play sighted characters. She mentioned that the National Federation of the Blind Performing Arts Division now has a mentoring program for performers to assist them in the struggles their fellow performers have had to face. She asked that we support and build up blind performers and help them succeed in whatever performing art they wish.

Donna Riegel, the director of Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library, reported on the various services that Wolfner provides in addition to books. They provide reference services, accessible games, and video described programs on DVD and VHS. Accessible maps are provided on cartridges. Wolfner also provides access to magazines that the National Library of Congress doesn't provide.

Donna said that a high-volume player for those who are hard of hearing will be available soon. She also spoke about a book club that will be starting in the next few months. She also announced that they are now providing large-print books for adults.

Wolfner is in the process of developing three new initiatives: the first is a literacy program for very young children, ages birth to six; the second is the creation of a 3-D printing service to print picture books for kids; the third is to create a collection of books for each veteran's home in Missouri.

Our final presentation of the morning came from Jessica Beechum, the director of We Fit Wellness, who skyped in to the convention to present. She spoke about the importance of exercising and eating right. She said that exercising doesn't have to be something complicated and intense. She spoke about a company she has helped start called "We Fit Wellness," which provides access to exercise programs that can be purchased that are accessible to blind folks because they are created by blind folks. The company also has tips on how to eat well. More information can be found at <[www.wefitwellness.com](http://www.wefitwellness.com)>.

The morning session was adjourned at 11:57 AM.

The Saturday afternoon session was called to order by First Vice President Shelia Wright at 1:30 PM. Carol Morgan asked that all chapters participating in the king and queen contest come forward and announce the amount they raised. The winners were Susan and Jim Sundermyer from Jefferson City, who raised $2,750.00.

Ben Vercellone spoke about his experiences as a blind traveler and a travel instructor. His presentation began with a brief history of the orientation and mobility (O&M) instructor, specifically instructors who are blind and were once denied certification and the right to teach because they could not see. He spoke about the alternative techniques he uses on a daily basis both to travel and to teach travel. He teaches a combination of structured and discovery learning to his students. He briefly discussed his strongly held position that all the new technology to help blind people travel easier shouldn't replace the long white cane or guide dog. He concluded by answering questions from the convention.

Shelia next introduced President Wunder to give his presidential report. A copy of this report can be found at the end of these minutes.

President Wunder introduced presenters from Vanda Pharmaceuticals to speak about Non-24 sleep disorder. They told us about the scientific causes of this disorder and the drug Hetlioz, which has been approved by the FDA to help treat this disorder. After their presentation they answered questions from the audience. The session adjourned for a ten minute break at 3:19 PM.

Shelia Wright reconvened the session at 3:28 PM. She introduced Alice Conway, the chairman of the Employment Research Committee. Alice gave the names of her committee members and explained that the committee was formed at a board meeting to figure out why the unemployment rate among blind people is so high. Several members of the committee spoke about what stands between employment for the blind and what the NFB can do about it. Three panels addressed this broad topic. Chris Tisdal, Shelia Wright, Dacia Cole, and Julie McGinnity spoke on resumes and getting the interview; Daniel Garcia and Alice Conway spoke on how to keep the job once you get it; and the third and final panel consisted of Gary Wunder, Rita Lynch, and Debbie Wunder, who discussed everything else you would need to be successful in your job and your daily life.

Shelia Wright then introduced Wayne Marshall from the Colorado Center for the Blind to speak about the opportunities the NFB has for blind seniors. He gave a brief history of the senior group that meets at the Colorado Center for the Blind. It started as a very small group that only met on Tuesdays, but now it has grown significantly and meets several times a week. One of the groups' most successful activities was the tech day in which the seniors came to the center and learned about the technology. The center students participate in the senior program and give as much to the seniors as the seniors give back to them. Wayne encouraged everyone to get involved on the local, state, and national level to ensure that we give seniors all of the opportunities the NFB can provide them. He briefly described a seniors in Charge program in which the seniors live in the center apartments with the students for a week and do all the center activities that the center students are required to do.

Following this, Shelia introduced Brent Batron, youth services director, to speak about the youth programs that are available at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Brent told a story about a gentleman who talked to Wayne Marshall, director of senior services, about making sure he could still live the life he wants. Once he was assured of this, he and his wife wanted to make sure blind children got what they needed, so he underwrote the three-week confidence camp for elementary age blind kids that takes place at the center. The center also has a mentoring program with the school for the blind in Colorado. Another program they offer for kids is the FAST program, which takes place on Saturdays. It focuses on daily living, exploring science, technology, engineering, and math, and encourages young people to explore art. The final thing he said was that a mother of a blind child who asked the Colorado center to help her advocate for the services her daughter needed. The center helped her ensure the daughter got what she needed to succeed.

Gene Coulter shared some necessary logistics for the Saturday evening banquet, urging people to quickly leave the room, bring their tickets to the banquet, and prepare to enjoy the after banquet activities.

Pam Allen concluded the afternoon session by discussing the certification program for TVI's and orientation and mobility specialists at Louisiana Tech University. The program needs good students, and the field needs more workers than this program can provide.

The session adjourned at 4:45 PM.

The banquet began with the invocation at approximately 6:40 PM. The invocation was given by Reverend Stan Magoon. Carol Morgan recognized and congratulated Jim and Susan Sundermeyer, members of the Jefferson City chapter, for winning the 2016 king and queen contest.

The mistress of ceremonies, Erin Magoon, introduced the head table. From right to left she introduced Gary Wunder, Debbie Wunder, Pam Allen, Roland Allen, Tom Stevens, Helen Stevens, Erin Magoon, Larry Arnold, Shelia Wright, Jeff Wright, Jim Sundermeyer, and Susan Sundermeyer.

Julie McGinnity then presented the scholarships made possible by the affiliate and its chapters. She started by thanking the members of the John and Roda Dower Scholarship Committee for their service. She also expressed her thanks to Brittany Berk, who typed up materials so the committee could read them. The chairman then gave each winner a chance to speak and thank the convention.

Mark Meyers thanked the affiliate for his scholarship. He expressed gratitude for all the Federation has done for him since he began participating several years ago. He hopes to give back at least some of what he has been given.

Brandon Hahs thanked the affiliate for his scholarship. He said he is enjoying the convention and has plans to write a book when he graduates from college.

Jenny Carmack was the final recipient to speak. She also expressed her thanks for the scholarship. She joined the Federation in 2004 and said that being a member is what has helped her be the successful person she is today. Julie stressed the importance of keeping in touch with the scholarship winners and providing any support they may need.

Carol Morgan presented the Roy Zuvers traveling trophy. The winner was the Jefferson City Chapter with $3,318.35. This is the third year in a row that the chapter has won, so they get to keep this trophy. Melissa accepted the trophy on behalf of the chapter and addressed the convention on Sunday morning.

Gary Horchem presented the Jernigan Award. He said it would go to a person who has been involved in the NFB for a number of years, that this person is very dedicated and hard working, and that he or she has held several offices in the organization both on the chapter and affiliate level. Finally he told us what we wanted to know, that being that the winner for 2016 is Dacia Cole.

President Gary Wunder presented charters to both the Mineral Area chapter located in Farmington, and the Old Drum chapter located in Warrensburg. Roger Crome, chapter president, accepted the charter on behalf of the Mineral Area chapter. He explained that they started with just a few people but have gained several members and four of their members are attending convention. Amy Plumlee, Old Drum chapter president, accepted the charter on behalf of the chapter. She expressed her thanks to the committee who put together the informational meeting that got the Old Drum chapter off the ground. She also expressed thanks to the members of her chapter who came to convention and said that she hopes to have more at next year's convention.

President Gary Wunder introduced Pam Allen to give her banquet address. He described her as a "find from God." He said she is intelligent, compassionate, motivated, and loved.

She began her speech by saying that, no matter where you go in the Federation, you are always with family. She reminded us of our one minute message, that with love, hope, and determination, we have the power to transform our dreams into reality. She continued by describing the way the NFB began and said that now we aren't only looking at our history, but where we see ourselves going and what we will be doing in the future.

She told us about her journey growing up and joining the Federation. She was encouraged to meet all challenges that were put in front of her and to confront the misconceptions about blind people and demonstrate the capabilities we have. Her introduction to the NFB happened during her sophomore year in College. It was then that she received a flyer for a student seminar in Ohio. Attending that seminar provided Pam with the opportunity to talk to several blind role models including Barbara Pierce. She helped arrange an internship at the Louisiana Center for the Blind for Pam, who then became a counselor for the Buddy Program after that internship was completed.

Like most of us, she has experienced discrimination when applying to work for various firms where she lived. She said her involvement in the Federation helped her to overcome the discrimination. She then told us about her first national convention and how awe struck she was at the efficiency that blind people did everything involved in hosting the convention. She concluded her address with a story about a bamboo farmer who carefully planted and tended to his crop. It took several years for any growth to occur, and his neighbors doubted him. However, once the bamboo started to grow, it really began to thrive, and the Federation is much the same. It takes dedication and confidence for us to succeed, and even if it is slow, growth is happening, and the knowledge we have provides power and confidence to live the lives we want. Getting back to her story, once the bamboo really began to grow, his neighbors asked for his advice, and he chose to give back. As members of the Federation it is important for us to give back as well. In order to be successful, the farmer had to problem solve, and the NFB must do the same in order to ensure we are successful, active members of society.

President Wunder explained the PAC plan and asked for people to consider either joining or increasing their pledges. Several people joined or increased their contributions. President Wunder thanked everyone for their generosity.

The banquet concluded with the auction and an "NFB's Got Talent" show.

April 3, 2016

The Sunday morning session of the 2016 NFB of Missouri state convention was called to order by President Gary Wunder at 8:30 AM. He turned the proceedings over to Second Vice President Julie McGinnity. She introduced the first panel to speak about navigating the medical system as a blind person. The panel of speakers was Debbie Wunder, Erin Magoon, and Carol Morgan. They talked about ways to help medical staff understand the unique needs we have as blind people, especially when it comes to working with the medical community. They explained some of the problems in being a patient, a caregiver, or an advocate and the different struggles they faced. These included expecting that blind people will have someone sighted with them to ensure that they will be able to help with getting the blind people home, being expected to do things without them being sufficiently described in a way we can follow, and filling out forms without access to them electronically.

The next item on the agenda was the audit committee report. Dan Flasar and Lawrence Luck presented the report. Gene Coulter moved and Gary Horchem seconded a motion that the report be approved as read. Shelia Wright asked for the reason behind the recommendation to make sure all vouchers are turned in in a timely manner. Dan Flasar explained that some vouchers were turned in late. This was a recommendation from a former report and not contained in the 2015 audit committee recommendations. After the discussion, the motion was voted on and approved.

Carol Coulter gave the annual treasurer's report. The following balances were indicated: checking account balance as of 1/1/15: $6,082.22; checking account balance as of 12/31/15: $1,338.35; non-restricted funds: $12,176.57; restricted funds: $35,368.60. It was moved by Shelia Wright and seconded by Gary Horchem that the treasurer's report be approved as read. The motion passed unanimously.

Shelia Wright reported on our governmental affairs work over the last year. She began by thanking her committee for all their hard work. She also thanked President Wunder and members of the board for attending hearings as well as thanking our Jeff City chapter for being our eyes and ears when it comes to notifying us of hearings and other important information. Shelia encouraged everyone to anticipate and plan for the 2017 Jefferson City Seminar and attend it.

Next we heard a review of each bill. The voting bill for the visually impaired is SB 1068, and if passed it would require accessible voting equipment in every election. Shelia said that most of the legislators seemed supportive of the bill. Our next steps are to see that it gets out of committee and put up for a vote. If that doesn't happen, we will have to research how to make this stronger for next year. She is looking for people to do interviews with their election boards.

Next discussed was the ID bill that we previously discussed in the resolution that was read earlier in convention. Many legislators were interested in this one, and it has found its way into several bills.

Another issue we are working on is trying to change the statute regarding the waiver of liability. This antiquated law can require that an employer make us sign a document saying that if anything bad happens on the job, the employer and his or her insurer are not responsible. In other words, are very desire to move and work makes as contributorily negligent.

Next she briefly touched on the National Media Reading Assessment and is hopeful that a bill including the NRMA will be past.

Carol Morgan gave the Ways and Means Committee report. She began by listing a number of the projects we have and urging us to fundraise so we can continue all the wonderful things we do. She shared how much we've made at this point in the convention. At national convention we will be selling umbrellas, 50/50 tickets, and trail mix. It was moved by Gary Wunder and seconded by Erin Magoon that we appropriate $200 for Dan Flasar to make trail mix to sell at national convention. President Wunder thanked Carol for all her hard work chairing the Ways and Means Committee.

Gene Coulter gave a report on the Schwan's fundraiser. Our new fundraiser starts April 4, and for the following forty-five days we will get 20 percent of sales. After that, for the next ninety days, we will get 5 percent of the sales. You can also buy a $25 gift card, and the Federation will get $10. This is a one-time purchase per household. The new code is 26337.

Debbie Wunder delivered a report on the activities and plans of the Membership Committee. We will be having an informational seminar in St. Louis on October 21-23. She also welcomed the Mineral Area and Old Drum chapters. She briefly discussed the BELL Academy and encouraged everyone to donate to this worthy program.

Gail Bryant gave a presentation on Unified English Braille (UEB) and how great it is. Several people added their perspectives on UEB, and how it is affecting their lives.

Amy Plumlee gave a presentation on what the KNFB Reader is and why it is so awesome. She demonstrated several features of the app and the way she uses it on a daily basis.

President Wunder introduced Melissa Smith, president of the Jefferson City chapter, to talk about some of the fundraising activities they do that helped them win the Roy Zuvers traveling trophy.

Erin Magoon then continued the work of the resolutions committee. She reread resolution 2016-05 regarding the accepting of out of state IDs. It was moved by Lawrence Luck and seconded by Gene Fleeman that the resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. Resolution 2016-06 regarding PRE Research was then re-read. It was moved by Carol Coulter and seconded by Daniel Garcia that the resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. Next was resolution 2016-07, commending the Double Tree by Hilton hotel for their exemplary service. It was moved by Lawrence Luck and seconded by Gene Coulter that the resolution be adopted, the motion was approved. Resolution 2016-08 is a resolution commending the Springfield chapter for its excellent hosting of convention. It was moved by Shelia Wright and seconded by Dacia Cole that the resolution be adopted.

Chris Tisdal then presided over the election. He repeated the slate to the convention. For the first board position the nominating committee recommended Gene Fleeman. After calling for nominations three times, it was moved by Gene Coulter and seconded by Gary Horchem that nominations cease and he be elected by acclimation. The motion carried.

The nominating committee recommended Melissa Smith for the next board position. It was moved by Debbie Wunder and seconded by Dacia Cole that nominations cease and Melissa be elected by acclimation. The motion was approved.

The nominating committee recommended Daniel Garcia for the next board position. Ruby Polk moved and Gary Horchem seconded that nominations cease and he be elected by acclimation. The motion was approved.

The nominating committee recommended Roger Crome to fill the seat currently held by Gary Horchem. Amy Plumlee and Jenny Carmack were nominated from the floor. Gene Coulter moved nominations cease. Each candidate briefly spoke about what they would do if they were elected. A voice vote was taken between the three candidates, but it was too close to call, so a standing vote was done. After that vote Jenny Carmack was dropped. Then a voice vote was done between Roger Crome and Amy Plumlee. It was determined to be too close to call, so another standing vote was taken.

While the votes were being counted, several announcements were made. Gene Coulter announced that the 2017 convention will be April 7 to 9 in Kansas City at the Adams Mark Hotel. Ruby Polk announced that the Kansas City convention will be hosted in conjunction with the Old Drum chapter. Gene informed everyone that the weekend of convention might have a home game for the Royals and asked if people would be interested in attending the Sunday afternoon game. Several people expressed interest.

Pam Allen thanked everyone for their hospitality and for all the wonderful things that are happening in the Missouri affiliate.

When the counting was complete, Roger Crome won the seat. The nominating committee recommended Chris Tisdal for the remaining board position. It was moved by Daniel Garcia and seconded by Ruby Polk that nominations cease and he be elected by acclimation.

The nominating committee recommended Gary Wunder to be the delegate for national convention. It was moved by Gary Horchem and seconded by Melissa Smith that he be the delegate. The motion was approved.

Shelia Wright was put forth as the alternate delegate. It was moved by Dacia Cole and seconded by Rita Lynch that nominations cease and she be elected by acclimation. The motion was approved.

The convention ordered the board of directors to begin work to map out a strategy to help make our experiences with medical facilities as both visitors and patients better.

Gene Coulter moved and Debbie Wunder seconded that we allocate $750 each to the tenBroek fund and the national treasury, and $100 to the SUN fund. The motion carried.

Allocating funds for national convention stipends was then discussed. It was moved by Debbie Wunder and seconded by Julie McGinnity that we appropriate $2,500 for national convention stipends. The motion carried.

Shirley Grauel expressed an interest in chairing a committee with hopes of having a meeting at the 2017 convention. Several members volunteered to participate on this committee.

Roger Crome brought to our attention a resolution that has been put forth in the legislature. HR123 that states that sheltered workshops are good, integrated, inclusive, and valuable parts of our society.

Julie McGinnity extended greetings from Jessica Snyder and Chris Parsons.

Gary Horchem thanked everyone for their support and the honor of having served on the board. President Wunder expressed his heartfelt thanks for all of Mr. Horchem’s service.

Shelia Wright gave a report on governmental affairs on the national level. She thanked Gary and Debbie Wunder, Bethany Bennington, her boyfriend Logan, and Julie McGinnity for attending the seminar. We have work to do because we don't have a lot of Missouri congressmen sponsoring our bills. We need to contact our senators and get them to include the language for the space available initiative in the national defense authorization act (NDAA). There is a bill in both the house and the senate for the TIME act. The bills are HR188 and S2001. She then talked about the Marrakesh Treaty.

It was moved by Cathy Hurley and seconded by Dacia Cole that we write a letter of commendation to Louise Whitworth for her exemplary work as a VI teacher.

Vivian Bliss thanked everyone for such a warm welcome and stated she had a wonderful first Missouri convention. Hollie Carneal expressed her thanks to everyone who made her feel welcome at her first convention. The convention was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dacia Cole, Recording Secretary

Action Points for April 1, 2016

1. Erin Magoon will write a letter of appreciation to Wolfner for all the work they do.

2. Debbie Wunder will send out to the list serve a request for members to share experiences with the medical community as a visitor and a patient.

3. The board will come up with a strategy on how to work with the medical community.

4. Carol will talk to Kristy Collins to get our parent video as part of the online training the case workers have to do.

5. Debbie Wunder will set up monthly membership calls.

6. Bryan Schulz and Carol Coulter are working on a affiliate database.

7. Chris Tisdal will send out a list of when/where the chapters meet including the new chapters.

8. Carol Coulter will contact Donna Riegel and ask about how to get the Blind Missourian on Newsline.