National Federation of the Blind of the Miami Valley

August 13, 2016

East Branch Library – 2008 Wyoming Street, Dayton

**Attendance**: Richard Payne (President), Tim Janning, Gloria Robinson, Robert Spangler, Dr. Carolyn Peters, Wanda Sloan, Janine Pickens, Charles Boyken, Vincent Boyken, Mike Anderson, Debbie Williamitis, Martha Cowden, Shirley McDowell, Emily Pennington (guest) and Rachael Spangler (guest).

# Introductions

Mr. Richard Payne called the meeting to order at 1:01pm and Dr. Carolyn Peters gave the prayer.

Richard Payne asked Emily Pennington to talk about herself. She said that she is the treasurer of the Cincinnati Chapter and a student at the University of Cincinnati Law School. She said that she will also be in the play at the state convention.

# President’s Release

President Riccobono talked about his stay with the Hawaii affiliate. He then traveled to Geneva to meet with Fred Schroeder and Scott LaBar.

It is now Meet the Blind month! Community sessions and events are being held to educate the public about the truth of blindness.

He next talked about the “How I see it” Blindfold Challenge – hosted by a group which does medical research to reduce blindness in the world. This challenge encourages sighted people to put on blindfolds and perform activities to show how difficult it is to be blind. The federation does not oppose medical research but does oppose perpetuating negative perceptions. He urged local chapters to create videos and write experiences of blind people doing ordinary things, especially using the #HowISeeIt twitter hashtag.

There is a lot going on in the legislative arena. On September 22, 2016 congress introduced the Accessible Instruction Materials in Higher Education act in the U.S. House of Representatives. Urge members of congress to join them in supporting this legislation by cosponsoring HR-6122.

Mr. riccobono talked about Washington Seminar, which will take place at the Holiday Inn Capital, 550 C Street, Washington, D.c. Check-in begins Saturday, January 28 2017 with check-out on Friday, February 3. Room rates are $180 per night, not including sales tax. Go to the seminar page at nfb.org to make reservations or call 1-877-572-6951 booking code F7B.

# Secretary Report

Robert Spangler read the secretary report; Wanda Sloan motioned to accept and Charles Boykin seconded.

# Treasurer Report

Tim Janning read the treasurer report; motion to accept by Wanda Sloan and seconded by Debbie Williamitis. Ms. Robinson asked about the $38 expenditure on the picnic. Mr. Janning said it was for cups and other supplies. Ms. Robinson said that next time we should try to get this donated and that we do not need to spend money on this. Mr. Janning said that some of it was donated.

# Other business

There will be a health fair at Sinclair on November 5, 9:00am-1:00pm. Our chapter will have a table.

Dr. Peters talked about her attendance at the World Blind Union Conference. She said that this was the first time that it was held in the United States. She had the opportunity to speak at a Women’s Committee Meeting. She wants us to know that the Miami Valley chapter was recognized. Wherever she goes, she always mentions the Miami Valley chapter. She did a women’s retreat for the Presbyterian church near Urbana while the chapter had its picnic.

Mr. Payne added that Fred Schroeder is now the President of the World Blind Union. Next, he talked about the fundraiser for the chapter, which he said up through Chipotle. He asked Mr. Charles Boykin to read the flyer. It indicates that individuals can have 50% of their purchase donated to our chapter on Saturday, October 15 from 1:00pm-5:00pm. Location is 1211 Brown Street. Mr. Payne said that he would like for us all to meet at Chipotle for lunch. Everyone agreed to meet there at 1:00pm Saturday.

Mr. Payne then talked about a conversation he had with an Uber driver. The driver made a comment about how it would be very tough to be blind. Richard answered his questions and also provided him a flyer about the Chipotle fundraiser.

Dr. Peters will serve is our person on the nominating committee at the state convention. Each chapter appoints someone and the president makes this appointment. Mr. Payne also mentioned that everyone has the opportunity to be a marshal or ambassador at the convention.

Mr. Payne said that he would do anything he can to help anyone go to the convention. If someone requires assistance, such as a roommate, a van or anything else, ask Mr. Payne about it. Ms. Robinson added that Dayton needs more representation at the convention and on the board. There are two seats open on the board and she thinks that someone from Dayton should fill one of them. Dr. Peters suggested that Suzanne Turner from Cleveland, Deborah Kendrick from Cincinnati and Mike Liebermann from Columbus could be running for state President.

# Telephone Report

Mr. Janning again talked about how the chapter is saving $35 a month by switching to a free phone service. He said that many organizations have our number, citing a call that he got from Kettering Hospital wanting to verify our number. He said that most calls he receives are people searching for resources, including family members of blind people and other organizations around the community. Many people are looking for equipment and we are able to refer them to agencies that can help. The number is 937-293-2131. Also, 341-5202 is the number to the Access Center for Independent Living.

All chapters are being asked to donate a basket for an auction fundraiser at the state convention. Karen Warner has donated for the door prize. Everyone is asked to donate to the door prize. Mr. Payne said that he can find someone to put together a basket. Ms. Sloan talked about giftbasket.com, which is a web site where one can order various types of baskets. Mr. Payne said that he will communicate with Karen Warner to put together a basket. Our chapter has always donated for the door prize at the state convention. Gloria Robinson made a motion to donate two $25 door prizes in cash, seconded by Charles Boykin. Dr. Peters suggested putting the money on gift cards. Mr. Payne asked Mr. Janning to make arrangements to get those door prizes to the convention.

There was a discussion about the chapter having a table at the exhibits at the convention. This would serve as a fundraiser for the chapter. Mr. Charles Boykin asked if this costs the chapter. Mr. Payne responded that it will not but someone has to be there while the exhibit hall is open. He asked Ms. Robinson and Ms. Sloan to set up a table.

Mr. Payne then talked about the hospitality room. It will be from 5:30-8:30, Friday night. Ms. Sloan said that there will be a Family Feud night. Dr. Peter talked about a worship service which will take place on Sunday morning during convention. Talent from throughout the state will participate, such as Dr. J.W. Smith, Walter Mitchell and Macy McClain. There will also be a memorial service for members who have passed to be recognized.

Mr. Payne said that he will not seek office in our chapter again. He believes that the chapter is ready to transition into new leadership. He said that we need a nominating committee. Volunteers choose to be on the nominating committee and the president selects the chair. Ms. Janine Pickens asked what exactly the nominating committee does. Mr. Janning said that the committee will ask members of the chapter if they are interested in running for office. Then, the list is presented at the time of the vote. People can be nominated then, as well. Mr. Janning, Ms. Pickens and Ms. McDowell offered to serve on the committee. Mr. Payne appointed Mr. Janning to chair the committee.

Mr. Payne said that he has talked to Sheila Hardy-Wilson about having a Christmas party. People will be asked to bring items. Ms. Robinson said that a menu was created so that people could choose what they wish to bring. Mr. Payne said that the menu will be sent out on the list. Those who wish to donate or volunteer, contact Sheila or Gloria. Ms. Williamitis asked if it is just for members. Mr. Payne said that it is but people can bring a friend if they want. These individuals will not be able to vote, however.

Ms. Pickens said that she spoke with librarians at this library about what adaptive equipment is present. She said that she has created a list and wishes to present it at a library staff meeting on November 30.

# Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned**: 2:44pm