# National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

Topic: NJABS Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Sunday, February 25. 2024

Time: 8 PM

Location: Affiliate Zoom

Chair: Natsha Ishaq

Email: ishaqn1@tcnj.edu

1 Roll Call

There were 16 in attendance

# 2. Welcoming Remarks

Natasha introduced herself and the NJABS Student Committee. She also reviewed housekeeping and ground rules to ensure Zoom etiquette.

# 3. Introduction to the NFB: Lia Stone, First Vice President of the Affiliate

Lia provided a brief description about the NFB on both the national and state level. This was incredibly important, as several participants are new to the NFBNJ.

# 4. National Association of Blind Students Midwest Seminar: Lauren Altman, President

Lauren spoke about NABS and provided information about how interested students can become involved. She also provided information about the upcoming NABS Midwest Seminar.

# 5. National & State Scholarships: Lia Stone, First Vice President of the Affiliate

Lia spoke about the NFB’s national scholarship and the. NFBNJ’s state scholarship. She provided information about how students can apply and encouraged all in attendance to do so.

# 6. Upcoming Initiatives, Events & Projects

Opportunities for student involvement in legislative advocacy was presented by Lia. She spoke about how students have the opportunity to meet with their congressional representatives in the district. She also spoke about opportunities to engage in legislative advocacy on the local and state level. Opportunities student engagement and leadership in the planning and execution of the student committee’s first official event, Disability Day of Mourning, was presented by Natasha. Participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts on this idea and voice their interest in helping to plan and facilitate the event. There was plenty of interest in doing so. We will thus begin planning the event promptly. Finally, Natasha discussed the need for fundraising events and initiatives. She encouraged everyone to start thinking of ideas for both online and in-person fundraisers.

# 7. Introduction of Subcommittees: Natasha Ishaq, Chair

Natasha discussed how three subcommittees will be created. These subcommittees include publicity and outreach, fundraising, and advocacy. Those interested in joining the subcommittee must email Natasha by Saturday, March 2 at 12PM. Those interested in applying to be a subcommittee chair must email Natasha a 1-2 paragraph explanation of why they are qualified and/or why they would like to serve as a chairperson. These emails are also due by Saturday, March 2 at 12PM.

# 8. NJABS Membership: Natasha Ishaq, Chair

Natasha explained that in order to be considered an active member of the committee, and in order to join a subcommittee, one must join a chapter or become a member of the state affiliate if they haven’t already. Natasha then asked for participants who are not yet on the NJABS email list to share their emails.

# 9. Icebreaker(s): Led by Natasha Ishaq, Chair.

All participants introduced themselves and shared their ideas in regard to what NJABS can do this year.

# 10. Around the Room & Shameless Plugs:

Led by Natasha Ishaq, Chair

Participants shared information, advertised, and/or plugged their own work, projects, events, initiatives, etc.

# 11. Closing Remarks: Natasha Ishaq, Chair

Natasha thanked all for attending and did a quick recap on how to join a subcommittee and how to apply to be a subcommittee chair.

# 12 Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 10 PM

# Nex Meeting

The next NJABS Committee meeting will take place on Sunday, April 21 at 8 PM using the NFB of NJ Zoom account.

NABS Committee meeting notes submitted by Natasha Ishaq, Chair

Reviewed and edited by Linda Melendez, President