**Linn-Benton Chapter Minutes; July 27, 2020**

**Zoom Meeting; 6:30pm**

**Present at the meeting were;**

**John Gardner, Carolyn Gardner, Kristen Jocums, Natalie Charbonneau, Sally Utt**

**MINUTES**

**The June minutes were unanimously approved.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**From John: “We presently have 12 paid-up members at $5 each total $60 paid.**

**We are supposed to remit $2 of the $5 to the affiliate, total of $24.**

**I accidentally overpaid last year's remittance to the affiliate by $5.**

**So I send a check for $19 ($24 minus $5) to Kirk Wagner, NFBO treasurer.**

**The checking account balance as of today is $2,485.14.”**

**NFB CONVENTION 2020 FEEDBACK**

**We were all impressed with the wide range of topics covered, and the high caliber of the speakers who presented. And the app, “Attendee Hub” worked smoothly for downloading the agenda, creating schedules and reminders, staying updated on changes in scheduling, and zooming into the various meetings. We are looking forward to viewing recordings that we may have missed, or want to revisit again, as they get posted on the NFB website.**

**We also agreed that the virtual format enabled us to access much more of the agenda, and actually hear and concentrate more clearly on the content. Will it be possible to have a virtual component included in future NFB National Conventions?**

**Some specific take-aways from the Convention were;**

**Sally learned more about electronic voting, and is working with Benton County and 5 Cedars Group to try it out.**

**Voting by html ballot has been available in Oregon for 12 to 13 years, but it turns out that only 1 person, (a student), has ever actually opted for that choice in Benton County. It’s very straight forward to use with a screen reader. You can get a practice html ballot emailed to you by contacting the county elections office. When it arrives there will be 2 documents…. A word doc with instructions, and The Ballot.**

**You can also request a pdf ballot, but when I tried this option out my screen reader could read the instruction doc, but wasn’t able to read the ballot.**

**Natalie, being a national scholarship finalist , spent a lot of her time that week in meetings, specifically to fulfill her remaining requirements.**

**Beyond that though, diversity which was a topic of a number of the talks, resounded strongly for her. She mentioned this to Carla, and was promptly offered the task of creating a Diversity Committee for Oregon. She has accepted this challenge, along with 2 more interested NFB members from Oregon.**

**It was noted that the Banquet was lacking this year. The most blaring change was that the scholarship finalists were left hanging until next February. Even though they fulfilled all of their obligations, they are now expected to travel to the Washington Seminar, and it will be there that the scholarships will be announced and presented. We do not know what inspired this plan, but we are not in favor of it. We feel that this is unfair, and that the scholarships should have been finalized by the end of the Convention.**

**Another criticism that arose was that of the large number of Resolutions. Often, the Resolutions overlap, or are poorly written.**

**Also, members liked the option to vote by phone, but having more time to complete this task would be helpful in the future.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chapter Recruiting**

**Recruiting is difficult in particular because of issues of confidentiality**

**So far, some ideas for getting the word out about who we are, and what we do are;**

**\*invite a counselor from the Commission to our meeting**

**\*we can circulate our information through groups such as;**

**\*\*Albany low vision groups**

**\*\* NWABA**

**\*\*eye doctors and eye care groups**

**\*\*Vision teachers**

**Also, our 2 student members who joined in January haven’t been to meetings. We need to find out what they are looking for, and how we can best help them.**

**Diversity Committee**

**Natalie asked us to share any thoughts we might have about what this committee could encompass. Ideas included;**

**\*some discussion about how do you recognize the historical context of racial discrimination**

**\*more exploration of sayings such as “black lives matter” and “all lives matter”**

**\*NAACP involvement**

**\*create the goal to have a speaker presentation on the topic of diversity at our State Conventions**

**\*start a book club to help spark discussions**

**\*have diversity be an agenda topic at seminars**

**\*have an organized committee**

**\*work on creating greater inclusion for members at meetings**

**Next Chapter Fundraiser**

**An idea for our next chapter fundraiser is to host “Tactile Bingo Night”.**

**We can make bingo cards with simple raised shapes, or raised numbers and letters with jumbo braille**

**`Instead of hosting a dinner we can serve snacks and beverages**

**Potential Guest Speaker**

**Chris Downy is a blind architect who has appeared on Sixty Minutes, and presented on TED Talks. John knows him and will see if he would have time to be a guest speaker at one of our meetings, once we can meet in person again.**

**Registration List**

**Kristen will get the registration list from Carla to register Andrea, our newest member**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Our next Chapter meeting will be on Monday August 24, at 6:30pm, on Zoom.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sally Utt**