NFB SPRINGFIELD 2020 NARRATIVE REPORT

September 27, 2020

During our January meeting, members Michael Wood and Victor Hernandez presented to chapter members and guests, demonstrating hardware products by Optilect, Freedom Scientific and Enhanced Vision. Some members expressed interest in creating Stable accounts to help them pay for purchase of these products. Victor said that he would work with Catholic Charities and other philanthropic entities to raise money for our chapter to offset the stable accounts.

During our February meeting, members heard a presentation from Steve Hoyt from Pilot Dogs Inc. in Columbus. Those who were interested could walk with Steve outside, around the building of our meeting place. Such a walk is known as a Juno walk, in which a potential guide dog handler can experience the pace and pull of a young guide dog. A trainer, though, acts as a dog in harness.

The chapter president received word one hour before our March meeting was to have gone virtual. Since I did not have adequate time to change that meeting from in-person, six members met with the deputy director of Clark County Board of Elections to mark a demo ballot using our accessible machine for the HAVA Act. Members offered constructive suggestions to present to the manufacturer of the machine and offered to create a video for the BOE website that would explain and demonstrate how to vote using the machine.

Since covid and virtual meetings, we have continued on zoom when possible to inform friends, collegues and neighbors of the work of the NFB. Members work extracurricularly as Lions, Rotarians, directors of community boards such as United Senior Services, Clark County Library, Adaptive Equipment distribution through Easter Seals, animal rescue shelters, poll workers, churches, etc. As best we could, either during zoom communication with these extracurriculars, or the few in-person opportunities afforded with their members, we could share the work of the NFB as we are charged.

Most of our members attended the 2020 national convention anywhere and everywhere. Several members who had never attended either a state or national convention reported afterword that they were glad for the opportunity to attend a national convention that offered such a variety of meetings. One fairly new member even said that he and his wife may try to go to New Orleans in 2021.

During our August and September meetings, we invited BOE officials from Clark and Greene counties to present and answer questions about their ADA ballot marking tools for the upcoming general election. Deputy director from Clark County presented on zoom. The Greene County director emailed contact information as a reference for their accessible ballot. Our members from Montgomery and Logan counties declined a presentation, saying that they were familiar with how to proceed with an absentee ballot or with an accessible ballot to be printed and with the audio machine.

Of course some of our members work for the NFBO as officers, leaders of state divisions, and on various planning committees. The chapter president currently tutors two students from our past BELL programs. The parents of one of these students are active members of the NFBO. We have reached out to Bridgid Burke at the national office for consult help with our goal to institute a transportation account to help members get to chapter meetings. The primary funding for that account is to come from the first $5,000.00 amount that was approved by the NFBO Board of Directors in 2020.