GAVEL AWARD 2021 Chapter QUESTIONNAIRE

 Chapter name: National Federation of the Blind of Springfield

Chapter president's name: Debbie Baker

Date: October 1, 2021

Current membership:

Membership 26Last year: 22

 Number of new members joining this year 4 (worth 1 point each):

Before September 30, 2021, how many business meetings will your chapter have conducted Since September 30, 2020 (worth 1 point each)? 11

How many members are registered with NFB-NEWSLINE®? 9

How many new users have signed up this year (worth 1 point each)?

 Does your chapter use social media? If so, please explain.

Is your chapter on the PAC plan? Also, how many individual members are on the PAC plan? (1 point for chapter and 1 point per member) Yes 3

1. How does your chapter promote the goals, philosophy, and activities of the National Federation of the Blind among chapter members and the general public (worth up to 10 points)? One member let;s individual stroke patients who are loosing vision know about the Federation One member let’s mental health patients know about the organization. One member promotes the organization on Dayton Public access TV. We have put hundreds of brochures and some Kernel books in the Clark County and Green County libraries respectively.

Two members assisted in providing Braille menus for a local restaurant at no charge.

2. Civic Activities: Aside from participating in local, state, and national Federation activities, in what community programs have your chapter members been involved?Examples: social or political causes, religious institutions, Civic organizations, or student activities (worth up to 10 points). Be sure to give examples of how each activity demonstrates a blindness skill or promotes The National Federation of the Blind. Examples: “One member demonstrated the use of the KNFB reader to a person; one person explained a computer screen-reading program; Two members used Braille to read scripture in church; Five members used canes and guide dogs at a town meeting conducted by our member of Congress.”  One member runs a free legal clinic for the elderly, two members help with voter registration. One member has helped with fund raising for children’s charities. One member serves on the Board for Catholic Central High School. One member

Uses her white cane, Braille, and access technology as. Part of a college internship. One member is an officer in a local lions club. Two members donate blood. One member is a Master Gardener. One member is in her church Bell Choir.

3. In what forms of advocacy are your chapter members involved (worth up to 10 points)?  (The definition of advocacy that will be used is: public support or recommendation of a particular cause or policy. Synonyms are: support for, backing of, promotion of, campaigning for, pushing for, and arguing for.)

Two members have met with the Cincinnati Association for the Blind to advise about policies and programs. Members meet with Opportunities for Ohioans withDisabilities on a monthly basis in order to maintain a strong partnership with the agency, advise on policies, programs, and services. One member has represented blind children and their families in IEP meetings. Two members have assisted blind individuals seeking services through the Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired. Two members have advised individuals on housing cases related to blindness. One member has assisted two individuals with child custody cases. Two members have actively supported See3D to get 3D models in the hands of blind children and adults in the United States and around the world. One member donated a very expensive 3D Laser printer to the organization

4. Please note that this question has three parts so that we can determine how closely our chapters and divisions are working together and how much we see ourselves as part of the state and national organizations. Be sure to answer each part of this question.

How has your chapter interacted with other NFB chapters or divisions during the past year?

A. List all activities in which your chapter has participated with another chapter or division; How many members took part in each (worth up to 10 points)? Two members gave presentations to the Ohio Seniors division. Four chapter members are also OAGDU members. Two chapter members are also Senior division members. One member serves on the board of the Ohio Association of Blind Merchants.

Two members have been on the Voice Corps radioshow hosted by the Capital Chapter. Two members hosted a small banquet party for members of the Loraine County chapter during the national convention.

B. List all state-affiliate-sponsored activities in which your chapter has participated; How many members took part? (worth up to 10 points)? Two members serve as officers on the affiliates Board of Directors. Two members serve on the legislative committee one of whom is the chair. Two members serve on the resolutions committee. One member serves on the education committee. Four members volunteer for the tech team to help Ohioans participate in the national and state conventions. 7 members attended the state convention. Two members coordinated our fund raising work for the models project for the Ohio State School for the Blind. Two members have been on the convention planning committee. One member assists with proofing the Buckeye Bulletin. Members regularly write articles for the Bulletin.

C. List all events sponsored by the national organization in which chapter members have participated this year; how many took part in each (worth up to 10 points)? Five members participated in the Washington Seminar. Nine members attended the national convention.

5. What fundraising projects has your chapter engaged in during the past year (worth up to 10 points)?

A. Describe the extent to which chapter members take responsibility for such projects.

B. What role did outside organizations or sighted volunteers play in these activities?

6. Funding the projects and activities of the National Federation of the Blind at the local, state, and national levels is vitally important work for all of us. Answering the following questions will assist the awards committee to compute the percentages of financial support of each chapter. This will enable the committee to make useful comparisons.

A. What was your chapter's bank balance as of September 30, 2020? $7533.29

Balance as of September 30, 2021? 5,172.95

B. After subtracting all expenses associated with fundraising, how much money has your chapter raised during the year ending September 30, 2021?   How much money came in from all other sources during this period? $140

C. How much money has your chapter contributed to the state affiliate during this period (worth up to 10 points)? $1,750

D. How much money has your chapter contributed to the national organization during this period (worth up to 10 points) $250

7. Describe what your chapter has done to promote the legislative initiatives of the National Federation of the Blind. This could include inviting a public official to a chapter meeting, writing letters, making phone calls, etc. (worth up to 10 points) Our chapter worked with Senator Hackett to get him to sponsor our Parental Rights bill in the Ohio Senate. Many of us have written emails in support of state and national legislation.

8. Take no more than two paragraphs to discuss the ways in which your chapter is a stronger part of the National Federation of the Blind today than it was a year ago (worth up to 10 points).