October 1, 2024

Gavel Narrative

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Springfield Chapter

We have 17 paid members, mostly senior; but for over a year now, only seven or eight come to meetings regularly. Tjree subscribe to NFB Newsline. One member supports PAC as an individual. We have a member and her son who wants to remain in the Springfield chapter, but must attend when we zoom because she cannot get transportation on the Saturdays when we meet.

Two members participate in an advisory committee that meets to promote the enhancement of the historical Hartman Rock Garden in Sunny Land so that it will be accessible to the blind and to other disabilities. Sidewalks through the garden will be widened. Clovernook in Cincinnati will create a Braille/raised-line floor plan of the visitors’ center. Small replicas of the cement statues along the garden are scanned and printed in 3-D so that blind visitors can explore them with hands on. Tours will be face to face with a docent or recorded and provided online.

One member joined the Gem City choir in Dayton and advocates for herself and for the NFB. Two members work at their own counseling center as a mental health therapist and bookkeeper respectively. Their private counseling center is known as Considerations Way.

Other members serve in local stroke support groups, library boards and Lions clubs to advocate. Some members demonstrate their blindness skills as they are active in church.

Throughout 2024 we have recruited for membership, providing NFB literature and business cards for the Cancer Survivors Relay for Life and the annual Woofstock event in Springfield. Two members distributed NFB literature and recruited membership at the Clark County fair this past July.

Members make phone calls and send emails to Congress and the Senate as well as providing the same supports for statewide legislative issues. President Baker participates in quarterly calls for chapter presidents at the national level. Members support both Ohio seniors and the Ohio Association of Dog Guide Users at the state level. Baker is secretary of OAGDU. We amended our chapter constitution several years ago to hold our election of officers in October instead of December. This amendment was due to the members’ wish to invite chapters to join us for fellowship in either November or December as workable. This year we will elect officers at our Saturday, October 12th meeting.

6. A. What was your chapter's bank balance as of September, 2023?

9/30/2023, $5,261.78.

Balance as of September, 2024?

9/30/2024, $3,201.79

B. After subtracting all expenses associated with fundraising, how much money has your chapter raised during the year ending September 30, 2024?   How much money came in from all other sources during this period?

6.b. We received no money from other outside sources. Received local chapter dues, $120. Total for question 6.B: $120.00

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

6.C. NFB-O dues per member and $10, total, $24. Donations to NFB-O, $152.95. State convention door prizes: $50.00. Convention assist: $555. Total: $781.95.

D. How much money has your chapter contributed to the national organization during this period (worth up to 10 points) 6.D. PAC plan: $240.00. SUN: $0.00. White Cane Fund: $0.00. TenBroek Fund: $50.00. Door prizes: $50.00. Jernigan Fund: $100.00. Convention assist: $0.00. Total for 6.D: $390.