National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Springfield Chapter

Minutes, February 8, 2025

Attendance:

President Arlie Ray called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Members present: Pat and David Banaszak, Aleeha Dudley, Arlie and Gina Ray, Sharon and Josh Dodds, Mickie Cooper, Debbie Baker

Aleeha/Gina, motion to accept the January 11 minutes as corrected. The secretary posted the wrong meeting date. We met on Saturday, January 11, not the 12th. Gina reported a beginning balance of $2,694.80 and an ending balance of $2,719.80. Motion: Mickie/Aleeha to approve the treasurer’s report. We are still meeting with resistance from PNC bank regarding our name change. Therefore, motion, Debbie/Pat to change banks if we cannot solve this issue satisfactorily. The motion passed. The Rays belong to Wright Pat Credit Union. Perhaps that could be our bank going forward. Arlie plans to contact those members who have not yet paid their 2025 dues to see if they want to change their status from lapsed or expired to current in the national membership portal.

Unfinished Business

Hotel registration for national convention at the New Orleans Marriott is open, though convention registration will not open until March 1. Both Aleeha and Debbie expressed the possibility of attending national convention this summer. We discussed our 2024 contributions for national in review. We sent $100 for the Jernigan fund ant $50 for door prizes. Gina/Mickie, motion to send $150 again this year to equal $30 for each national fund—Jernigan, TenBroek, SUN and White Cane and $30 for door prizes. The motion passed.

The Banaszaks still have not heard about the affiliate receipt of their IRA account check to be designated for our chapter. The Nation’s Blind podcast, that which reports NFB business, is played both on IHART radio and on our YouTube channel. The NFB is struggling with push back from K-12 school districts that object to specific criteria and restrictions written into IEPs for special ed students. IEPs are individual Education plans for students with disabilities. The NFB is also negotiating with Meta concerning the inequitable burying of Facebook links for easier access by the blind.

We discussed the download of Whats-app, Chat GPT, Open AI and the google update Gemini for Android.

President Ray hopes to discuss the difference in definition of equity and equality during or next meeting, Saturday, March 8.

We learned that United Senior Services does not include our scheduled meetings on members’ calendar of regularly scheduled events. When we inquired as to why, we were told that it is because we require membership dues. Pat and Dave offered to pursue a positive change in our exclusion from the events schedule with a church friend who works for USS. The Presidential Release was played at the end of the meeting. Mickie moved and Aleeha seconded the motion to adjourn until Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary