National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

Springfield Chapter

March 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Officers:

President, Arlie Ray

Vice-President, Aleeha Dudley

Secretary, Debbie Baker

Treasurer, Gina Ray

Board Member, Pat Banaszak

Membership Coordinator, Mickie Cooper

Attendance

Pat Banaszak, David Banaszak, Arlie Ray, Gina Ray, Mickie Cooper, Susan Day, Debbie Baker

President Ray called the meeting to order at 10:09. Motion: accept February 8 minutes as posted, Mickie/Dave, passed.

Treasurer’s report: Beginning balance: $2,719.80. Ending: $2,499.80. Motion: accept treasurer’s report: Mickie/Debbie, passed.

Unfinished Business:

Motion: reimburse Susan for the cost of shipping the framed Springfield chapter charter to Arlie: Mickie/David, passed.

Motion: Motion: Gina/Mickie, Move bank account from PNC Bank to Wright Pat Credit Union and Reminder to the membership that Arlie and Gina Ray are now the designated signatures for our bank account. Passed. When future monetary donations are made to our chapter, we will use the NFB-O affiliate EIN number to accept them for tax purposes.

The Banaszaks have spoken with Maureen Fagans, director of Springfield United Senior Services, who said that our chapter requirement to accept membership dues as part of the requirements at all levels of the NFB should not preclude USS from advertising our chapter meetings on the USS center page of scheduled events. Pat has learned more details about the Harvard study to accept people who have been blinded by either a stroke or by glaucoma to participate in efforts perhaps to restore vision. She says that the contact person for this study lives in upstate New York.

Gina will contact Clovernook Home and School about creating our print/Braille business cards and adding a QR code for people to contact the NFB-O Springfield chapter on our Google phone number.

New Business

It is time for President Ray to contact Kevin Loftis about confirming a date for the NFB-O Springfield chapter to host another fundraiser at Mother Stewart’s Brewing Company.

Gina read the obituary for Gamal Gilmore, older son of Rev. Dr. Carolyn Peters, board member of our Ohio affiliate. Gamal died on February 23. Motion: Mickie/Gina, Springfield chapter to send a sympathy card. Banaszaks will choose a card made by members of their church and Debbie will Braille the card for Carolyn and her younger son Joel.

We discussed our displeasure at the USS Skates Center denial of entry for the medical service dog for a six-year-old patron. The child needs the dog to alert him and his parents of his condition as a diabetic when his blood sugar level drops too low. During the attempt to enter the rink with the dog, the parents were also harassed unnecessarily by the owner. The owner later expressed that he was unprepared to follow Ohio law for the allowance of a service dog at his business. Our discussion led to a future idea to present a panel to educate people invited to an informational event that our chapter would host. Information could include issues related to service dogs’ entry in businesses, successful employment of blind people, alternative techniques for daily living with vision loss, technology exhibits, etc.

President Ray directed us to contact our Congressmen and senators about two immediate issues. The first is the proposed resolution by the NFB to keep telehealth appointment opportunities in rural areas of the U.S. The next is the effort to gain more sponsors for the Assistive Technology Affordability Act, (ATAA) which would grant a $2,000.00 refundable tax credit for blind Americans to purchase our specialized technology over a 3-year period.

Arlie also asked for a chapter member to represent NFB-O Springfield at the mid-April Columbus seminar at the Ohio Statehouse on April 14-15. NFB-O members will stay at the Sheraton Plaza hotel on Capital Square in Columbus on April 14 for the prep work for visitation with Statehouse reps and senators. appointments will occur on April 15. Susan Day offered to attend as NFBO- member to represent our Springfield chapter at the Columbus Seminar on the April dates. Topics presented to the Ohio legislature include a program to benefit deafblind members, subminimum wage raised in Ohio and our prescriptive labeling bill. The Presidential Release was played at the end of the meeting. We will meet again at United Senior Services in Springfield again on Saturday, April 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary