April 12, Minutes

NFB-O Springfield Chapter

Attendance

Mickie, Aleeha, Gina, Arlie, Pat, David, Debbie.

We also had five guests from United Senior Services this month:

Barbara, Carol, Linda, Nancy and Paul. (Gina collected guests’ emails and contact information after the meeting).

President Ray called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M. Motion Mickie/Pat. Due to NFB policy, required signatures on all documents should be the secretary, Debbie, and treasurer, Gina. President Arlie is the emergency backup signatory. This motion amends the previous motion that designated the president as one of the required regular signatories. The new motion passed. Gina reported the beginning April balance to be $2,499.80. The ending balance was $2,479.80. Motion: Debbie/Mickie to accept the report. The motion passed. Mickie read the March minutes aloud for the benefit of our guests and the report was accepted as posted and read.

Debbie explained our PAC (Preauthorized Contribution Plan) to our guests and named our state and national NFB divisions for the benefit of our guests. Divisions are entities of special interest beyond NFB chapters. People may join the NFB merely as members of a division if they live in an area where there is no designated chapter or an at-large chapter.

Unfinished Business

We reminded President Ray to call Kevin Loftis, proprietor of Mother Stewart’s Brewing Company to acquire possible dates for another fundraiser for our chapter. We explained previous fundraisers to our guests. We appreciate that one of our guests asked if we might be able to accept her donation of a quilt for a future silent auction at a fundraiser at Mother Stewart’s.

New Business

President Ray provided links to articles from the Braille Monitor about which members should provide discussion or debate. However, only one member had read some of those articles. Debbie summarized the content and her opinion of the articles entitled “Killing 504,” and “I Can Connect”. “Killing of 504” discussed concerns of special education teachers, parents and school administrators as a result of cuts to federal funding of 504 plans and IEP plans for k-12 special ed students. “I Can Connect” is a program to fund and provide training, hardware and software to the deaf blind.

President Ray asked members to share and explain their favorite resources—apps, websites, agencies, etc. that help them to be active, competitive participants in society. Debbie began by introducing Theblindkitchen.com. Aleeha explained the purpose and functions of OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Arlie and Aleeha explained and Arlie briefly demonstrated the mainstream product Rayban Meta Smart Glasses. Next we explained Microsoft Narrator, NVDA, JAWS, TalkBack and Voiceover that allow us to read our computer and phone screens. Arlie, Aleeha and Debbie gave information about their experiences with guide dog work and training at each of Pilot Dogs Inc. and The Seeing Eye. Gina discussed her experiences as a volunteer for the free phone service Be My Eyes that helps the blind when we need assistance with tasks the completion of which need sight. AIRA, (Artificial Intelligence Remote Assistance) is a similar phone service to Be My Eyes though it requires a monthly payment. Members discussed the Android and iPhone app Seeing AI by Microsoft that is a free download. Seeing AI has a menu of various channels that allows people to listen to print documents, read currency, take pictures of people and objects and hear their descriptions. It also includes feedback and help submenus. Arlie explained the website Innosearch AI and demoed the paid version of Chat GPT, available from the iPhone App Store and Google Play Store.

Pat expressed her desire for NFB-O Springfield to participate in the May 6 Clark County Senior Fair sponsored by United Senior Services (Uss). It is located in the Arts and Crafts building of the Clark County fairgrounds. Setup for the senior fair is at 8:30 A.M. and ends at 11:30 A.M. Lunch is served at noon for vendors, volunteers and attendees. Each vendor is asked to bring a door prize valued at a minimum of $50. Gina will contact the senior fair sponsors to see if NFB-O Springfield chapter can secure a table for our representation. There was no time to play the Presidential Release this month. Motion to adjourn: Debbie/Aleeha. Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 10, 10:00—11:45 at Springfield USS.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary