National Federation of the Blind, Springfield

Minutes June 14, 2025

Attendance

Mickie, Aleeha, Arlie, Gina, Debbie.

President Ray called the meeting to order on Zoom, 10:06 A.M. Motion: Aleeha/Gina, to approve May minutes as posted. Passed. Gina gave the treasurer’s report: beginning balance, $2,464.80. Ending, $2,114.56. Motion: Mickie/Aleeha to accept, passed.

Unfinished Business

Members are invited to visit the link to the federal registry comment period to oppose the effort to repeal the ADA requirements for accessibility to buildings. NFB member Sean Seward is now in charge of the E-Commerce site for the Independence Market of the NFB. We can reach him by following the phone prompts through the main number (410-659-9314). We can also browse the products and literature catalog online at nfb.org/ecommerce.

Aleeha has been working for Synchrony Bank with a physical disability involving shoulder pain since October, 2024. She hopes to sue Synchrony for discrimination. She is unable to do her customer service job for no longer than two consecutive hours without severe pain. She has called Disability Rights Ohio (DRO) without a satisfactory response. She has contacted an attorney to no avail. She hopes to receive a clearance letter for Right-to-sue Synchrony. She has already filed a complaint with the EEOC of Ohio. Synchrony is resisting and discriminating against Aleeha over the definition of what would be a reasonable accommodation to offer in regard to her shoulder pain and full day work requirements. Chapter members suggested that Aleeha reach out to local outlets such as television stations WHIO, WKEF and WDTN for potential support for her case. She could reach out to local radio stations and/or newspapers as well.

VIA is coming to Springfield to replace our Springfield City Area Transit (SCAT) system with a ride-share effort to replace the city buses and paratransit vans. President Ray proposed that the NFB of Springfield not endorse VIA at this time. VIA is proposing 20-minute wait times for a ride and $2-4 passenger payment per stop. NFB Springfield is unhappy with VIA’s lack of communication with Springfield officials and cancellation of several meetings since May. Arlie is to communicate with NFB-O president Payne about the potential of other chapters’ protests against VIA’s practices and whether or not VIA is a potential provider of transportation in other Ohio chapters’ locations.

We have still heard nothing from Kevin Loftis about the possibility of sponsoring another fundraiser for the NFB of Springfield at Mother Stewart’s. Mickie said she would contact Frosty about the possibility of his venue for a fundraiser if Kevin doesn’t respond.

New Business

The Social Security Administration has gone digital and has stopped sending paper benefit checks for payment.

We discussed the increasing trend to use pass keys, (phrases) instead of passwords for logging in to websites. Pass keys are believed to be more secure. A given website has part B of the pass key and only the generator of the pass key has part A. One can have a different pass key for each device with which he/she logs on to a website. We wonder about the universality of pass keys for websites.

We discussed the need to reach out to Abbot and its Libre 3 app in regard to blind diabetics. Obviously as a civil rights organization for the blind, we want to give feedback about disability rights in the healthcare realm and the responsibility of dignity and respect for disabled people.

Aleeha announced the partnership between NFB and the website Innosearch.ai. Innosearch offers shopping opportunities with retailers without all the “fluff” and inaccessibility of website pictures, ads, etc. that hinder blind shoppers to easily and successfully shop for products. Innosearch also has a telephone service for shopping, (855) 746-7478.

The June Presidential Release covered our federal legislation for the Access Technology Affordability Act (ATAA) HR1529 and S1918. Our Accessibility of Apps and Websites also now has a number in the House, HR3417. Our next meeting will be at United Senior Services (USS) in Springfield, 10:00 A.M. to 11:45 on Saturday, July 19. Motion to adjourn: Mickie/Debbie.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Baker, Secretary