At-Large Chapter of NFB of SC

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020

Convened: 7:05 Adjourned: 8:10

Present: Ed Bible, Helen Jones, Jeffrey Rono, Dondra Bible, Julie Bible, Roger Webb, Linda Pardue, Lisa Walters, Tom Spittle, David Bundy, Charles White, Melanie Warren, Mary Sonksen, Frank Coppel, Lewis Fowler, Angela Fowler.

* Helen provided the Blessing at the beginning of the meeting.

At-Large Chapter applications and dues:

* Ed stated that he needs the completed membership applications of all At-Large Chapter participants plus paid dues to become a member. He stated that he has some completed applications without paid dues and some individuals who have paid dues but have not complete an application. He needs to the completed membership applications with paid dues for each member of the At-Large Chapter of NFB of SC.
* Dondra read through the list of telephone numbers of each participant on the phone in order to match them with their names.

Secretary’s Minutes:

* A motion was made to approve the Meeting Minutes of April and May. The motion was seconded and further approved by participating members.

Treasurer’s Report:

* Ed stated that the present balance of the checking account is $110. He further stated that if you pay your dues by July 31st, you will be a “state affiliate member” which enables you to vote at state convention.

State and National Convention information:

* Frank Coppel, President of the NFB of SC, welcomed all who were participating in the meeting. He provided information about the virtual national convention to be held July 14-18. Registration for this convention is free. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NFB of SC will have a virtual state convention on August 21-22. If you pay your dues by July 1 this will enable you to receive door prizes and vote during the state convention. You must register for the state convention by July 31st. Ed stated that the At-Large group will not meet in person this year due to Covid-19.

Constitution:

* A motion was made to approve the At-Large Chapter’s Constitution. It was seconded and unanimously approved. Ed stated that we may choose to make amendments to the Constitution in the future.

Survey:

* Lewis Fowler, Chairperson, of the Committee, put together a survey for the purpose of discovering what blind individuals know about available services and other issues pertinent to meeting blind person’s needs. This committee consisted of Lewis Fowler, Chairperson, Roger Webb, and Pat Walthoff. Angela Fowler read all of questions on the survey. A question was raised about whether a respondent should put name, address, and other information on the survey. It was decided that this would be optional for each member. If the person filling out the survey chooses to put this information on the survey, that is okay. However, if he/she chooses not to include this information on the survey, that is fine. Ed thanked Lewis and other members of the committee for their work on the survey. A motion was made to keep survey questions “as is.” The motion was seconded and further unanimously approved.

Other business:

* There was a question about the purpose of blind individuals joining the at-large group. Ed stated that he wants to target the blind individuals who do not have a local NFB chapter to attend, unable to acquire suitable and reliable transportation to go to and from the local meetings, or other reasons to not attend local chapter meetings. He also stated that he wishes to recruit newly blinded and younger blind individuals.

Fundraising:

* Ed stated that our chapter could sell gift cards and receive a percentage from the purchase of a card as a means to fundraise for the At-Large Chapter. The percentage we could potentially receive is somewhere between 2%-13% from the purchase of the gift card. It would also depend upon the business that the gift card comes from. We agreed to think about this matter and take it up at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

* When do we want to meet in July? Helen suggested we meet after the national convention so that we could talk about what we learned and share interesting information with others. At that suggestion, everyone agreed to meet on July 21st at 7:00 PM.

Person of the Month:

* Melanie Warren volunteered to tell about herself. She lives in Blithewood, SC. She has been a member of the NFB of SC for about 8 years or longer. She was a nurse and is now retired. Thank you Melanie for sharing information about yourself which helps us get to know you better.

Other Matters:

* Charles asked about having a meeting at Rocky Bottom. Ed stated that the NFB off SC owns Rocky Bottom and operates without government assistance. We will think about doing this in the future after the Covid-19 is behind us.
* Ed provided the closing prayer of the meeting.

Adjournment:

* A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. There was a final count of 13 people who participated in meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sonksen,

Secretary