May 2019 NFB Cleveland Chapter Minutes

The Cleveland Chapter met on May 17th, 2019 at 5:00 pm at Saint Augustine Church. There were 29 members and two who joined with two visitors representing the State Executive Board. Also, one visitor was present.

The Reverent of Saint Augustine Church welcomed the chapter and informed us that we are welcome at any time to meet at Saint Augustine Church.

William Turner, First Vice President, welcomed members and visitors. He also led the National Federation of the Blind Pledge. Then President, Suzanne led the pledge of allegiance. Moreover, Recording Secretary, Cheryl and President Suzanne informed members of those who were shut-in and in bereavement.

President Suzanne brought a vote for the April minutes to the floor. They were voted and carried.

Our Treasurer, Natassha presented financial reports for both March and April. They were voted and carried.

President Suzanne introduced the State Executive Board visitors, Mr. Richard Payne, the President of the Affiliate and Dr. Carolyn Peters, President of the Miami Valley Chapter and gave them the floor to address the attendees; She also gave the floor to Maya and her grandparents, Ronda Thorpe and Alonzo Thorpe to express their feelings and expectations by joining the NFB.

Next, Suzanne reminded all members about the social Time before the meeting that It was decided that the Cleveland Chapter will gather for socialization with food, one hour prior to the Chapter meetings; Also, she talked about the State of Ohio Convention dates, place and the Chartered Bus. She announced that Cleveland is chartering a bus to the State of Ohio Convention. Then, announced that the price is $65.00 for a round trip. To reserve your seat, a non-refundable down payment of $25.00 is due by June 21, 2019 and the final payment is due on August 16, 2019 and urged all potential attendees to see Cleveland’s Treasurer, Natassha Ricks to pay and reserve your seat. She added that after June 21st, the bus will be open to the Great Akron and Greater Cuyahoga chapters. Many members paid the $25.00 right after her announcement. Further, she reminded everyone about the popcorn fund raising and let every member take two forms. Additionally, she reminded all officers the importance of attending Monday 5/20/19 officers Conference Call. Finally, she let the President of the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Mr. Richard Payne talk about the importance of Jernigan Tickets and why it is so important to buy them. Mr. Richard Payne managed to sell 14 out of 40 tickets during the meeting.

Gloria Conway, Senior Division Committee Chair announced that the monthly Sharing Solutions for Vision Loss teleconference will be on Sunday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. EST. She mentioned that anyone dealing with vision loss is welcome to join the call, whether they are members of NFB or not. She added that this month's topic will be an open forum, where participants can bring up challenges that they are dealing with and other callers can offer solutions based upon their own experience. She urges those who are new to vision loss, having challenges related to vision loss and are seeking solutions for, or if you are an experienced blind person that can offer solutions based on your own experience to join the call. Further, she mentioned that family members of blind individuals are welcome. She concluded her announcement by mentioning that the teleconference is sponsored by the NFB of Ohio Senior Division, but callers do not have to be seniors or NFB members.

Sandy Krems, Community Engagement Committee Chair announced that the Cleveland Chapter of NFB will be volunteering at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on Tuesday, May 28 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. She added that she needs ten volunteers to help with the event and right away, ten members registered for the event. Additionally, she made an announcement about the White Cane Walk activity at the Sight Center on Saturday, June 1st and asked for volunteers to represent the Cleveland Chapter of NFB and she gathered enough members to man the NFB table and be part of the activity.

President Remarks:

President, Suzanne Turner, announced the new appointments for some board members after the resignation of Rosa Jones, namely, William Turner as the First Vice President, Cheryl Fields as the Second Vice President and Ali Benmerzouga as the recording Secretary. She thanked Rosa Jones for serving on the Board and wish her a quick recovery.

Natassha Ricks, Recreation and Special Events Committee Chair, is currently working on our Chapter picnic. She will have more details at the next meeting.

Suzanne Turner, the President distributed the NFB coins to all members. Moreover, she thanked the whole Church staff and volunteers for their hospitality and for making our gathering so enjoyable. Also, she collected a donation of $56.00 for Miss Pat and Mr. Danny Peres for serving refreshments for the attendees during the meeting.

Please make a note of the action items below:

Voice Box Number:

(641) 715-3900

Code: 582705

New Teleconference Number:

(605) 313-4834

Code: 246345

Ali Benmerzouga, Secretary

440-590-0315 – cell

Natassha Ricks, Treasurer

(216) 376-9863

Notes!

1. Please take a moment and like, share and promote Cleveland’s Facebook Page

<https://m.facebook.com/NationalFederationOfTheBlindOfOhioClevelandChapter/>

2. Please ensure that your 2019 dues of $15.00 are up to date.

3. Please prescribe to Ohio-Talk to stay informed on the know in the Ohio Affiliate.

Ohio-Talk mailing list

[Ohio-Talk@nfbnet.org](mailto:Ohio-Talk@nfbnet.org)

<http://nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/ohio-talk_nfbnet.org>

4. Please prescribe to Cleveland’s List Serve for all up-to-date information in the Cleveland Chapter.

<http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/nfboh-cleveland_nfbnet.org>

[nfboh-cleveland-request@nfbnet.org](mailto:nfboh-cleveland-request@nfbnet.org)

5. Please call a member who you have not seen for a while and talk to them about returning to the Cleveland Chapter.