National Federation of the Blind of Cleveland Chapter

July 24, 2020 Minutes:

The July 2020 Chapter monthly meeting and the celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was held and featured through a Zoom Platform on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The zoom link and related numbers and Id’s were provided to all members, guests, visitors and are given below in these minutes. The reason for having this Zoom/teleconference meeting is to adhere to COVID-19 social distancing adopted by the National Federation of the Blind and the local and state officials.

Welcome:

Delcenia Brown, a member, welcomed all members, attendees from other chapters and Divisions, all guests/visitors.

Roll Call:

Suzanne Turner, President, welcomed everyone and made sure about the attendance of the chapter’s members, guests and visitors.

NFB Pledge:

William Turner, First Vice President, helped all attendees to recite the National Federation of the Blind Pledge.

Mending and Bereaved Members:

Suzanne Turner, President and Cheryl Fields, 2nd Vice president, informed the Board about the health issues of some chapter and affiliate members and/or their relatives and urged everyone to keep them in his/her thoughts and prayers. Also, they happily mentioned those who are feeling better or fully recovered.

Treasury Report:

Natassha Ricks, Treasurer, presented the financial reports for July 2020. The Checking account reflects to date, $332.81and the Savings reflect to date: $1,033.92. Billie Graham made the motion and Ali Benmerzouga second it. the treasury report was voted on and carried. The complete July 2020 Treasury Report was submitted, and it is included as an Appendix to these minutes. Also, she reminded everyone about sending their dues by mail as soon as possible.

Secretary Report:

Ali Benmerzouga, Recording Secretary, with the help of Suzanne Turner’s technology touch, presented the June 2020 minutes. Delcenia Brown made the motion and William Turner second it. The minutes were voted on and carried.

Guests:

**Kinshuk Tella, President of the Ohio Association of Blind Students (OABS), and** Asia Quinones-Evans**, Treasurer of OAOBS, informed all members about the Walkathon fundraising organized by the OABS that started beginning of July 2020 and is still going on till the end of August 2020 and urge everyone to participate as a donor and/or participant. They reminded all members that the** participant with the most activity gets a $25.00 gift card and the second place will receive a $10.00 gift card. They added, If you would like to get involved as either a participant or a donor, please visit this website <https://go.rallyup.com/oabs/Members> Or please feel free to reach out to them and they can happily sign you up. Sometimes, it can be difficult to navigate the page with some screen readers so they are more than happy to sign you up and can log your miles on their end. They concluded by urging everyone to get involved in this 2020 Ohio Association of Blind Students (OABS) fundraising walkathon. **They mentioned that this fundraising is doing very good so far. They concluded by mentioning that they have collected $835.00 so far.**

President’s Announcements:

Suzanne Turner, President, thanked everyone for attending the meeting, for the help some of the members are providing, and for all the meetings organized by some members during these COVID-19 difficult times.

**She reminded those who did not pay their dues as of yet to do so as soon as they can and urged them to Pay their dues to the Chapter’s Treasurer, Natassha Ricks.**

**She invited all members to join her and watch a good video with description about ADA on Saturday evening, July 25, 2020 and informed all members about an ADA link about Sharing solution presentation.**

Also, she welcomed and thanked **all speakers and guests/visitors for participating and celebrating the 30th ADA Anniversary.**

**Additionally, she gave some historical background about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She mentioned that the ADA** became law in 1990. She further clarified that the ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. The ADA is divided into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life. She concluded by urging everyone to listen to a live prospective by our distinguished panelists. Also, she added that everyone will be enlightened by their experiences on the fight for equality, opportunity and security. Thus, this enactment has upheld persons with disabilities rights for 30 years and deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated!

ADA Quiz

Suzanne Turner, President, tested all participants by asking 11 good and basic questions about the ADA. Most questions were easily answered by many members.

ADA Presentation: Important piece of legislation.

William Turner, First Vice President, welcomed and introduced the speakers and facilitated the different presentations and questions/Answers.

First Speaker:

Cheryl Fields, Second Vice President, talked about Title III (Public Accommodations). She mentioned that public places are expected to provide Reasonable Accommodations for people with disabilities. She also talked about the Fair Housing Act.

Speaker 2:

Eric Duffy, Secretary of the Ohio Affiliate, talked about Title I (Employment). He mentioned that the NFB AND NFBOH are your resources. He talked about the Equal Employment Opportunity Council (EEOC) and the role it plays in helping those discriminated against at work. He concluded by advising all members in case you feel you have been discriminated against, proceed to ask before filling a lawsuit.

Speaker 3:

Kinshuk Tella, President of the Ohio Association of Blind Students (OABS), presented Title III and Section 504 under the Rehabilitation Act (Education). He mentioned the Individual Education Plan (IEP). He added that everyone should be self-advocating for himself/herself and ask/look for what he/she needs, such as Orientation and Mobility, Braille, etc. Also, he mentioned the existence at every school/college/university of an SAS and the services they provided for people with disabilities such as testing center, accessible material, etc.

Speaker 4:

Richard Payne, President of the Ohio Affiliate, talked about Title II (Transportation). He mentioned that Paratransit has problems every now and then and all members should ask those who know or search the existing laws. He advised everyone to reserve his/her rides in advance. Also, he mentioned that sometimes their rules are not ADA rules. He added that minimum requirements should be met by all agencies. He concluded that Not everyone with disability is eligible for Paratransit/RTA services. For example, you need to live less than ¾ of a mile from the main service lane in order to have a door to door service.

William Turner, gave time to questions and answers after each speaker and thanked everyone for attending and the speakers for their great presentations. He added, for further questions, comments, and or suggestions, please reach out to Suzanne Turner at SMTurner.234@gmail.com.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Please make a note of the action items below:

Voice Box Number:

(641) 715-3900

Code: 582705

Cleveland Teleconference Number:

(605) 313-4834

Code: 246345

Ohio Conference Line:

Tel: (712) 775-7031

Code: 240281423

Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4081850851>

Meeting ID: 408 185 0851

One tap mobile

+16468769923 and ID code: 408-185-0851.

Zoom Telephone number:

(669) 900-6833

Id: 4081850851

Ali Benmerzouga, Recording 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 subscribe to Ohio-Talk to stay informed on the know in the Ohio Affiliate.

Ohio-Talk mailing list

Ohio-Talk@nfbnet.org

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

3. Please subscribe 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

4- Please don’t forget to send your dues to our Treasurer as soon as you can.

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

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Appendix: July 2020 Treasury Report:

**NFB Cleveland Chapter Treasury Report**

Prepared by: Cleveland Chapter Treasurer, Natassha Ricks

Month/Year: July 2020

Checking Acct: $332.81

Savings Acct: $1,033.92 (+$0.03 in interest)

Dues: $45.00

Number of members: 3

 1. Natassha Ricks

 2. Delcenia Brown

 3. Sandy krems

Benevolent: -0-

Donations: $100.00

1. Heather Ways ($100.00/check)

Fundraisers: -0-

Split the Pot: -0-

Deductions: $155.00

1. PAC plan $10.00
2. National convention. $100.00 (white cane, Timbrook, Jernigan, Imagination)
3. National convention $45.00 (door prizes)

Convention: -0-

Convention YTD: $80.00

1. Cecil Dukes ($80.00)

Miscellaneous: $20.00

Miscellaneous YTD: $20.00

1. Delcenia Brown ($20.00 for NFB coin case)

**End of July 2020 Treasury Report.**

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