National Federation of the Blind of Ohio, Cleveland Chapter

February Minutes

The Cleveland Chapter met hybrid and at the Garfield County Library on February 17, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. EST. The location was 5409 Turney Road, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125.

The meeting was called to order by President Suzanne at 1:14 PM. There were 32 in attendance and on zoom, including seven new members.

The Welcome was offer by Joann Williams, Cheering Committee Chair, the NFB Pledge was recited by, William Turner, Vice President and Roll Call was completed by President, Suzanne Turner. She also requested that members welcome guests and keep shut-in and bereavement members in prayer and good thoughts.

Secretary Report:

President Suzanne read the January Secretary Report.

Wilbert Turner made the motion, Denise Moss second and it carried.

Treasury Report:

**NFB Cleveland Chapter Treasury Report**

Prepared by: Cleveland Chapter Treasurer, Natassha Ricks

Month/Year: February 2024

**Checking Account**

Beginning Balance: +$393.82

Credits: +$445.00 (donation, and dues)

Deductions: -$3.00 (see deduction details)

Checking Acct. Balance: **+$835.82**

Allocated Balance: -$140.00 (convention, miscellaneous)

Balance avail. to chapter **+$695.82**

**Savings Account**

Beginning Balance: +$1,138.80

Credits/interest -0- (interest)

Savings Acct: Balance **+$1,138.80**

**Dues** **+$165.00**

Number of members YTD: 42 (total includes 4 lifers)

Wilbert Turner made the motion, Delcenia Brown second, it carried.

1: President’s Remarks:

A: Introducing the Ohio Affiliate President:

Ohio Affiliate, President, Richard Payne introduced and offered inspiring remarks to the chapter. He was visiting, due to an event.

B: Who Is The National Federation of the Blind:

President Suzanne read and gave an interpretation of the philosophy. Then the Ohio President, Richard Payne edified its mission. And they both gave an overview of the organization. .

2: Voting in New Members:

There were seven members voted into the federation, Shirley Moss, Sharon Williams, Fletcher Knight, Kurtis Keith, Jackie Patterson, Lurelean Patterson, and Tracy Parks

3: Adjustment To Blindness Seminar

The Cleveland Chapter held their annual Adjustment To Blindness Seminar on February 23, 2024, at the Garfield County Library. There were 18 participants, and 3 Rehab Councilors, who were introduced to Braille, Mobility, Assistive Technology, and a New Membership Orientation to the NFB. There were Seven Peer Mentors who broke the participants into four sessions on a rotation, so everyone equally benefited from all that was offered. A lite breakfast and lunch were provided as well. Ohio President Payne and Annette Lutz from the Capital Chapter and Shawn Martin from the Cuyahoga Chapter came to assist the Cleveland Chapter. There were two volunteers who assisted with lunch.

4: Volunteering at the Greater Food Bank on March 7th from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. The location is 13815 Coit Road. Members will pack food at the Greater Food Bank on March 7th from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Those who would like to participate will text or call President Suzanne.

5: Ohio Business

A: Washington Seminar:

Wilbert Turner spoke on the three 2024 legislative bills and the experience on meeting with Congressional Leaders. He said that Congressman Joyce was present for his meeting and drafted support while they were in the office. Wilbert said that this was encouraging and left him enthusiastic about the outcome.

B: Ohio Executive Board Meeting:

President Suzanne highly recommended that all members attend the February 24, 2024, Ohio Board Meeting that will be held on the zoom platform.

C: Sharing Solutions:

President Suzanne reminded everyone about the Sharing Solution meeting that will be held Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 7:00 PM EST. on zoom The topic is on accessible tools in the kitchen.

D: OOD Open Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 PM:

President Suzanne explained that Ohio has a great relationship with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and if anyone has questions about rehabilitation services, the director and his team will be in attendance. She also reminded them that they will not be able to speak on personal cases, but generic questions are welcomed.

 E: The Flying Piggest Raffel//Piggest Raffel Ever drawing on May 4th.

President Suzanne explained that this is an Ohio Affiliate fundraiser that all proceeds are filtered back to the Ohio treasury. However, NFB members or friends, family members or associates can win one or three prizes. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased online or by paper ticket. The first prize is $5k, half would be provided to the Ohio Affiliate and the other to the winner. Second prize is $2500, half would be awarded to the Ohio Affiliate and the other half to the winner. The third prize is a $2500 vacation in Cincinnati. She encouraged all to spread the word and purchase a pig.

F: Country Meats:

President Suzanne proclaimed that this fundraiser is fun and tasty. She says that the meat sticks come in a variety of flavors. They are $2, healthy, and full of protein. Members can purchase them online or Theresa McKenney will have some available soon.

G: PAC Plan:

President Suzanne stated that this contribution is important. It helps to provide funding to the overall function of the federation. Members can have as low as $5 automatically deducted from a banking account. Members can sign up online or by calling the National and requesting the accounting office to sign up. You must have your banking info readily available when you call.

H: Braille Monitor:

President Suzanne encouraged everyone to sign up for the Braille Monitor. She said that there is inspiring and great content about blind people and our movement. She said that you can also submit articles to the editor, Gary Wunder. She further states that she has written two articles that were published. This magazine is offered by email, online, Newsline or by an ap.

I: National Student Scholarship deadline March 31:

President Suzanne mentioned, if anyone knows of a blind student, encourage them to apply for a scholarship that will be awarded at the National Convention in Orlando Florida. The students can apply online or contact me for more details.

6: National Convention.

President Suzanne went over the convention dates, place, expectations, Kenneth Jernigan Fund Scholarship and traveling expenses. She explained that if anyone is a new member and wishes to attend the National Convention, she will have a meeting with them to assist with the process. Everyone should begin working now on getting there. She said that members can reserve their room for $129 for singles and doubles, $139 for triples and quads. National President, Mark Riccobono will be presenting the pre-registration fee soon.

7: Cleveland Fundraisers

A: Shoe Drive

B: Gospel and Praise Fest

C: Bus Trip

President Suzanne reminded everyone to continue collecting shoes, spreading the word about the Gospel and Praise Fest, and more will be coming about the bus trip.

8: Team Exercise:

President Suzanne asked if there was anyone in the room who would like to talk about a positive experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM EST.

Humbly Submitted by Suzanne Turner, Cleveland Chapter, President