Seattle NFB Chapter Meeting Notes

 April 20, 2019

Meeting began at 10:12 Am. There were 12 participants.

Mike Forzano - - President opened the meeting asking the participants to identify themselves and where in the city they lived and if they planned on going to lunch after the meeting.

March meeting minutes were tabled as they were not available to be read at time of meeting.

Treasurer’s report was tabled as the new treasurerer still is unable to access the banking records at time of meeting. Still working with BECU to give the new treasurer access.

Marci Carpenter (NFB of Washington President) spoke about the status of the sub-minimum wage bills. A bill to do away with the sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities has passed the state house and recently a bill passed the state senate. Now reconciliation is needed.

Marci also introduced the idea of having a “Legislative Day” for members of the NFB to meet with their state representatives. It was recommended that it be at the time the legislature convenes in the winter.

Marci also discussed NFB scholarships and that there were 12 individuals who had applied for the scholarship.

The NFB National convention being held in Las Vegas was highlighted and that if asked which tower you wished to book a room for, you should indicate it is the Mandalay Bay tower as this will be closest to convention meetings and activities. Pre-registration is until the end of May.

Discussion was had about grants for those who needed them to help defray some of the costs to attend the convention. The question was as posed by the board, how much to allow for this and it was motioned that $1,000 be the limit to be shared equally by those who expressed an interest and need for the grant. The motion passed.

Julie Brannon from DSB (Department of Services for the Blind) is leaving her position and so her position at DSB is opening up and the Executive Team has put forward a job description that does not mention a preference for those who are blind or who have Braille skills etc. The position is to head the Orientation and Training Center at DSV. A suggestion was made that a letter should be sent to the Executive Team regarding

Concerns about the job description.

Mike Forzano introduced a Seattle chapter NFB member for the Spotlight segment of the meeting. Shannon Donohue spoke mainly on her attempts to adapt while attending college. Such issues as signage in Braille on campus (or lack thereof), getting text books in an adaptive format and her interaction with professors and administrative staff at the college.

She mentioned her positive experience at the OTC.

She mentioned that she was on the Dean’s List as well as on the Honor Roll and that she thought it a blessing to have won a grant from the NFB.

Mention was made concerning reviving the Seattle chapter NFB student division.

Mike Forzano Jamal Mazrui reported on attending the CSUN conference in Anaheim California. It is mainly geared to rehabilitation specialists on accessibility and technology. There were exhibits and presentations at the conference.

Mike Forzano announced that the Lagunitas fund raiser was on and that it is set to occur the day after Labor Day. More to come as the day approaches.

Transportation issues were touched upon including bikes and scooters on sidewalks (both stationary and while in use and how it affects or could affect mobility.

The possibility of going to a trailhead using the available transit option that is available to go on a hike was brought up.

Discussion was had regarding the new light-rail transit station at 43rd and Brooklyn and in particular with regard to the already limited sidewalk space and how it would be affected by the new station and suggestion about making 43rd a pedestrian only usage.

Amandeep Handa discussed the need for volunteers to set at a table at her temple. Discussion was had as to if this would be simply informational in nature or if it would be an opportunity for a fund raiser.

The presidential release was played.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Prepared by Beau Donaho