Minutes for the National federation of the Blind of Virginia Board Meeting

May 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM.

Everyone present introduced themselves.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer’s report: The report was accepted as given.

Code of conduct: We voted to adopt the code of conduct for the National Federation of the blind of Virginia.

Bell Program: They had to cancel their programs because they did not have enough students. If anyone knows families with blind children between the ages of 4-12, they were asked to contact Nancy.

Project Rise: They are approaching the end of the first round of the program, which will start up again in September. The first round has 18 participants. They will have a weekend at the Jernigan Institute soon. If anyone is interested in helping with Project rise, they should contact Kathryn. They are working on finding job opportunities. They want to expand beyond the Northern Virginia area. They will work with the student division at convention.

Leadership Fellows Program: They have a conference call every third Wednesday of the month. They welcome suggestions and ideas for the 2018 Leadership fellows program.

Legislative Committee: Members were encouraged to call Senator warner and urge him to support the ratification of the Marikesh treaty. We need sponsors on the Access Technology affordability act, so members were encouraged to call their representatives.

Scholarship committee: They will put out applications in august and set a September 30 deadline. Anyone who knows an eligible student was asked to inform them about the program. We voted to rename one of our existing scholarships after our donors.

2019 national convention: Michael Kasey is selling Jernigan tickets.

2018 national convention: Sarah Patnaude and Naim Abu-El Hawa are national scholarship winners from Virginia. Tracy Soforenko and Deepa Goraya will be on the national Resolutions Committee. Virginia will be one of the affiliates hosting national convention. There will be a welcome party on Friday night, and we will be selling $10 wristbands for this event. Earl Everett will be responsible for the welcome table on July 2, and we need volunteers. We also need volunteers to sell merchandise at our exhibit table.

The membership was asked for banquet door prize ideas. The affiliate approved $1000 in funds for host affiliate expenses at national convention.

We voted to contribute 4 $50 cash prizes for national convention.

McDonald fellowship and Jernigan scholarships: we have 5 Jernigan winners this year and 2 Mcdonald fellowship winners.

Fundraising committee: The committee will participate in a teleconference to come up with fundraising ideas and grant proposals. Anyone interested in being involved with fundraising should contact Michael Kasey.

Communications committee: They are working on updating our website. Joe Orozco, Editor-in-Chief of our newsletter, The Vigilant, would like to start a column highlighting our members. Anyone wishing to help with this was asked to contact Joe.

Convention operations and logistics: This year’s state convention will be held November 8-11 at the Hospitality House in Fredericksburg. Rates will be $79/night. Reservations must be made no later than Friday, October 26. We signed a contract for the same Delta Hotel for Richmond Seminar next year for the same rate.

Chapter presidents retreat: All chapter presidents are encouraged to participate in their conference calls.

Public outreach: They are planning a walk with the blind on October 13 this year in colonial Williamsburg.

NFB Newsline: Several new publications have been added.

Division reports

Students: They are doing a raffle at national convention for a $50 Uber gift card. August 10-12, VABS will be attending a seminar at our national center with students from several other states. Registration opened on May 15, and interested students were asked to contact Robert or Naim.

Merchants: On May 21, blind merchants from Virginia will lobby on Capitol Hill for the rights of blind vendors. The BLAST conference, Business Leadership and Superior training, will be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 13 – 16.

Senior division: Their membership has been growing. They have monthly meetings covering topics such as nutrition and emergency preparedness.

VAPUB: Of the 17 Braille Readers are Leaders participants from Virginia, 3 were winners.

Car donation program: We are hoping to continue promoting the program. Anyone who has a car they wish to donate should contact Robert.

The next board meeting will be August 4 in Richmond.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.